



**SENATE**  
**P.S. Res 878**

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Introduced by Senator Poe

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON) TO CONDUCT A FULL-BLOWN INQUIRY ON THE PURPORTED ANOMALIES IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES-HEALTH SERVICE COMMAND (AFPHSC), WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REFORMING THE ORGANIZATION AND WEEDING OUT CORRUPTION IN THE MILITARY**

1 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 5 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides  
2 that "[t]he maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and  
3 property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all  
4 the people of the blessings of democracy";

5 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 9 mandates that "[t]he State shall promote a  
6 just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of  
7 the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate  
8 social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an  
9 improved quality of life for all";

10 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 provides that it is the duty of the State to  
11 "protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health  
12 consciousness among them";

13 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 27 directs the State to "maintain honesty and  
14 integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft  
15 and corruption";

16 WHEREAS, Article III, Section 7 of the Constitution also recognizes "the right  
17 of the people to information on matters of public concern," including "access to  
18 official records, and to documents, and papers pertaining to official acts,

1 transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data" which can be  
2 used as "basis for policy development...";

3 WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 1 states that "[p]ublic office is a public trust.  
4 Public officers and employees must, at all times, be accountable to the people, serve  
5 them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency; act with patriotism  
6 and justice, and lead modest lives";

7 WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 11 mandates the State to "adopt an  
8 integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor  
9 to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people  
10 at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick,  
11 elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free  
12 medical care to paupers";

13 WHEREAS, consistent with these constitutional precepts that mandate the  
14 State to provide easier access to medical care, the Armed Forces of the Philippines  
15 (AFP) Medical Center, also known as the V. Luna Medical Center (VLMC) located in  
16 Quezon City, was established as early as 1935 which now serves as the lifeblood of  
17 the military who are wounded in action or those suffering from illnesses, as well  
18 provides immediate medical care to their immediate dependents;

19 WHEREAS, recently, there were supposed anomalies in the VLMC concerning  
20 the alleged malversation of funds, unregulated admission of civilian patients and  
21 procurement anomalies;

22 WHEREAS, certain departments in the VLMC are allegedly colluding with  
23 proponents or suppliers and do away with some pre-procurement activities required  
24 under the law such as the technical working group's (TWG's) market and technical  
25 research, which result in unauthorized procurements, ghost projects, accumulated  
26 debts, unregulated suppliers and bidders, cash gifts and incentives to doctors and  
27 medical professionals, and overpricing of items;

28 WHEREAS, other corrupt practices in the VLMC point to excessive and  
29 unconscionable professional fees of doctors as if they are employed in a regular  
30 private hospital, overpricing of medicines and supplies used by patients, and  
31 consultants bringing in patients;

1           WHEREAS, in the Neurosurgery Department, where a locked room serves as a  
2 mini-pharmacy of the Neurosurgery resident doctors, medicines and medical supplies  
3 are compulsory sold to civilian patients;

4           WHEREAS, prior to the surgery, allegedly overpriced medicines are prepared  
5 and bundled to civilian patients, who have to fork out at least P30,000 for the  
6 medicine package;

7           WHEREAS, high-ranking members of the AFP Health Service Command  
8 (AFPHSC) and other members of the TWG purportedly received P1 million pocket  
9 money from a supplier when they went to China, France and the Netherlands as a  
10 requirement for the procurement of three high-value equipment;

11           WHEREAS, corruption issues like these must not be tolerated, especially at a  
12 time when the VLMC's facilities were ill-equipped and need upgrading and that the  
13 military hospital have to spend at least P160 million just to transfer sick military  
14 personnel to other hospitals for treatment<sup>1</sup>;

15           WHEREAS, it is, at the very least, unfair, iniquitous and venial for the AFPHSC  
16 personnel and a dishonourable act to engage in corrupt practices on the backdrop of  
17 the supreme sacrifice of military men who offer their lives to protect the country;

18           WHEREAS, officials involved in the alleged irregularities must be fully  
19 investigated, and concerned probe bodies shall conduct lifestyle checks on them;

20           WHEREAS, alleged corrupt practices in the VLMC continue up to this day even  
21 after the AFP has conducted a probe into the purchase of medicines fraught with  
22 irregularities in 2014 and sacking of the AFP Medical Center chief who was later on  
23 reinstated<sup>2</sup>;

24           WHEREAS, it is necessary that the whole and bigger picture of the corrupt  
25 practices in the AFPHSC and the VLMC be uncovered at the soonest so as to protect  
26 public funds from being wantonly spent;

27           BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE  
28 PHILIPPINES, to urge the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security to  
29 conduct an inquiry on the purported anomalies in the Armed Forces of the

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<sup>1</sup> Commission on Audit report. 2018, July 2. Politics.com.ph. Retrieved from <http://politics.com.ph/v-luna-facilities-so-bad-afp-paid-p160m-to-have-other-hospitals-take-care-of-soldiers/>

<sup>2</sup> Mangosing, F. 2014, Jan. 14. "Relieved AFP hospital chief reinstated." Inquirer.net. Retrieved from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/664464/relieved-afp-hospital-chief-reinstated>

1 Philippines-Health Service Command (AFPHSC), with the end in view of reforming  
2 the organization and weeding out corruption in the military.

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4 Adopted,

  
**GRACE POE**