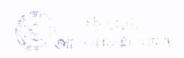
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

## **SENATE** P.S. Res. No. 979



Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

\*19 JAN -8 P1 :37

## 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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, on 16 December 2018, an incumbent municipal councilor of Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan, Benjamin Capili Oculto Jr. ("Councilor Oculto"), was shot and killed right after he stepped out of a church in said town<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, it has been reported that Councilor Oculto was running for Vice Mayor of Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan in the upcoming 2019 elections. In addition, his running mate for Mayor, incumbent Councilor Ely Arciaga Ramos, has survived an assassination attempt last October 2018<sup>2</sup>;

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

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

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

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located also in Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan. Videos of said interview and/or confession had been uploaded in youtube. $com^3$ ;

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

**WHEREAS**, in Bicol, three (3) days before Christmas, incumbent AKO BICOL Representative Rodel Batocabe ("Rep. Batocabe") was shot and killed, together with his police escort, during a gift-giving event in Daraga, Albay<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, Rep. Batocabe was running for Mayor in Daraga, Albay, and just recently, the on-going investigation of the Philippine National Police (PNP) revealed the alleged involvement of the incumbent Mayor of Daraga, Albay<sup>5</sup>;

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to urge 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;

Adopted.

GRACE POE

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7zpPu\_fkzs;</u> <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Z9CMt-6DF4</u>

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

https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/03/19/pnp-tags-daraga-mayor-as-batocabe-slay-mastermind