

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



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**SENATE**

**P.S. Res. No. 564**

RECEIVED BY:

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**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS AND OFFICERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) ON THE 6.7 BILLION MANILA DRUG BUY BUST WITH THE END IN VIEW OF LAYING DOWN A SYSTEM THAT WOULD NOT ONLY PREVENT CIRCUMVENTION OF RULES IN ORDER TO EVADE LIABILITY, BUT WOULD LIKEWISE ENSURE FULL ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE PERSONNEL INVOLVED**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency has reported seizure of some Php 30.9 billion worth of illegal drugs in 2022 alone under the administration's intensified anti-illegal drugs campaign. In their January 2023 Operational Assessment Report, PDEA summarized that around 8,585 barangays or 20.4 percent still remain drug-affected, with Metro Manila recording the highest number of drug-affectation with 53.9 percent;

**WHEREAS**, on 8 October 2022, the Philippine National Police conducted a drug bust operation in Tondo, Manila where authorities seized 990 kilos of shabu worth Php 6.7 billion, and arrested several members of the PNP, including Master Sergeant Rodolfo Mayo Jr. who also owned the property where the shabu was recovered;

**WHEREAS**, on 10 April 2023, the Department of Interior and Local Government held a press briefing where Secretary Benjamin C. Abalos presented CCTV footage of the October 8, 2022 drug bust operation. In the said briefing, it was revealed that 42 police officers took 42 kilos of shabu before the inventory of the

confiscated 990 kilos of illegal drugs based on the CCTV footage;

**WHEREAS**, in the same press briefing, Secretary Abalos said that the CCTV footage showed that some PNP officers were seen on the site on the day of the operation. The police officers identified in the footage were Police Lt. Gen. Benjamin Santos Jr. who was then Deputy Chief PNP for Operations; Brig. Gen. Narciso Domingo, director of the PNP Drug Enforcement Group (PDEG); Col. Julian Olonan, chief of PDEG Special Operations Unit (SOU) Region 4A; Capt. Jonathan Sosongco, head of the PDEG SOU 4A arresting team; Lt. Col. Arnulfo Ibañez, OIC of PDEG SOU National Capital Region (NCR); Maj. Michael Angelo Salmingo, deputy of PDEG SOU NCR; Lt. Col. Glenn Gonzales of Quezon City Police District; Lt. Ashrap Amerol, intelligence officer of PDEG Intelligence and Foreign Liaison Division; Lt. Col. Harry Lorenzo, Manila Police District Moriones Station Commander; and Captain Randolph Piñon, chief of PDEG SOU 4A Intelligence Section;

**WHEREAS**, this incident prompted the PNP to create a Special Investigation Task Force known as SITG 990. However, progress on the probe has so far been slow, and based on the pieces of evidence, Secretary Abalos concluded that there was a “massive attempt” to cover up the arrest of Master Sergeant Mayo. Secretary Abalos also “cast doubts on Mayo’s sole involvement, suggesting he may not have acted alone”;

**WHEREAS**, Lt. General Benjamin Santos, the highest-ranking official who took part in the operation now under scrutiny, and allegedly also involved in the cover up, already retired in March 2023. The rest who are currently active in the service were given orders by Secretary Abalos to take a leave of absence pending the investigation of the Fact-Finding Board;

**WHEREAS**, the massive drug bust with strong allegations of attempts to cover-up involvement of high-ranking officers indicates that the illegal drug trade may have even infiltrated the PNP’s most specialized units that are tasked to eradicate illegal drugs in the country;

**WHEREAS**, PNP has reported that 716 PNP personnel have been dismissed from the service for their involvement in illegal drugs in 2022;

**WHEREAS**, the Senate has, on numerous occasions, faithfully fulfilled its role in the system of checks and balances in the investigation of the conduct by government officers, employees in any of its branches and instrumentalities;

**WHEREAS**, to make certain accountability and to provide a third person account on the matter, investigation by the appropriate Senate committee is imperative. This will further ensure that those who are responsible for this heinous act will be dealt with to the full extent of law. Furthermore, this seeks to prevent the occurrence of the same lawlessness in the future;

**WHEREAS**, instances such as this, in which government personnel involved commit detestable acts that serve to taint the integrity of the agency they serve, must be thwarted. The Senate must therefore step in and ensure that the trust and confidence reposed unto them is not abused;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the alleged involvement of High-Ranking Officials and Officers of the Philippine National Police (PNP) on the 6.7 billion Manila Drug Buy Bust with the end in view of laying down a system that would not only prevent circumvention of rules in order to evade liability, but would likewise ensure full accountability of the personnel involved.

*Adopted,*

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**  
*RB*