

SENATE

P.S.R. No. 822

RECORDED 

Introduced by Senators Pangilinan, Trillanes, Hontiveros, Drilon,
Aquino, and De Lima

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND
DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON
THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE'S (PNP) INTERNAL CLEANSING STRATEGY**

WHEREAS, on 21 February 2017, in view of the issues concerning police personnel involved in various illegal activities, the PNP released Memorandum Circular No. 2017-013 which sets forth the guidelines on its Internal Cleansing Strategy. Under said strategy, the PNP seeks to remove "misfits, scalawags, and undesirables" from the organization; strictly enforce the existing disciplinary mechanisms; transform erring PNP personnel to become productive members through reorientation and retraining, among others; compel the unit commanders at all levels to closely supervise their personnel; and hold all unit commanders at all levels accountable for the misdeeds of their personnel;¹

WHEREAS, the Ombudsman lists the PNP as the second government agency with the most number of cases. For 2017 alone, there were 939 cases filed against PNP personnel;²

WHEREAS, as of March 2018, the PNP recorded 6,093 administrative cases nationwide filed against police personnel since 2016.³ In a recent news report,⁴ Senior Supt. Benigno Durana, Jr., the spokesperson of the PNP, said a total of 1,828 police personnel have been dismissed from the service for involvement in various illegal activities from January 2016 to June 2018;

WHEREAS, despite the PNP's aggressive strategy to go after erring police personnel, there have been recent reports on a number of its personnel's involvement in illegal activities;

¹ Official Website of the PNP Directorate for Personnel and Records Management, Available at <https://pnp-dprm.com/index.php/download/file/67-pnp-mc-no-2017-013-pnp-internal-cleansing-strategy>, Accessed on 02 August 2018.

² Official Website of the Office of the Ombudsman, "LGUs top gov't agency with most number of Ombudsman Cases filed in 2017," Available at <https://www.ombudsman.gov.ph/lqus-top-govt-agency-with-most-number-of-ombudsman-cases-filed-in-2017/>, Accessed on 02 August 2018.

³ Manila Bulletin, "PNP rushing resolution of over 6,000 cases involving its personnel to prevent backlog," Available at <https://news.mb.com.ph/2018/03/03/pnp-rushing-resolution-of-over-6000-cases-involving-its-personnel-to-prevent-backlog/>, Accessed on 02 August 2018.

⁴ Manila Bulletin, "Internal cleansing' in PNP commended," Available at <https://news.mb.com.ph/2018/08/02/internal-cleansing-in-pnp-commended/>, Accessed on 02 August 2018.

WHEREAS, according to the PNP Counter-Intelligence Task Force (CITF), as many as 1,000 police officers are under surveillance for allegedly protecting crime rings or engaging in extortion and other illegal activities;

WHEREAS, on 30 July 2018, a police officer assigned in the drug enforcement unit of Parian Police Station in Cebu City was killed after allegedly attempting to ambush former barangay captain and incumbent councilor Jessielou Cadungog;⁵

WHEREAS, on 31 July 2018, a police officer from Taguig was killed and three other police officers alleged to be members of a kidnap-for-ransom group were arrested during an entrapment operation by the Southern Police District. The group allegedly extorted P50,000.00 from a couple in Bicutan, Taguig. Thirty-nine (39) other members of the Western Bicutan Police Community Precinct 1 were dismissed from service for their alleged links to the arrested officers;

WHEREAS, also on 31 July 2018, three police officers from the Valenzuela City Police Office were arrested for extorting money from junkshops. The group had been allegedly collecting P200 to P500 from each junkshop;⁶

WHEREAS, these follow several incidents in recent months involving police officers engaged in illegal activities – in January 2018, two police officers killed two jail guards in Muntinlupa City;⁷ a police officer was one of three assailants who attempted to ambush a lawyer in February 2018;⁸ in March 2018, a Cebu City police officer was caught for allegedly extorting P20,000.00 from an arrested drug suspect;⁹

WHEREAS, as reported by the PNP Internal Affairs Service (PNP-IAS) on the random drug tests they conducted, around 349 police personnel tested positive for illegal drugs, particularly shabu;¹⁰

WHEREAS, the PNP announced that it will launch a “Revitalized PNP Internal Cleansing Strategy” in August 2018 which will employ three approaches – restorative, punitive, and preventive. In view of the recent spate of crimes involving police personnel, the Senate recognizes that it is important to inform the public on said revitalized strategy of cleaning their ranks, demand accountability from the PNP, and reassure the public that our PNP personnel will be more committed in the discharge of their duty to serve and protect the people;

⁵ Cadungog Attempted Ambush: Gunman assigned in drug enforcement unit of Parian Police. 30 July 2018. Available at <http://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/186872/cadungog-attempted-ambush-gunman-assigned-drug-enforcement-unit-parian-police>. Accessed on 05 August 2018.

⁶ PNP chief: Internal cleansing will be 'chilling, deadly'. 01 August 2018. Available at <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1755774/Manila/Local-News/PNP-chief-Internal-cleansing-will-be-chilling-deadly>. Accessed on 02 August 2018.

⁷ 2 hit men who killed 2 jail guards turn out to be cops. 19 January 2018. Available at <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/961666/2-hit-men-who-killed-2-jail-guards-turn-out-to-be-cops#ixzz5MpCQcubz>. Accessed on 02 August 2018.

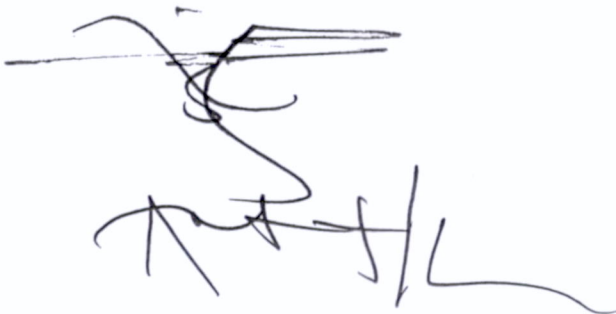
⁸ Lawyer survives ambush, able to kill, injure attackers. 13 February 2018. Available at <https://news.mb.com.ph/2018/02/13/lawyersurvivesambush-able-to-kill-injure-attackers/>. Accessed on 02 August 2018.

⁹ Cebu City policeman arrested for extortion. 20 March 2018. Available at <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/424560/Cebu-City-policeman-arrested-for-extortion>. Accessed on 02 August 2018.

¹⁰ PNP-IAS: 349 cops tested positive for illegal drugs. 04 June 2018. Available at <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/04/18/pnp-ias-349-cops-tested-positive-for-illegal-drugs>. Accessed on 06 August 2018.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the Philippine National Police's Internal Cleansing Strategy.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Antonio Caraguel

Judith Ben Aguirre

Leila M. de Lima
LEILA M. DE LIMA