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SENATE
P.S. Res. 600

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Villar

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE INQUIRY AND ASSESSMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFP MODERNIZATION PROGRAM IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT ILL-FATED CRASH OF ONE OF THE TWO OPERATIONAL C-130s OF THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides the reasons for the existence of the Armed Forces of the Philippines:

- “Civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military. The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory.” (Article II, Section 3)
- “The prime duty of the government is to serve and protect the people. x x x” (Article II, Section 4)
- “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 all the people of the blessings of democracy.” (Article II, Section 5)

Whereas, in the last few years, a number of tragic accidents involving weapons, materiel, and service equipment of the Armed Forces of the Philippines have been documented;

Whereas, at about 9:00-9:20 p.m. of August 25, 2008, fisherfolks in Barangay Bucana within the vicinity of Samal and Talikod Islands near Davao city witnessed a c-130 Hercules crashed;

Whereas, the ill-fated C-130 was only one of the two operational cargo planes of the Air Force, which has long been trying to cope with an antiquated fleet due to lack of funding for its modernization program;

Whereas, the crashing of C-130 while primarily reducing the military’s capability to ferry troops for its offensive against the rebels in Mindanao, is


representative of the larger issue of AFP's substantial lack of funds, as can be gleaned from the following reports (Newsbreak, August 27, 2008):

- "What the United States had in the 1960s, we had it here in the Philippines. The Philippines' Navy Landing Ship Tank is from World War II."
- The country's Huey choppers are from the 1960s and Sikorsky from the 70s and 80s, and have a lifespan of 12 years supposedly.
- The Philippines' weapons are the old M-16s and upgrading them to M-16A3s would be modest enough---same rifle but heavier barrel.
- The radios being utilized in the military are not the Harris encrypted type, but those that are ordinarily used by civilians.
- The Philippine Marines have been using "huts-ments", or nipa huts or bahay kubo
- Accordingly, the list of new material the armed forces needs now is estimated at over Php 40 billion just to bring the military back to its standard of capability in 1992.
- The Philippines does not, for basic defense requirement, have missile-capable ships as compared to other ASEAN countries like Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia

Whereas, the implementation of the AFP Modernization Program should be assessed, reviewed, revisited and studied to make it responsive to the defense and security requirements of the country: Now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To Urge the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security to conduct a comprehensive inquiry and assessment, in aid of legislation, on the implementation of the AFP Modernization Program in the light of the ill-fated crash of one of the two operational C-130s of the Philippine Air Force.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR