

13th Congress of the)
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SECRETARY

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P.S. RESOLUTION **630**
SENATE

Introduced by Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.

JP **RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
LAW AND ORDER TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
THE BURNING OF PINAGBAYANAN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN TAYSAN, BATANGAS, THAT
RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF ONE TEACHER SERVING AS A
MEMBER OF
THE BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS (BEI) AND TWO (2)
POLL WATCHERS, AND INJURING SEVERAL OTHER VICTIMS,
AND TO INSTITUTE REMEDIAL MEASURES TO AVERT
ELECTION-RELATED VIOLENCE**

Whereas, the country has just witnessed the national and local elections held last May 14, 2007;

Whereas, the recently concluded elections were marred by violence and lawlessness, that desecrate the democratic electoral process in the country;

Whereas, around 3:30 in the morning of May 15, 2007, Pinagbayan Elementary School was allegedly torched by unidentified five (5) malefactors armed with M16 riffles and calibre 45 pistols;

Whereas, according to reports, five (5) unidentified malefactors allegedly appeared at the canvassing area of Barangay Pinagbayan Elementary School and poured gasoline around the school. One of the suspects allegedly entered precinct 76-A, poured gasoline in a ballot box wherein a local candidate received only one vote. After which, the suspect shot the said ballot box causing it to ignite and quickly set the school on fire;

Whereas, while the school was being torched, the perpetrators successively fired their gun in different directions and shut down the electricity;

Whereas, as a result of this unfortunate incident, Nellie Banaag, a High School teacher and a member of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI), and Leticia Ramos, a local poll watcher, were killed;

Whereas, poll watcher Guillermo Malaluan died while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Manila, bringing to three the number of fatalities in the said fire;

Whereas, at least 12 others suffered serious burns all over their bodies and were recuperating in several hospitals in Batangas and Metro Manila;

Whereas, Robert Marinda of the Regional Special Operations Group (RSOG); his assistant SPO2 William Relos Jr.; Chief Inspector Elpidio Ramirez and Inspector Roel de la Cruz were hastily and probably erroneously, if not maliciously, tagged as the perpetrators of the vile deed;

Whereas, there is an imperative need to establish the identity of the culprits of the crime, and prevent a miscarriage of justice that appears to be in the offing;

Whereas, there is a need to institute remedial measures to protect the integrity of the electoral process to avert election-related violence;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY
RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on Law and Order to investigate in aid of legislation, the burning of Pinagbayanan Elementary School in Taysan, Batangas, that resulted in the death of three persons and in serious injuries to several victims, and to recommend measures to avert election-related violence.

Adopted,


AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.