

'18 APR 17 P3:49

RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_



SENATE  
P.S. RESOLUTION NO. 712

---

---

Introduced by SENATOR PANFILO M. LACSON

---

---

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL WITHHOLDING OF DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE (ASA) AND EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL HAZARDOUS PAY (EOD HDP) ALLOTTED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL ACTION FORCE (SAF) TROOPERS AMOUNTING TO P59.8 MILLION, WITH THE END IN VIEW, OF PROPOSING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE SAME AND PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF THE SAME INCIDENT IN THE FUTURE THAT MAY CAUSE DEMORALIZATION AMONG THE RANKS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE

*Whereas*, the Special Action Force (SAF), an elite unit originally under the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was created on May 16, 1983 in order to streamline the military's operation, to address the various threats to national security, and to revitalize the military. Today, it serves as an operational support unit of the Philippine National Police (PNP) that functions as a mobile strike force or reaction unit to augment regional, provincial, municipal, and city police forces for civil disturbances control, counter-insurgency, hostage-taking rescue operations, and other special operations.<sup>1</sup>

*Whereas*, to further complement and strengthen the present organizational structure of the SAF and in compliance with the directive of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to enhance the operational capability of the PNP-SAF in curbing criminality and terrorism, the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) en banc has issued Resolution No. 2018-027 on February 2, 2018 allowing the establishment of five (5) additional Special Action Battalions (SABs) mandated to conduct long-range reconnaissance/surveillance operations deep into enemy territories through infiltration and extrication by air, land, or sea.<sup>2</sup>

*Whereas*, in addition to the regular allowances received by the members of the PNP, the uniformed personnel of the PNP-SAF who engage in life threatening police operations are entitled to a Daily Additional Subsistence Allowance (ASA) amounting to Thirty Pesos per day (Php30.00/day) or Nine Hundred Pesos a month (Php900.00/month) which is usually released, distributed, and given by the Unit's Finance Sergeant to around 4,000 uniformed personnel of the unit every quarter of the year. Moreover, they are likewise receiving allocations for Explosive Ordnance Disposal Hazardous Pay (EOD HDP);

*Whereas*, for the release of the same to the uniformed personnel of the SAF, the Director of the PNP SAF shall give the go signal/authority to the Budget and Fiscal Officer of the Unit who will in turn direct the Finance Sergeants to release the said Daily Additional Subsistence Allowance (ASA) to all the uniformed personnel of the PNP SAF;

---

<sup>1</sup> (Sec. 35 (b)(2) of Republic Act No. 6975).

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/644191/napolcom-oks-creation-of-five-more-saf-battalions/story/>

**Whereas**, despite the release of the amounts corresponding to the said Daily Additional Subsistence Allowance (ASA) by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the receipt thereof by the SAF Financial Service in FY 2016 and FY 2017, as evidenced by copies of the Notices of Cash Allocation (NCAs) and Notices of Fund Allocation (NFAs) for each month of releases, records would show that the 4,000 members of the SAF only received their share of the (ASA) for the months of January 2016 and January to July 2017;

**Whereas**, when confronted with the issue of the non-release of the ASA, then Police Director Benjamin M. Lusad, SAF Director and Senior Superintendent Andre P. Dizon, SAF Budget and Fiscal Officer, admitted that they indeed received the amount of the unreleased ASA, apologized to the members of the SAF, and explained that they used the amounts for operational expenses, fellowship, and training, without however showing any proof of its disbursements and liquidation as mandated by law;

**Whereas**, members of the PNP-SAF approached this representation to air the grievance of the SAF troopers and apprise the undersigned regarding the illegal withholding of their ASA and EOD HDP. At the same time, said SAF member furnished the Office of this representation a copy of the Complaint Affidavit together with the attached Annexes, filed in the Office of the Ombudsman against the officials involved in said anomaly;

**Whereas**, as a consequence of such filing, on April 16, 2018, it was reported by some of the leading newspapers and online news sites in the country that graft charges were filed in the Office of the Ombudsman against ex-SAF Officials for the alleged unreleased daily additional subsistence allowance that supposedly went to operations of SAF troopers deployed to guard the National Bilibid Prison (NBP) and to fight during the Marawi City siege.<sup>3</sup>

**Whereas**, the said unlawful withholding of said funds, if true, constitutes a criminal or unlawful act and runs counter to the evident policy of the President to increase the pay of our military and uniformed personnel in order to repay them for their sacrifices;

**Whereas**, we cannot allow, yet again, another injustice to be committed against our heroes in uniform who are in the forefront in our fight against the ills of terrorism and criminality, lest we risk demoralization within their ranks. Thus the need to probe into the said allegations;

**Whereas**, there is a need to revisit our existing laws and the implementation of the same in order to ensure that the benefits granted by law to our police officers are indeed received by them, and to determine whether there is unlawful deprivation of their lawful right that requires the imposition of sanctions to the erring official of the SAF. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**,

**AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct as it hereby directs the Senate Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged illegal withholding of the release of the daily additional subsistence allowance of SAF troopers and their Explosive Ordnance Disposal Hazardous Pay, with the end in view of proposing remedial legislation to correct the same and put a stop to this unlawful practice to the prejudice of the intended beneficiaries .

Adopted,

PANFILO M. LACSON  
Senator

<sup>3</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/982706/plunder-raps-vs-ex-saf-officials-anger-dela-rosa>