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**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**

RECEIVED BY:

**SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 883**

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE
RECENT BOMBING THAT KILLED AND INJURED SEVERAL PEOPLE AT THE
DIMAPORO GYMNASIUM OF THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY (MSU),
AND URGING ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO UNDERTAKE THE
NECESSARY STEPS IN ENSURING THE SAFETY OF ALL**

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 5 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by the people of the blessings of democracy¹;

WHEREAS, Article IX Basic Rights, Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11054, also known as the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, provides that the Bangsamoro Government shall guarantee religious freedom and the free exercise thereof pursuant to the Constitution, national laws, and principles of international law. The Bangsamoro Government shall protect all persons from harassment or undue pressure, coercion, and violence on account of religion. Any establishment and institution shall be free to implement policies and undertake activities pursuant to their respective beliefs and values.²;

WHEREAS, initial reports said four people were killed in the bombing incident at the Dimaporo gymnasium of the Mindanao State University (MSU) in Marawi City while Mass was being held on Sunday, December 3, 2023³;

¹ The Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines. Available at <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/constitutions/1987-constitution/>

² Republic Act No. 11054. Available at https://legacy.senate.gov.ph/republic_acts/ra%2011054.pdf

³ PBBM: We will bring perpetrators of Marawi bombing to justice. Available at https://pco.gov.ph/news_releases/pbbm-we-will-bring-perpetrators-of-marawi-bombing-to-justice/

WHEREAS, reports issued by the Philippine Army 1st Infantry Division (1ID) said about 46 people were brought to the Amai Pakpak Medical Center in Marawi after the blast⁴;

WHEREAS, Bangsamoro Police Regional Office chief BGen. Allan Nobleza said in a radio interview investigators are checking if the bombing is connected to the killing of 11 members of the Dawlah Islamiyah (DI) militant group⁵;

WHEREAS, in addition BGen. Nobleza said that they have identified more than two persons of interest but in order not to preempt the investigation they will not divulge the names but promised to look at different angles and said that a Special Investigation Task Group (SITG) has been created to expedite the probe⁶;

WHEREAS, in a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr., also said the bombing could be in retaliation to the killings of ranking terrorist leaders in Maguindanao del Sur, Lanao del Sur and Basilan⁷;

WHEREAS, Abdullah Sapal, the emir of Dawlah Islamiyah, was recently killed along with 10 of his men during a clash with government forces in Mother Tuayan, Datu Hoffer Ampatuan, Maguindanao del Sur. The group joined forces with the Abu Sayyaf Group during the siege of Marawi in November 2017⁸;

WHEREAS, the second terrorist leader, Mondy Sawadjaan, was killed in fighting in the coastal villages of Banah and Lahi-Lahi in Tuburan, Basilan⁹;

WHEREAS, the military said Sawadjaan had replaced Abu Sayyaf overall head Radullan Sahiron, who was killed during the Marawi siege. Sawadjaan was involved in the killing of kidnapped foreign tourists and raids at military detachments in Mindanao and the bombing of a church in Jolo¹⁰;

WHEREAS, Defense Secretary Gilberto "Gibo" Teodoro Jr. said that "a foreign terrorist group was involved in the MSU bombing, but he refused to identify it"¹¹;

⁴ 11 dead, scores hurt in MSU bombing. Available at <https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/12/04/news/11-dead-scores-hurt-in-msu-bombing/1922723>

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Police identify more than 2 persons of interest in MSU bombing. Available at <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/890284/police-identify-more-than-2-persons-of-interest-in-msu-bombing/story/>

⁷ Supra [4]

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

WHEREAS, in 2017, Marawi, the capital of Lanao del Sur, endured a siege by Isis-affiliated militants, resulting in 1,000 casualties and marking the Philippines' longest urban battle¹²;

WHEREAS, now, almost five years after the conflict, an explosion during a Catholic Mass at MSU gym claimed lives and injured people¹³;

WHEREAS, the act of terrorism was an attack not only to the religious freedom of the Catholic faithful who are celebrating the First Sunday of Advent, which marks their new liturgical year, but to the peaceful coexistence of the different faiths;

WHEREAS, violence does not have a place in any civilized society, especially within an academic institution, and no cause justifies brutalities against the live of all persons¹⁴;

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Philippines, in the strongest sense, urges all law enforcement agencies to exert all efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice not only for the sake of all victims and their families but also to ensure that the rule of law is upheld at all times for an orderly and peaceful society;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE strongly condemning the recent bombing that killed and injured several people at the Dimaporo Gymnasium of the Mindanao State University (MSU), and urging all law enforcement agencies to undertake the necessary steps in ensuring the safety of all.

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

¹² MSU Marawi blast sparks concerns as it kills 4, hurt 43. Available at <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/davao/msu-marawi-blast-sparks-concerns-as-it-kills-4-hurt-43>

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Ibid