

SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 849

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Introduced by Senators Trillanes IV, Hontiveros, Dilon, Aquino, and De Lima

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON HOW A SHABU SHIPMENT WORTH PHP 6.8 BILLION MANAGED TO ENTER THE COUNTRY THROUGH THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT AND SLIP THROUGH THE INSPECTION OF BUREAU OF CUSTOMS**

**WHEREAS**, on 7 August 2018, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) seized around 500 kilograms of shabu contained in magnetic lifters at the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT).<sup>1</sup> Magnetic lifters are used to lift scrap metals when transporting metallic goods or collecting trash<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, said shipment was successfully intercepted with the help of an informant who warned PDEA about a shipment of illegal drugs to the Philippines from Malaysia carried by vessel AS Cecilia. Said shipment was addressed to a certain Vedasto Cabral Baraquel of Barangay Lalud in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, on 8 August 2018, Police Chief Inspector Romula dela Rea of General Mariano Alvarez (GMA), Cavite relayed to the PDEA and PNP the information from a maintenance personnel about a recent delivery of magnetic lifters similar to the one seized in MICT in a warehouse in GMA, Cavite. On the same day, the police was able secure the warehouse and gather witnesses;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, on 10 August 2018, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) agents seized several empty magnetic lifters in the aforementioned warehouse;<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Talabong, R. (7 August 2018). 500 kilograms of 'shabu' seized in Manila port. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/209049-kilos-shabu-recovered-manila-port-august-7-2018>

<sup>2</sup> Talabong, R. (13 August 2018). How P6.8-B 'shabu' slipped past PNP, PDEA, Customs. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/209468-how-shabu-slipped-past-pnp-pdea-customs>

<sup>3</sup> Talabong, R. (7 August 2018). 500 kilograms of 'shabu' seized in Manila port. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/209049-kilos-shabu-recovered-manila-port-august-7-2018>

<sup>4</sup> Talabong, R. (13 August 2018). How P6.8-B 'shabu' slipped past PNP, PDEA, Customs. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/209468-how-shabu-slipped-past-pnp-pdea-customs>

<sup>5</sup> Cabrera, R. (11 August 2018). Shabu worth P6.8 billion slips past Customs. Retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/08/11/1841547/shabu-worth-p68-billion-slips-past-customs#rFkCpxa8GR95YOeY.99>

**WHEREAS**, said magnetic lifters are believed to have contained approximately one (1) ton of shabu worth Php 6.8 billion;<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner Isidro Lápeña reported that these lifters were brought to the country from Taiwan last 11 July 2018 and consigned to a certain SMYD Trading;<sup>7</sup>

**WHEREAS**, according to him, said shipment was assessed on 12 July 2018 and was issued a release order the following day after it as red-tagged, and was required only non-intrusive examination;<sup>8</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the examination was executed on 14 July 2018 wherein a Customs officer scanned the shipment without opening it. Said procedure should confirm if the shipment's contents matched what is indicated on the forms. The scan showed magnetic lifters as declared. By 9:44 AM of the same day, the shipment was cleared for release;<sup>9</sup>

**WHEREAS**, according to PDEA Director General Aaron Aquino, they confirmed the presence of shabu inside the empty magnetic lifters after their drug-sniffing dogs reacted when the containers were brought to their office;<sup>10</sup>

**WHEREAS**, PDEA is confident that the magnetic lifters seized from MICT and from the warehouse in GMA, Cavite are one and the same, citing similarities in packaging. They also found traces of asbestos fibers, aluminum foil, and plastics in both lifters;

**WHEREAS**, it can be remembered that in May 2017, a shabu shipment worth Php 6.4 billion was smuggled to the Philippines from China and made it through the inspection of the Bureau of Customs;<sup>11</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the repeated incidence of huge shipments of drugs being smuggled to the country and slipping past the inspection of the Bureau of Customs is a wake-up call for us to look into the possible malfeasance, misfeasance, and nonfeasance by officials and employees of the Bureau that resulted to this huge gaffe;

**WHEREAS**, the massive amount of illegal drugs is now feared to be circulating the streets further worsening the drug menace in the country. Thus, urgent investigation on this matter is imperative to ensure that this blunder will be prevented from happening again;

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<sup>6</sup> 10 August 2018. ₱6.8B worth of shabu from alleged Taiwan drug syndicate slipped through PH – PDEA. Retrieved from <http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2018/08/10/%E2%82%B16.8-billion-worth-of-shabu-slips-through-Philippines-PDEA.html>

<sup>7</sup> Talabong, R. (13 August 2018). How P6.8-B 'shabu' slipped past PNP, PDEA, Customs. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/209468-how-shabu-slipped-past-ppnp-pdea-customs>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Cabrera, R. (11 August 2018). Shabu worth P6.8 billion slips past Customs. Retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/08/11/1841547/shabu-worth-p68-billion-slips-past-customs#rFkCpxa8GR95YOeY.99>

<sup>11</sup> ABS-CBN. (7 November 2017). Ombudsman to probe P6.4-B shabu shipment. Retrieved from <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/07/17/ombudsman-to-probe-p64-b-shabu-shipment>

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on how a shabu shipment worth Php 6.8 billion managed to enter the country through the Manila International Container Port and slip through the inspection of Bureau of Customs.

*Adopted,*

  
ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
*Senator*

*Antonio 'Sonny' F. Trillanes IV*



*Bam Aquino*

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