

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 321

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE DELAYS ON THE CONDUCT
OF THE DECOMMISSIONING OF THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION
FRONT (MILF) FORCES AND WEAPONS

WHEREAS, Section 5, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides 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, on 27 March 2014, the national government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) executed the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), which concluded the seventeen (17) years of negotiations of the parties and provided a negotiated political settlement for the attainment of a just and lasting peace and development in the Southern Philippines;

WHEREAS, an integral part of the CAB is the Annex on Normalization, signed on 25 January 2014, which provides for a process to guarantee human security in the Bangsamoro and enable communities to attain their desired quality of life in a peaceful and inclusive manner;

WHEREAS, following the agreements embodied in the CAB, Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the "*Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in the Muslim Mindanao*", was signed into law on 27 July 2018 and ratified through plebiscites held on 21 January and 06 February 2019;

WHEREAS, the process of normalization outlined in the CAB is parallel to the provisions of RA No. 11054;

WHEREAS, the process of normalization has three (3) main components: security aspect; socio- economic development; and transitional justice;

WHEREAS, the security aspect of normalization includes policing, decommissioning of MILF forces and weapons, redeployment of the Armed Forces of the Philippines from or within the conflict-affected areas, and the disbandment of private armed groups;

WHEREAS, the decommissioning process is being handled by the Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB), which is composed of representatives from the Governments of Turkey, Norway, Kingdom of Brunei, as well as local experts nominated by the national government and MILF peace panels;

WHEREAS, in an online news article dated 15 September 2021, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Carlito Galvez Jr. stated that only 12,000 of the 40,000 MILF members have been decommissioned. According to Galvez, 14,000 MILF combatants were supposed to be decommissioned in 2020 and another 14,000 in 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the decommissioning of 28,000 MILF combatants;

WHEREAS, the delays in the decommissioning process may impose threats to the peace and security of the newly-established Bangsamoro region;

WHEREAS, on 14 September 2022, three (3) soldiers were killed when the Abu Sayyaf terrorists raided a Philippine Army post in Al-Barka, Basilan. The Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) commander, LT GEN Alfredo Rosario, Jr, said that the lawless elements were believed to be led by a certain Abaas Jangkatan;

WHEREAS, the national government, MILF and the IDB resumed the third phase of the decommissioning process of MILF members on 27 September 2022. A total of 14,000 combatants are targeted to be disarmed under the phase 3 of the decommissioning process;

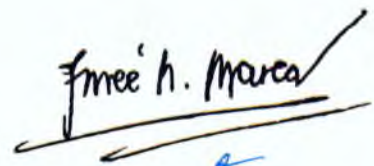
WHEREAS, despite the ongoing decommissioning process, various encounters that impose threat still happen. On 05 October 2022, a civilian was injured by stray bullets when warring Moro families traded bullets in Barangay Sambolawan, Midsayap, North Cotabato due to a long-standing feud between the MILF and and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). For fear of getting caught in the crossfire, hundreds of residents fled toward the nearby barangays of Lumupog and Kapinpilan. Just recently, on 08 November 2022, three (3) soldiers have been killed while 13 others

were wounded in a clash between the forces of the 101st Infantry Brigade and members of the MILF in Basilan;

WHEREAS, there is a need to conduct an investigation in the delays in the decommissioning process and other security measures having the end goal of accelerating the implementation of the Normalization Track of the CAB to finally bring lasting peace;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, directing the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the delays on the conduct of the decommissioning of the MILF forces and weapons.

Adopted,


IMEE R. MARCOS