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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 1088

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND ITEMS IN THE 'KUBOLS' OF HIGH-PROFILE INMATES DURING THE NEW BILIBID PRISON (NBP) RAIDS CONDUCTED BY THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), THE PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (PDEA), AND THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI), AS WELL AS OTHER RELATED ANOMALIES INVOLVING THE NBP, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Corrections aims to protect the public and prevent crimes, in partnership with stakeholders, by providing persons under custody opportunities for reformation, decent environment and secure settings;¹

WHEREAS, to emphasize further, the Bureau of Corrections is mandated by law to accomplish its twin objectives – the effective rehabilitation and safekeeping of national prisoners;²

WHEREAS, one of its functions is to keep prisoners from committing crimes while in the Bureau's custody;³

WHEREAS, on 15 December 2014, a surprise inspection headed by Department of Justice Secretary Leila De Lima was conducted by operatives from the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in the National Bilibid Prison's Maximum Security Compound;⁴

WHEREAS, the Maximum Security Compound houses convicted drug lords and notorious robbery gang leaders such as Eugene Chua, Sam Li Chua, Vicente Sy, George Sy, Tony Co, Joel Capones, Herbert Colangco, Peter Co, Imam Boratong, Clarence Domingo, Tom Chua, Rommel Capones, Jojo Baligad, Willy Chua, Michael Ong, Jacky King, Willie Sy, Noel Martinez and Dona Agojo;⁵

WHEREAS, during the surprise inspection, the operatives found a diamond-studded Patek Philippe watch, Rolex watches, Cartier and Officine Panerai watches, Hermés belt, a Louis Vuitton cash box, bottles of expensive wine and liquor, imported skin whitening creams, a life-size sex doll, wide-screen televisions, cell phones, money-counting machines, laptops, a projector and small appliances;⁶

WHEREAS, aside from these over the top items, the special detention area or 'kubols' of these inmates could pass as high-end condominiums; and some 'kubols' also have 'out-of-the-

¹ Bureau of Corrections. Retrieved from <http://www.bucor.gov.ph/about.html>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Mangunay, K. et.al. *Drug lords rule New Bilibid Prison*. Philippine Daily Inquirer. Retrieved from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/657356/drug-lords-rule-new-bilibid-prison>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

ordinary' facilities like a jacuzzi, a sauna, bath tub, a music studio, a generator, split-type air-conditioning units, Wi-Fi, a long conference table, game console, bar and a kitchen;

WHEREAS, further, wads of cash amounting to more than two million pesos, firearms and an undetermined amount of methamphetamine hydrochloride, also known as 'shabu', were also seized in the raid;⁷

WHEREAS, furthermore, several secret pathways leading to various areas of the building were found in one of the inmates' 'kubol';⁸

WHEREAS, the inspection, which came two weeks after the seizure of cell phone signal boosters and other items from inmates' dormitories, aims to validate the reports from anti-illegal drugs units that the inmates control the narcotics industry in the country;⁹

WHEREAS, the discovery of contraband items stunned the Secretary of Justice, since prison officials conduct their own raids and the reports were submitted together with a list of seized contraband goods;

WHEREAS, moreover, during the subsequent inspections conducted on December 19 and 22, 2014, more contraband items such as a private gym, a refrigerator, some sex enhancement drugs, a hand grenade, a handgun and a weighing scale with shabu were found;¹⁰

WHEREAS, some of the luxury items found in the 'kubols', one of the inmates claims, were gifts from relatives - one of which is a congressman;¹¹

WHEREAS, according to the records of the Firearms and Explosives Office of the Philippine National Police (PNP), several firearms seized in the raid were registered separately in the names of a congressman, a barangay councilman, a former candidate for representative and a government employee;¹²

WHEREAS, an intelligence report of anti-illegal drugs units from the PNP and the NBI reveals that several political candidates in Metro Manila were financed by one of the high-profile inmates in exchange for protection;¹³

WHEREAS, clearly, some NBP personnel and some government officials facilitated the entry of the prohibited items and the construction of high-end 'kubols' as these did not just appear in an instant;

WHEREAS, further, in a separate incident, days after the aforesaid scandal, an eight-year-old girl was found naked and unconscious after an inmate allegedly attempted to rape her inside the NBP's maximum security compound on New Year's Day;

WHEREAS, all these incidents are a glaring proof of one of the weaknesses of the Philippine Judicial system – its flawed correctional system;

WHEREAS, there are apparently blatant violations committed by the personnel of the NBP against their mandate; and as the first step to reform the correctional system in the country, it is imperative to identify and hold accountable the NBP personnel and other involved government officials who are responsible for the proliferation of contraband items in the NBP; and the Bureau personnel who have neglected to keep prisoners from committing crimes while in the their custody;

⁷ Manguay, K. et.al. *Drug lords rule New Bilibid Prison*. Philippine Daily Inquirer. Retrieved from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/657356/drug-lords-rule-new-bilibid-prison>

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Hicap, J. *Surprise inspection finds shabu, luxury items in New Bilibid Prison*. Manila Bulletin. Retrieved from <http://www.mb.com.ph/surprise-inspection-finds-shabu-luxury-items-in-new-bilibid-prison/>

¹⁰ Cayabyab, M. *Grenade, handgun, shabu found in third Bilibid raid*. Philippine Daily Inquirer. Retrieved from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/658897/grenade-handgun-shabu-found-in-third-bilibid-raid>

¹¹ Manguay, K. et.al. *Drug lords rule New Bilibid Prison*. Philippine Daily Inquirer. Retrieved from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/657356/drug-lords-rule-new-bilibid-prison>

¹² Carvajal, N. *Congressman, other politician own guns seized in New Bilibid Prison*. Philippine Daily Inquirer. Retrieved from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/658086/congressman-other-politicians-own-guns-seized-in-new-bilibid-prison>

¹³ *Ibid.*

WHEREAS, the Senate should ensure that the aforestated problems would be addressed promptly and effectively through legislation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *as it is hereby resolved* by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Committee on Justice and Human Rights and other appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the seizure of contraband items in the 'kubols' of high-profile inmates during the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) raids conducted by the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) as well as other related anomalies involving the NBP, with the end in view of enacting remedial legislation that would prevent the recurrence of similar incidents.

Adopted,


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator