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SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 1134

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, PEACE, UNIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEATH OF AT LEAST FIFTY (50) MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE – SPECIAL ACTION FORCE (SAF) IN A CLASH WITH THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) AND OTHER ELEMENTS IN MAMASAPANO, MAGUINDANAO ON JANUARY 25, 2015

**Whereas**, last January 25, Sunday, reports about the death of members of the Philippine National Police – Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) in Mamasapano, Maguindanao was made public;

**Whereas**, initial reports from PNP said that the members of two (2) battalions of PNP-SAF were aiming to arrest Malaysian Zulkifli Bin Hir alias Marwan, an alleged bomb maker, a member of Jemaah Islamiyah, and who has a \$5 million bounty in his head from the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation;

**Whereas**, it was reported that at least 392 members of the elite cops were involved in the operation but only approximately 35 entered the area of operation while the others remained in the vicinity;

**Whereas**, the town, however, is a bailiwick of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), who said that the PNP-SAF attacked the area without coordinating with them, thus triggered the clash;

**Whereas**, according to the PNP-ARMM, the troops were already able to arrest Marwan but were engaged in an encounter by the MILF as they leave the area;

**Whereas**, according to Senior Superintendent Noel Armilla, Director for PNP-ARMM, the number of casualties as of January 26 already reached fifty (50), and this number is expected to increase as the retrieval operations continue;

**Whereas**, the military said that they were not involved in the operation until the PNP-SAF called for a troop reinforcement on Sunday;

**Whereas**, ironically, the horrifying incident happened on the eve of the 24<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary of the PNP;

**Whereas**, the dreadful incidence brought into fore many questions which beg immediate answers and calls for appropriate and swift actions;

**Whereas**, there is a need to re-assess the capability and strength of the PNP-SAF especially amidst the report that there are 392 members involved in the operation and yet a significant number of their colleagues were killed;

**Whereas**, while Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Mar Roxas explained that the PNP-SAF members were sent because they were going to serve a warrant of arrest which is a law enforcement function, there is a question if this function should be solely handled by the PNP in such a case when the person who is being served with warrant is an international terrorist;

**Whereas**, there were reports that members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were also involved in the said encounter but to this date, there is no confirmation yet on this information;

**Whereas**, there is also a need to reconcile the statistics of casualties because the figures given by the PNP-ARMM is higher than that being released by DILG Secretary Roxas;

**Whereas**, there is a need to review the conduct of this particular police operations and to revisit the protocols that have to be followed to prevent similar failure and misfortune in the future;

**Whereas**, the fallen cops indeed deserve honor, respect, and gratitude from our countrymen but possible mishap should lead to intensive assessment and effective reforms in law enforcement;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate**, to urge the Senate Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation, Local Government, and other appropriate committees to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the death of at least fifty (50) members of the Philippine National Police – Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) in a clash with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and other elements in Mamasapano, Maguindanao on January 25, 2015

*Adopted,*

  
**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
Senator