

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 845

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT GUN TRADERS ARE SMUGGLING GUNS
FROM PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE – FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 provides: “The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption;”

WHEREAS, abs-cbnnews.com, in a news article posted on 11 August 2014, reported that Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Manuel Roxas II warned gun dealers who are found to be involved in gun smuggling and other forms of illegal trading will have their licenses suspended;

WHEREAS, Roxas was said to have issued the warning following reports that an undetermined number of firearms are being smuggled or spirited out of the warehouse of the Philippine National Police-Firearms and Explosives Office (PNP-FEO) by gun traders even before they are officially registered;

WHEREAS, the DILG chief said that his agency has issued guidance to gun dealers to show cause on why their gun dealers' licenses to import and sell should not be suspended while an audit and investigation to trace the missing firearms is being conducted;

WHEREAS, according to the news article, initial reports said some private firearms under custody have been unofficially taken out of the PNP warehouse and sold to civilians without proper documentation;

WHEREAS, Secretary Roxas reportedly said the audit indicated that a certain gun dealer supposedly had 10 firearms stored in the PNP warehouse, but only six or eight were accounted for;

WHEREAS, Secretary Roxas also said that under the policy, every firearm should remain under the custody of the PNP-FEO before the gun is sold and released to a buyer, who complied with all the requirements set by the FEO;

WHEREAS, the DILG chief reportedly warned that police officials and personnel will be sanctioned and charged if they are found to have conspired with gun dealers to smuggle firearms out of the PNP warehouse;

WHEREAS, Secretary Roxas also reportedly said that firearms taken out of the PNP warehouse without proper authority would be considered loose firearms, and those who possess them could face charges;

WHEREAS, it was reported that President Benigno Aquino III ordered an investigation over 900 missing high-powered firearms last January;

WHEREAS, the report also said that five police officials were directed to explain the loss of the firearms, which reportedly ended up in the hands of the communist New People's Army rebels in the Caraga region;

WHEREAS, there is a need for Congress to formulate applicable laws or amend existing laws to solve gun smuggling in the Philippines, especially those that involve the country's law enforcement agencies and the military;

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 report that gun traders are smuggling guns from Philippine National Police-Firearms and Explosives Office.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/fmf