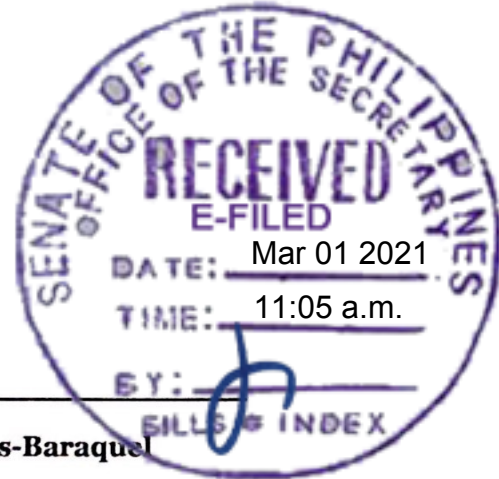


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE

P.S.R. No. **667**



Introduced by **Senator Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros-Baraquel**

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER & DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO CURRENT LAW ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS VIS-À-VIS THE TRAFFICKING OF DANGEROUS DRUGS TO PREVENT THE OCCURRENCE OF INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE RECENT EVER GOTESCO SHOOTOUT BETWEEN POLICE OFFICERS AND PDEA AGENTS

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2021, at around 5:45 in the afternoon at the parking lot of the McDonald's franchise near EVER Gotesco Supermarket along Commonwealth Ave., operatives of the Philippine National Police's (PNP) Dangerous Drugs Enforcement Unit (DDEU) and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) allegedly conducting separate "buy-bust" operations were involved in a shootout that has, to date, resulted in the deaths of five (5) persons, including two (2) police officers and a PDEA agent;

WHEREAS, PDEA Spokesperson Derrick Carreon has stated that the PDEA operatives were in the area on a legitimate "buy-bust" operation, a *Memorandum* dated February 24, 2021, prepared by PLTCOL Renato B. Castillo, Chief of the Quezon City Police District's (QCPD) DDEU alleges that the PDEA Agents "conducted sell bust to police operatives for unknown reason";

WHEREAS, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Maj. Gen. Vicente Danao Jr. recently told the media that his office would investigate if a "sell-bust" really occurred, saying that such an operation is not allowed, and that "all cases that are instigated, especially if they are drugs-related" are illegal;

WHEREAS, CCTV footage of the incident appears to show armed men, later identified as police officers, approaching a white sedan and immediately firing upon the PDEA agents and their asset in the vehicle, which prompted the hour long gun battle between the QCPD and PDEA;

WHEREAS, speaking before the United Nations Human Rights Council, Secretary of Justice Menardo Guevarra admitted that law enforcement protocols were not observed in police anti-narcotics operations that led to deaths and that the filing of administrative and criminal charges had been recommended against "scores" of police officers;

WHEREAS, during the Senate panel deliberations on the budget of the Department of the Interior and Local Government and its attached agencies, Police Gen. Camilo Pancratius Cascolan also stated that the PNP had procured around 2,600 units of body cameras and that their use by police units conducting anti-drug operations would be prioritized; and

WHEREAS, there is thus an urgent need to determine, among others, whether the incident was a simple "misencounter" caused by gross negligence, or if it resulted from deliberate unlawful acts committed by either the police officers or the PDEA agents involved, such as the instigation of a criminal offense or the outright trafficking and sale of dangerous drugs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER & DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO CURRENT LAW ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS VIS-À-VIS THE TRAFFICKING OF DANGEROUS DRUGS TO PREVENT THE OCCURRENCE OF INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE RECENT EVER GOTESCO SHOOTOUT BETWEEN POLICE OFFICERS AND PDEA AGENTS.

Adopted.


RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator