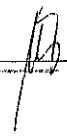


9 MAY 18 P3:30

SENATE
P. S. R. No. **1069**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED MISUSE OF 2007 BALIKATAN
FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 2 states: “The Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy, adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land and adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with all nations”;

WHEREAS, Article 11, Section 1 of the same states: “Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must, at all times, be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency; act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives”;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 14 May 2009 issue reported that Navy Lt. Nancy Gadian told reporters in a phone interview that retired Lt. Gen. Eugenio Cedo, as chief of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), used the month-long RP-US “Balikatan” exercises two years ago in Jolo, Sulu, as a “milking cow”;

WHEREAS, the same article reported that Lt. Gadian claimed that of the P46 million provided by the Americans, only P2.3 million was released to Filipino troops;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., AFP Spokesperson, allegedly said that the US Armed Forces had not released any funds to its Philippine counterpart, which had its own corresponding amount allotted for the annual joint military exercises;

WHEREAS, Brawner also allegedly said that Gadian was facing dismissal by the Efficiency and Separation Board for malversation for failing to account for P2.3 million supposedly disbursed to her without Cedo’s knowledge;

WHEREAS, in the same article, it was reported that Lt. Gadian said that the filing of charges against her was merely an attempt by high-ranking officers to get back at her for knowing too much about corruption in the Balikatan exercises;

WHEREAS, Brawner allegedly said that they do not know what funds were misused; he also claimed that a deeper inquiry would be conducted after Gadian, who was in charge of civil military operations during the Balikatan exercises, filed a formal complaint;

WHEREAS, public officers accused of illegal disbursement of public funds must be fully investigated; if found guilty, the perpetrators must be punished in accordance with our laws;

WHEREAS, proper investigation is also warranted to ensure that the reputation of respected institutions such as the AFP and the Balikatan shall not be unduly tarnished;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the alleged misuse of 2007 Balikatan funds.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
Sen.

/ctr