

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1327

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INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE GUN SMUGGLING INCIDENT IN
MARIVELES, BATAAN AS IT AFFECTS THE EXISTING GUN AMNESTY
PROGRAM AND THE PROPOSAL TO GRANT FREEPORT STATUS TO
THE BATAAN ECONOMIC ZONE.

WHEREAS, last August 21, 2009, upon being alerted by local fishermen that a private yacht was suspiciously unloading "something" from a ship docked from a coast off Mariveles, Bataan, agents of the Bureau of Customs and the Philippine Coast Guard raided the vessel and seized what were allegedly "**54 high-powered Galil rifles**" made in Indonesia worth P25 Million, including 45 bayonets and 120 empty gun magazines;

WHEREAS, aside from finding the alleged "Galil assault rifles", the authorities also found 15 empty crates, prompting them to suspect that the alleged smugglers has already unloaded 150 contraband rifles

WHEREAS, the vessel and the yacht were later identified as **M/V Captain Ufuk** and **M/Y Mou Man Tai**. M/V Captain Ufuk is registered at the Panamanian Registry but appears to be owned by La Plata Trading Inc., a Philippine registered corporation. While the private yacht is said to be registered under the name of **Dave Smith of Cebu Tranquila Realty, Inc.**;

WHEREAS, arrested and charged for smuggling and violation of Maritime and Immigration Laws are Lawrence John, the ship's South African captain, and his 13 crewmen of Georgian and Jordanian nationalities. Lawrence John however, claims that the true captain of the ship was a British National named Bruce Jones;

WHEREAS, initial reports quoted Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) chief, Fernandino Tuason, saying that his office received information that some politicians "ordered" Israeli-type Galil

assault rifles from an international gun-running syndicate. He surmises that the weapons may be used for the 2010 national and local elections though he does not discount the possibility that the guns may be used in destabilization plots and or terrorist activities;

WHEREAS, the incident comes amid the Gun Amnesty Program currently being implemented by the Philippine National Police (PNP) pursuant to Executive Order No. 817, where all individual and juridical entities may renew their expired licenses and/or register their unregistered firearms with the PNP;


WHEREAS, the said program aims to reduce the incidence of loose firearms being used in election related crimes;

WHEREAS, the incident not only undermines the Gun Amnesty Program of the government it also poses serious threats to the holding of a peaceful and orderly national and local elections in 2010;

WHEREAS, in the plenary deliberation of the bill that seeks to grant Freeport status to the Bataan Economic Zone, concerned citizens manifested their apprehension that the grant of Freeport status to the Bataan Economic Zone might increase the incidence of smuggling in the said area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate committee to investigate in aid of legislation, the gun smuggling incident in Mariveles, Bataan as it affects the existing Gun Amnesty Program and the proposal to grant Freeport status to the Bataan Economic Zone.

Adopted,


BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
Senator