

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



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SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 999

Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN THE DISSEMINATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION DURING TIMES OF CONFLICT

1 WHEREAS, Section 24, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that it is a
2 State policy to recognize the vital role of communication and information in nation-
3 building;

4 WHEREAS, the mass media, which has also been regarded as the fourth branch
5 of government, plays an undeniable role in a healthy and functioning democracy;

6 WHEREAS, the present generation bears witness to various sorts of global
7 geographic and political tension stemming from unresolved conflicts in the past, which
8 according to an economist, 'continue to cause enormous human suffering and
9 substantial economic and social costs';

10 WHEREAS, one example of such is the armed conflict between Russia and
11 Ukraine which caused a tremendous impact on a developing nation like the Philippines,
12 as it exacerbates long-existing issues including soaring inflation, fuel shortages, and
13 food insecurity, among others;

14 WHEREAS, the Philippine government, through the Department of Foreign
15 Affairs, has also expressed its alarm over the increasing tension between Israel and
16 Iran, as retaliation from both nations continues to escalate despite the international
17 pressure to call off the attacks;

1 WHEREAS, the escalating territorial and maritime dispute in the South China
2 Sea which poses potential threats to the entire ASEAN region, inadvertently put the
3 Philippines in a potential crisis situation;

4 WHEREAS, a survey conducted by OCTA research in the fourth quarter of 2023
5 revealed that 72 percent of Filipinos favor asserting territorial rights through expanded
6 naval patrols and troop presence, a significant increase from previous polls;

7 WHEREAS, against this backdrop, it is crucial for Filipinos to be well informed
8 of the consequences of our political inclination and possible courses of action should
9 these aforementioned global conflicts escalate;

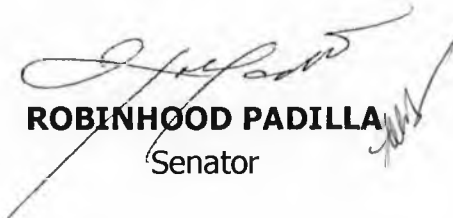
10 WHEREAS, in critical times like this, experience tells us that the mass media,
11 which is considered truth-tellers, plays a vital role in affecting public perception
12 pertinent to existing conflicts;

13 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the media relays accurate and timely
14 information to the public on pressing issues, particularly on present global conflicts
15 with the end view of raising awareness and enabling citizens to prepare and make
16 sound decisions for themselves;

17 WHEREAS, no less than President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. underscored the
18 importance of media in leading and fostering public discussion, truth and credibility,
19 the rule of law especially in the practice of broadcasting, news reporting and
20 information-dissemination: *Now, therefore, be it*

21 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, To direct the Senate
22 Committee on Public Information and Mass Media to conduct an investigation, in aid
23 of legislation, on the role of media in the dissemination of public information during
24 times of conflict.

Adopted,


ROBINHOOD PADILLA
Senator