

SENATE

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PS RES. NO. **1329**

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED MILITARY TAKE-OVER CAUSING THE DISPLACEMENT OF SOME 1,700 RESIDENTS FROM FIFTEEN LUMAD COMMUNITIES

Whereas, sometime in June 2009, military troops from different units under the 401st Infantry Brigade occupied Lumad communities in the municipalities of Lianga, San Agustin and Tago in Surigao del Sur;

Whereas, the occupation of military troops was purportedly to conduct a "research for peace and development" to implement "community projects," specifically literacy projects in the 15 Lumad communities.

Whereas, despite the military's assertion regarding the "peaceful" nature of their operations, military checkpoints have been set up restricting the amount of food, especially rice, that could be brought into the Lumad communities;

Whereas, the fully-armed and battle-ready soldiers also moved in and occupied the private homes of the residents of Lumad communities as well as in nearby encampments that are within the range of fire of civilian communities;

Whereas, as a result of this occupation, 1,795 individuals comprising 303 families were displaced when they fled their mountain communities, forcing them to settle in evacuation centers;

Whereas, one of the problems faced by the evacuees is insufficient and poor quality of food as well as poor condition of potable water, as drinking water sources could not sustain the potable water needs of all evacuees;

Whereas, the unsanitary conditions in the evacuation centers have likewise compounded their problems resulting in an increasing number of cases of infectious diseases like diarrhea, upper respiratory tract infection and viral illnesses;

Whereas, because of their displacement and lack of source of livelihood, the evacuees call for the immediate pull-out of military forces from their communities;

Whereas, despite military press releases that they will leave the Lumad communities, no actual pull out of their troops has happened until at present;

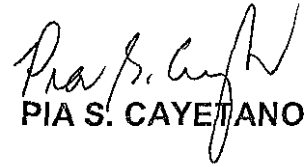
Whereas, the presence of military forces in the Lumad's ancestral lands have greatly affected their communities, most especially the women and children;

Whereas, there is a need to look into the plight of our Lumad brothers and sisters to ensure that their Constitutionally-guaranteed right that the "State shall recognize, respect, and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to

preserve and develop their cultures, traditions and institutions,” and their right to ancestral domains, are upheld.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the appropriate Senate Committee/s inquire, in aid of legislation, on the alleged taking over of military troops in the Lumad communities causing their subsequent displacement.

Adopted,


PIA S. CAYETANO