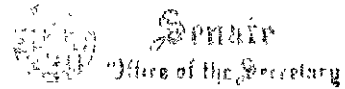


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'11 NOV 24 P1:47

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 659 BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF ILLEGAL FIREARMS IN THE COUNTRY AND PROVIDING FOR HIGHER PENALTIES THEREOF

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 of the same provides: "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 11 November 2011 issue reported that according to the Philippine National Police (pnp), there is an estimated 600,000 unlicensed firearms in the country, which could be used to commit crimes;

WHEREAS, PNP Director General Nicanor Bartolome reportedly said that most of the firearms involved in crimes are unlicensed firearms and that the PNP could only guess at the number of loose guns from intelligence reports;

WHEREAS, Bartolome reportedly claimed that for every crime solved involving an unlicensed firearm there is a reduction in the number of loose firearms;

WHEREAS, in previous news reports, Bartolome proposed amending the law on gun control, seeking higher penalties for those caught with illegal firearms, and making possession of three or more illegal firearms a non-bailable offense;

WHEREAS, to support his proposal, the PNP chief reportedly cited a botched robbery attempt in Pampanga last year, wherein a group was nabbed for targeting a bank but was released after paying bail, and moved on to committing other crimes;

WHEREAS, Bartolome also reportedly said that responsibilities of a person who owns guns for protection inside their homes are different from those who are permitted to carry firearms outside; thus, it would be best to control the processes of acquiring firearms, such that it shouldn't be a free-for-all scheme;

WHEREAS, it is imperative upon the legislature to impose higher penalties for the trade, sale, and mere possession of illegal firearms, and create stricter measures to curtail the proliferation of such in the country;

WHEREAS, existing guidelines on issuing permits for firearms should be amended in order to respond to the difference in the necessity of acquiring firearms for home use and for public use;

WHEREAS, the legislature should adopt the proposal made by PNP Director General Bartolome on making the possession of three or more illegal firearms by one or more persons a non-bailable offense;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the proliferation of illegal firearms in the country and providing for higher penalties thereof.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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