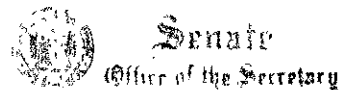


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



14 SEP -3 P3 :08

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 889

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION ON THE REPORTED NEED TO CURTAIL THE RISE OF DEATHS  
CAUSED BY UNLICENSED FIREARMS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 provides: "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10591 or the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act, Section 2, states:

SEC. 2. Declaration of State Policy. – It is the policy of the State to maintain peace and order and protect the people against violence. The State also recognizes the right of its qualified citizens to self-defense through, when it is the reasonable means to repel the unlawful aggression under the circumstances, the use of firearms. Towards this end, the State shall provide for a comprehensive law regulating the ownership, possession, carrying, manufacture, dealing in and importation of firearms, ammunition, or parts thereof, in order to provide legal support to law enforcement agencies in their campaign against crime, stop the proliferation of illegal firearms or weapons and the illegal manufacture of firearms or weapons, ammunition and parts thereof;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* reported on 22 August 2014 that two persons were killed and four others were wounded in separate shooting incidents in the southern part of the metropolis on 21 August 2014;

WHEREAS, it was reported that in the first incident, two robbery suspects were shot dead by a police officer, while the second incident involved two motorcycle-riding men who shot and wounded a jeepney barker, a bus dispatcher, a tricycle driver, and a bystander;

WHEREAS, the report stated that the gunmen returned minutes after the second incident and fired at the crowd milling around the victim;

WHEREAS, it is of general knowledge that reports of gun-toting motorcycle-riding persons have been plaguing the country in recent years; countless deaths have occurred due to the violence caused by gun-carrying criminals;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the legislature to review its laws on unlicensed firearms, especially since more people are now embolden to carry out crimes due to the alleged untraceable nature of an unlicensed firearm;

WHEREAS, the law, as it presently stands, merely consider as aggravating circumstance the use of unlicensed firearms in the commission of the crimes of homicide or murder;

WHEREAS, the law also prohibits the separate prosecution for the use of unlicensed firearms when some other crime has been committed by the offender;

WHEREAS, the law must be strengthened in order to prevent the proliferation of violence inflicted by the use of unlicensed firearms;

WHEREAS, the law disregards the gravity of the offense punished by Presidential Decree 1866, as amended by Republic Act No. 8294, and the laxity with which the offense is dealt with facilitates the commission of other crimes and emboldens criminals to resort to the use of unlicensed firearms;

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 reported need to curtail the rise of deaths caused by unlicensed firearms.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
ocw

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