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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

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P. S. RES. NO. 354

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (SENATE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE), AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ACCUSATIONS OF CHARLIE 'ATONG' ANG THAT TWO CABINET OFFICIALS, NAMELY JUSTICE SECRETARY VITALIANO AGUIRRE AND NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER HERMOGENES ESPERON, AND OTHER FORMER MILITARY OFFICIALS ARE USING THEIR AGENCIES AND POSITIONS IN AN ALLEGED PLOT TO KILL HIM IN AN ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER HIS COMPANY'S GAMBLING OPERATIONS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THAT PUBLIC OFFICIALS USE THE RESOURCES AND POWER OF THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES FOR PUBLIC INTEREST AND IN THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR DUTIES, AND THAT THEY SHOULD REFRAIN FROM DOING ACTS TO ADVANCE THEIR PERSONAL FINANCIAL INTERESTS

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that:

"Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must, at all times, be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency; act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives."

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Republic Act No. 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, states that:

"Public officials and employees shall always uphold the public interest over and above personal interest. All government resources and powers of their respective offices must be employed and used efficiently, effectively, honestly..."

...Public officials and employees shall perform and discharge their duties with the highest degree of excellence, professionalism, intelligence and skill..."

... They shall at all times respect the rights of others, and shall refrain from doing acts contrary to law, good morals, good customs, public policy, public order, public safety and public interest..."

WHEREAS, on 27 April 2017, in a media interview, Charlie 'Atong' Ang accused Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon and former military officials for using their agency and position in the alleged plot to kill him;¹

WHEREAS, according to Ang, last 23 April 2017, while he was watching a cockfight in Cagayan de Oro City, some of his friends from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class '82 called him and warned him to immediately leave the area as some of their *mistah* wanted him killed that day;²

WHEREAS, according to him, prior to the abovementioned incident, he already received information from some agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) about the plan to kill him due to his company's gambling operations³ particularly Meridien Vista Gaming Corporation's virtual jai-alai numbers game;⁴

WHEREAS, Ang also explained that his company's gambling activities are in conflict and competition with Secretary Aguirre's Small Time Lottery (STL) operations in Batangas, Laguna and Bicol, which is co-managed by the latter's brother, Engineer Ogie Aguirre.⁵ He also claimed that a congressman from Quezon province, which he vows to name through a legislative investigation, serves as Secretary Aguirre's bagman;⁶

WHEREAS, he further accused Secretary Aguirre as the 'ninong' or protector of casino junket operator, Kim Wong, who was involved in the \$81 million Bangladesh Bank Heist in February 2016. He noted that their friendship goes way back as Secretary Aguirre is the godfather of Kim Wong's son.⁷

WHEREAS, if said accusation is true, this could validate Secretary Aguirre's alleged involvement in the extortion and bribery controversy involving the Bureau of Immigration and Jack Lam;

WHEREAS, based on information from local executives, Ang said that Security Adviser Esperon went to Pangasinan and asked local government officials to stop patronizing Ang's operations. Security Adviser Esperon also allegedly demanded a cut from the STL collections in the province;⁸

WHEREAS, Ang also named some PMA Class '82 retired generals acting purportedly as protectors of the illegal gambling operations in the north, and were even issued STL franchises which they later sold to other individuals. These former military officials are Chairman Jose

¹ Balana, C. (28 April 2017). *Gambling operator links 2 Cabinet men, retired generals to slay plot*. Retrieved from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/892571/gambling-operator-links-2-cabinet-men-retired-generals-to-slay-plot>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Calayag, K. (28 April 2017). *Aguirre denies plot to kill Atong Ang, link to gambling*. Retrieved from <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/manila/local-news/2017/04/28/aguirre-denies-plot-kill-atong-ang-link-gambling-538988>

⁵ Balana, C. (28 April 2017). *Gambling operator links 2 Cabinet men, retired generals to slay plot*. Retrieved from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/892571/gambling-operator-links-2-cabinet-men-retired-generals-to-slay-plot>

⁶ Calayag, K. (28 April 2017). *Aguirre denies plot to kill Atong Ang, link to gambling*. Retrieved from <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/manila/local-news/2017/04/28/aguirre-denies-plot-kill-atong-ang-link-gambling-538988>

⁷ Punzalan, J. (2 May 2017). *Bangladesh Bank heist: Aguirre is 'ninong' to Kim Wong, says Ang*. Retrieved from <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/02/17/bangladesh-bank-heist-aguirre-is-ninong-to-kim-wong-says-ang>

⁸ Calayag, K. (28 April 2017). *Aguirre denies plot to kill Atong Ang, link to gambling*. Retrieved from <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/manila/local-news/2017/04/28/aguirre-denies-plot-kill-atong-ang-link-gambling-538988>

Jorge Corpuz and General Manager Alexander Balutan of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and Generals Francisco Uyami and Isidro Lapeña;⁹

WHEREAS, if said accusation against these high executive officials of plotting to kill a person is founded to be true, it would be in violation, not only of the Revised Penal Code, as well as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees and the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which warrants the need for an immediate investigation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on the Accountability of Public Officials and Investigations (Senate Blue Ribbon Committee), and other appropriate committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the accusations of Charlie 'Atong' Ang that two cabinet officials, namely Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon, and other former military officials are using their agencies and positions in an alleged plot to kill him in an attempt to take over his company's gambling operations, with the end in view of ensuring that public officials use the resources and power of their respective offices for public interest and in the discharge of their duties, and not to advance their personal financial interests.

Adopted,


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

⁹ Calayag, K. (28 April 2017). *Aguirre denies plot to kill Atong Ang, link to gambling*. Retrieved from <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/manila/local-news/2017/04/28/aguirre-denies-plot-kill-atong-ang-link-gambling-538988>