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SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 345

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP)/ PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) HOUSING UNITS IN BULACAN BY MEMBERS OF THE KALIPUNAN NG DAMAYANG MAHIHIRAP (KADAMAY) WITH THE INTENTION OF ENSURING THAT THE BENEFITS AFFORDED BY LAW TO UNIFORMED PERSONNEL ARE NOT HAMPERED AND/OR INADVERTENTLY AWARDED TO ALLEGED COMMUNIST-LED GROUPS, AND TO LOOK INTO THE NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF THE SAID TAKEOVER BY THE AFORE-MENTIONED ALLEGED COMMUNIST-LED URBAN POOR ORGANIZATION WITH THE INTENTION OF PREVENTING ANY POTENTIAL ACTS OF SUBVERSION AGAINST THE STATE AND ENSURING THE ENACTMENT OF REMEDIAL LEGISLATION TO PREVENT THE USE OF FORCE AND VIOLENCE BY GROUPS SEEKING HOUSING ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND ENSURING THAT ADEQUATE DETERRENCE AND/OR MEASURES ARE IN PLACE TO PREVENT SIMILAR RECURRENCE IN THE FUTURE

WHEREAS, Administrative Order No. 9, series of 2011, or the AFP/PNP Housing Project, directs the National Housing Authority (NHA) to formulate and implement a housing program for military and police personnel in order to address the housing needs of those low-salaried uniformed personnel;¹

WHEREAS, on 8 March 2017, members of the urban poor group, mostly led by the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (KADAMAY), forcibly occupied 5,208 idle government housing units in Bulacan which were meant to house families of soldiers and police officers.² Said units are under six (6) government projects located in Villa Elise in Barangay Masuso, Village 2 in Mapulang Lupa, Villa Louise in Cacarong Matanda and Padre Pio in Cacarong Bata in Pandi, and San Jose Heights in San Jose del Monte;³

¹ Official Gazette. Retrieved from <http://www.gov.ph/2011/04/11/administrative-order-no-9-s-2011/>

² Umil, A. M. (14 March 2017). Urban poor group vows to continue barricade in gov't housing projects. Retrieved from <http://bulatlat.com/main/2017/03/14/occupybulacan-urban-poor-group-vows-continue-barricade-govt-housing-projects/>

³ Lazaro, R. E. (12 March 2017). Bulacan board to probe takeover of housing units. Retrieved from <http://www.philstar.com/nation/2017/03/12/1680197/bulacan-board-probe-takeover-housing-units>

WHEREAS, on 10 March 2017, the NHA gave an ultimatum of seven (7) days to the illegal occupants to vacate said housing units. The agency pledged assistance to Kadamay members who want to avail government housing but stressed the need to undergo procedural and documentary requirements;⁴

WHEREAS, on 13 March 2017, said group initiated a rally in Mendiola calling for free and decent mass housing to all urban poor Filipinos which according to them, the government has failed to fulfill;⁵

WHEREAS, on 4 April 2017, during the Philippine Army's 120th Founding Anniversary in Fort Bonifacio, President Rodrigo Duterte, in efforts to avert violent confrontation, allowed Kadamay members to keep the housing units they've illegally occupied, and urged the uniformed personnel to let go of their claim with a promise of more comfortable and spacious housing units;⁶

WHEREAS, while this decision by President Duterte complements the government's mandate to assist the poor by grant of free housing, the same can set a bad and dangerous precedent for other indigent groups who also seek housing assistance from the government;⁷

WHEREAS, aside from setting a bad and dangerous precedent, the decision to allow the members of Kadamay to occupy an entire community has national security implications. Intelligence reports suggest that Kadamay is a front organization of the communist groups;

WHEREAS, if said report is true, the wholesale takeover of several communities by Kadamay may mean the creation of sanctuaries for communist groups in Bulacan, which is strategically located near the National Capital Region;⁸

WHEREAS, based on intelligence reports, some members of the Cabinet, who are connected to the administration of government housing units, are involved with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). To name a few: Leoncio Evasco Jr., Secretary to the Cabinet and Chair of Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, allegedly a member of the CPP, and elected as CPP Central Committee member in the 8th Central Committee Plenum (1981) in Mt. Susung Dalaga, Bicol; Marcelino P. Escalada Jr., General Manager of the National Housing Authority (NHA), reportedly a CPP full member; and James Mark Terry Ridon, Chair of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, elected as CPP Central Committee Member in the 13th Central Committee Plenum (2012) in Quezon City;

WHEREAS, there is an immediate need to look into and/or conduct an in-depth investigation into this illegal occupation by members of the Kadamay of the subject Bulacan housing

⁴ Lazaro, R. E. (12 March 2017). Bulacan board to probe takeover of housing units. Retrieved from <http://www.philstar.com/nation/2017/03/12/1680197/bulacan-board-probe-takeover-housing-units>

⁵ Umil, A. M. (14 March 2017). Urban poor group vows to continue barricade in gov't housing projects. Retrieved from <http://bulatlat.com/main/2017/03/14/occupybulacan-urban-poor-group-vows-continue-barricade-govt-housing-projects/>

⁶ Romero, A. (5 April 2017). Rody lets Kadamay keep Bulacan housing units. Retrieved from <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2017/04/05/1687812/rody-lets-kadamay-keep-bulacan-housing-units>

⁷ Avendaño, C. & Salaverria, L. (7 April 2017). Kadamay a communist front—Trillanes. Retrieved from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/887277/kadamay-a-communist-front>

⁸ Alvarez, K. C. (6 April 2017). Trillanes warns of Kadamay homes being 'sanctuary of communists'. Retrieved from <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/606135/news/nation/trillanes-warns-of-kadamay-homes-being-sanctuary-of-communists#sthash.WkQdcJAl.dpuf>

communities and look into the procedural and security repercussions of the seeming tolerant attitude of the Administration over their actions;

WHEREAS, there is likewise a clear need for the enactment of remedial legislation to ensure that the use of force and violence is not resorted to in the future by groups seeking housing assistance from the government, and to ensure that adequate deterrence and/or measures are in place to prevent similar recurrence in the future;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, *as it is hereby resolved by the Philippines Senate*, to direct the Committee on National Defense and Security, and other appropriate committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the illegal occupation of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)/ Philippine National Police (PNP) housing units in Bulacan by members of the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (KADAMAY) with the intention of ensuring that the benefits afforded by law to uniformed personnel are not hampered and/or inadvertently awarded to communist groups; and to look into the national security implications of the said takeover by the afore-mentioned alleged communist-led urban poor organization with the intention of enacting remedial legislation in order to prevent any potential acts of subversion against the state and to ensure that the use of force and violence is not resorted to in the future by groups seeking housing assistance from the government, and to ensure that adequate deterrence and/or measures are in place to deter similar recurrence in the future.

Adopted,


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator