



NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 264

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED CLAIMS THAT THE ORDER TO KILL VETERAN JOURNALIST AND RADIO COMMENTATOR PERCIVAL "PERCY LAPID" MABASA ORIGINATED AND WAS PLANNED INSIDE THE NEW BILIBID PRISON, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS

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

5 **WHEREAS**, Section 27 of the same states that, "[t]he State shall maintain honesty
6 and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft
7 and corruption";

8 **WHEREAS**, the primary mandate of the Bureau of Corrections is to protect the
9 public and prevent crimes, through effective rehabilitation and safekeeping of national
10 prisoners. Its duty is to keep prisoners from committing crimes while under their custody;

11 **WHEREAS**, on 3 October 2022, veteran journalist and radio commentator Percival
12 Mabasa, also known as Percy Lapid, was killed on his way home in Las Pinas City;

1 **WHEREAS**, on 18 October 2022, the Department of Interior and Local
2 Government (DILG) announced that the alleged suspect in the killing of broadcaster
3 Percival “Percy Lapid” Mabasa surrendered to authorities;¹

4 **WHEREAS**, one Joel Estorial, the 39-year-old suspect, was presented by DILG
5 Secretary Benhur Abalos as the alleged gunman in Lapid’s killing. According to the
6 Secretary, Estorial surrendered out of fear on 17 October 2022, and executed an
7 extrajudicial confession;²

8 **WHEREAS**, Estorial claimed that the order to kill Percy Lapid allegedly came from
9 inside the New Bilibid Prison (NBP),³ and that there were six of them behind it who were
10 paid a total of PHP 550,000;⁴

11 **WHEREAS**, following the exposé of Estorial, Department of Justice (DOJ)
12 Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla ordered Bureau of Corrections Director General Gerald
13 Bantag to submit a report on the claim of said gunman that he acted on orders from
14 inside the NBP;⁵

15 **WHEREAS**, DOJ Secretary Remulla added that indeed there is a “big problem” in
16 the national penitentiary which should be reformed;⁶

17 **WHEREAS**, echoing the acknowledgement made by DOJ Secretary Remulla that
18 there are nefarious activities that are being proliferated from within the national
19 penitentiary, the Senate must look into the veracity of such claims;

20 **WHEREAS**, should the claims made by the gunman Estorial be proven true, it is
21 imperative to institute reforms inside the NBP;

22 **WHEREAS**, it is vital to unearth the truth about the factual circumstances that
23 occurred which led to the slaying of Percy Lapid, as well as to lay bare whether the orders
24 came from an inmate or an official/employee of the NBP;

¹ Bolledo, J. (18 October 2022) *Alleged suspect in killing of broadcaster Percy Lapid surrenders*. Retrieved 18 October 2022, from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/alleged-suspect-killing-broadcaster-percy-lapid-surrenders/>

² *Ibid.*

³ Gregorio, X. (18 October 2022) *Remulla wants the BuCor report on claim that hit order on Percy Lapid came from Bilibid*. Retrieved 18 October 2022, from: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/10/18/2217578/remulla-wants-bucor-report-claim-hit-order-percy-lapid-came-bilibid>

⁴ *Supra* Note 1.

⁵ *Supra* Note 3.

⁶ *Ibid.*

1 **WHEREAS**, the Senate must look into the state of our national penitentiary to
2 uncover whether prisoners are unlawfully granted special treatment or undue advantage
3 that would have given them the opportunity to still commit criminal acts by themselves
4 or through another despite being jailed;

5 **WHEREAS**, it is likewise necessary to ascertain whether there are public officials
6 and/or employees from inside the national penitentiary whose act or omission may have
7 permitted the perpetration of this heinous act which did not only cause the senseless loss
8 of life, but also ultimately creates a chilling effect on the members of the press;

9 **WHEREAS**, these claims, along with other past incidents, are glaring proof of one
10 of the weaknesses of the Philippine Judicial system - its flawed correctional system;

11 **WHEREAS**, this inhumane culture of killing members of the press continues to
12 create havoc and cause fear to the people, hence, has to ultimately stop;

13 **WHEREAS**, all perpetrators of such ruthless murder, especially the real
14 mastermind behind the heinous act, must be brought to justice and should not go
15 unpunished;

16 **WHEREAS**, allowing government resources to in effect be used to protect the
17 mastermind of crimes is at the height of atrocity, and must not be condoned;

18 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the
19 Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs to conduct an inquiry, in aid of
20 legislation, on the reported claims that the order to kill veteran journalist and radio
21 commentator Percival "Percy Lapid" Mabasa originated and was planned inside the New
22 Bilibid Prison, with the end in view of enacting remedial legislation that would prevent
23 the recurrence of similar incidents.

Adopted,


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.