

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 979



19 JAN -8 P1:37

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE POLITICAL KILLINGS THAT CLAIMED THE LIVES OF INCUMBENT PUBLIC OFFICIALS, WITH THE END GOAL OF FORMULATING MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTIGATION IN RELATION TO SAID CASES WHICH ARE RELATIVELY MORE SENSITIVE DUE TO POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF INCUMBENT PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO WIELD SUBSTANTIAL POWER AND INFLUENCE

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 4, Article 2 of the Constitution states that "the prime
2 duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people";

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Section 5, Article 2 of the Constitution mandates that "the
5 maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the
6 promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of
7 the blessings of democracy";

8
9 **WHEREAS**, the year 2018 ended with several "political killings" in various
10 parts of the country;

11
12 **WHEREAS**, on 16 December 2018, an incumbent municipal councilor of Sto.
13 Tomas, Pangasinan, Benjamin Capili Oculito Jr. ("Councilor Oculito"), was shot and
14 killed right after he stepped out of a church in said town¹;

15
16 **WHEREAS**, it has been reported that Councilor Oculito was running for Vice
17 Mayor of Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan in the upcoming 2019 elections. In addition, his
18 running mate for Mayor, incumbent Councilor Ely Arciaga Ramos, has survived an
19 assassination attempt last October 2018²;

20
21 **WHEREAS**, one of the gunmen who attacked Councilor Oculito, a certain
22 Nestor Ilao Vidal Jr., was arrested and he confessed during an interview with the
23 media that he was with a certain "KAP LITO" whom he met at a "QUARRY" possibly

¹ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/12/16/18/pangasinan-councilor-gunned-down-after-mass>

² <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/12/16/18/pangasinan-councilor-gunned-down-after-mass>

1 located also in Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan. Videos of said interview and/or confession
2 had been uploaded in youtube.com³;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, according to a sworn affidavit of the wife of Councilor Oculito,
5 local police ignored the information and/or leads revealed by the arrested gunman
6 and did not even bother to investigate the certain "KAP LITO" who is allegedly an
7 incumbent barangay captain in Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan, and is likewise an ABC
8 President and an ex officio councilor of the municipality;

9
10 **WHEREAS**, in Bicol, three (3) days before Christmas, incumbent AKO BICOL
11 Representative Rodel Batocabe ("Rep. Batocabe") was shot and killed, together with
12 his police escort, during a gift-giving event in Daraga, Albay⁴;

13
14 **WHEREAS**, Rep. Batocabe was running for Mayor in Daraga, Albay, and just
15 recently, the on-going investigation of the Philippine National Police (PNP) revealed
16 the alleged involvement of the incumbent Mayor of Daraga, Albay⁵;

17
18 **WHEREAS**, the above killings of Councilor Oculito and Rep. Batocabe, which
19 appears to be both politically-motivated, are certainly serious causes of concern for
20 our law enforcers, especially now that we are nearing the 2019 elections;

21
22 **WHEREAS**, the State has the mandate to ensure public order and safety of
23 all Filipinos and also to ensure clean and honest elections in which Filipinos should
24 be able to vote freely and without fear from any threat of violence;

25
26 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to review existing rules and regulations relating
27 to procedures of law enforcement and investigations regarding "political killings" as
28 such cases and/or incidents are relatively more sensitive and delicate;

29
30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the
31 Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committee on Public Order and
32 Dangerous Drugs to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the political killings
33 that claimed the lives of incumbent public officials, with the end goal of formulating
34 more effective measures of law enforcement and investigation in relation to said
35 cases, which are relatively more sensitive due to possible involvement of incumbent
36 public officials who wield substantial power and influence;

37
38 *Adopted.*


GRACE POE

³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7zpPu_fkzs; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Z9CMT-6DF4>

⁴ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/219472-rodel-batocabe-killed-albay-december-2018>

⁵ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/03/19/npn-tags-daraga-mayor-as-batocabe-slay-mastermind>