

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

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SENATE
P. S. Res. No 572

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE POSSESSION, UTILIZATION AND DISPOSITION OF REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP)

Whereas, Over the years, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has acquired several real estate properties either through purchase or donation or via legislation and executive issuances;

Whereas, Some examples of these properties are Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo in Quezon City, Fort Andres Bonifacio in Taguig City, Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, Headquarters of the Philippine Navy in Manila, Camp Nakar in Lucena, Sangley Point Naval Base and San Felipe Naval Base both in Cavite City, Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and Camp Servillano Aquino in Tarlac;

Whereas, While certain portions of some of these properties have already been proclaimed and set aside for other purposes and some have been illegally occupied, many remain either underutilized or unutilized that make them dormant assets;

Whereas, Upon the termination of the Military Bases Agreement in 1991, Republic Act No. 7227, or the Bases Conversion Development Act was enacted in 1992 that provided for the sale of portions of Metro Manila Camps to fund "the development and conversion to productive civilian use of the lands covered under the 1947 Military Bases Agreement between the Philippines and the United States of America, as amended;"

Whereas, Said law, as amended, also provided that thirty five percent (35%) of the proceeds from the sale of military camps within Metro Manila shall be utilized to "finance the self-reliance and modernization program of the AFP, the transfer of the AFP military camps and construction of new camps and the rehabilitation and expansion of the AFP's medical facilities, and the modernization of the government arsenal;"

Whereas, Figures provided by the AFP point to the fact that as of last year, it has so far received only about P10.80 Billion out of the P50 Billion needed for Phase I of its modernization and that only around P5.84 Billion has been remitted so far by the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA);

Whereas, Government's outstanding obligations to both AFP retirees and veterans has already reached a total of P42.73 Billion;

Whereas, The proposed pension and gratuity funds of P26.14 Billion for FY 2007 clearly shows that there is a dearth of government funds to pay the total obligations of government to these AFP retirees and veterans;

Whereas, There are several bills pending in Congress proposing that proceeds from the development, lease or use of government properties be used to pay government's obligations to veterans pensions and benefits;


Whereas, Section 2 of RA 7917, the subsequent amendment to the BCDA Law, also authorized the President "to sell other portions of lands in military camps in Metro Manila and in Clark and Subic and other former baselands and other unused portions of existing military reservations, in whole or in part, which are hereby declared alienable and disposable, pursuant to the provisions of existing laws and regulations governing sales of government properties; Provided, That no sale or disposition of such lands will be undertaken until a development plan embodying projects for conversion by the Conversion Authority or the Subic Authority shall be approved by Congress;"

Whereas, The conditions that were obtaining during the time that many of these existing military camps came into the possession of the AFP, have drastically changed including the physical environs where some of these are located;

Whereas, Considering such changes, safety of the populace, the need of the defense establishment for badly needed funds and the provisions of Section 2 of RA 7917, there is a need to come up with a rationalization plan for the utilization of these military camps; ***Now Therefore, Be It Resolved,***

By The Senate, To Direct The Senate Committee On National Defense And Security To Conduct An Inquiry, In Aid Of Legislation, On The Possession, Utilization And Disposition Of Real Estate Properties Of The Armed Forces Of The Philippines (AFP).

Adopted,


RODOLFO G. BIAZON
Senator