

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

OFFICE

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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 217

RECEIVED BY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE FOR THE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BY HIS EXCELLENCY, BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, TO GRANT AMNESTY TO ALL ACTIVE AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHARGES LEVELED AGAINST THEM FOR THEIR ALLEGED PARTICIPATION IN THE SO-CALLED "OAKWOOD MUTINY" IN JULY, 2003, "THE MARINE STAND-OFF" IN FEBRUARY, 2006, "THE MANILA PENINSULA HOTEL INCIDENT" IN NOVEMBER, 2007, AND RELATED OCCURRENCES, UNDER SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS ARE CONDUCTIVE TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF NATIONAL HARMONY AND RECONCILIATION.

WHEREAS, under Article VII, Section 19, of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the power to grant amnesty is lodged with the Office of the President, with the concurrence of a majority of all the Members of Congress;

WHEREAS, the national leadership has, time and again, expressed its desire and willingness to offer the hand of peace and reconciliation to the "leftist" elements of Philippine society, notably the National Democratic Front, the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New Peoples' Army, as well as Muslim separatists in Mindanao, particularly the MNLF and MILF groups;

WHEREAS, the so-called "rightist" elements of society, including the soldiery, are not isolated from the restlessness of the people seeking good governance in their public officialdom, and sometimes manifest their principles and philosophies out of a good-faith evaluation of what is best for Philippine society;

WHEREAS, certain members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), both in the active service and former members of the AFP, are facing charges for their alleged participation in the above-mentioned "Oakwood Mutiny", "Manila Peninsula Hotel Incident", the "Marine Stand-Off", and related incidents;

WHEREAS, during the previous administration, serious doubts were raised in the public mind which tended to show that the said administration took

office under legally doubtful circumstances during the so-called "EDSA DOS" uprising in January, 2001, following an incomplete impeachment process; and its subsequent election into office in 2004 under charges of vote-rigging and manipulation of votes cast to favor the then previous administration against the highly popular Fernando Poe, Jr.;

WHEREAS, perceptive officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and their supporters have been affected and emotionally disturbed by these revelations, particularly the airing of the so-called "Hello Garci tapes" which purported to show the then President personally conferring with an official of the Commission on Elections which she was ethically prohibited from so doing being a protagonist in the said elections of 2004, tending to show her undue interest and interference in the performance of the official duties of the Commission on Elections, particularly the counting of votes cast for President of the Republic of the Philippines in the 2004 national presidential elections, for which the then President expressed her apology to the public;

WHEREAS, said officers and men of the AFP, being protectors of the people as mandated in the Philippine Constitution, carried into action in the public space, their misgivings over the legality of the tenure of the previous administration, thus resulting in their staging of several mass actions which are political in nature and intended only against the previous administration;

WHEREAS, the so-called "Oakwood Mutiny" did not claim a single life, shed no drop of blood, nor caused destruction to property;

WHEREAS, previous administrations have granted amnesty to both military and civilian groups who have clashed with government forces and have permitted the same to actively involve themselves in legitimate and meaningful political undertakings;

WHEREAS, it is the hope of the AFP officers and personnel who have been implicated in these past actions that the President will exercise the said prerogative by granting them amnesty for their previous actions, said actions having been directed against the previous Administration;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that favorable consideration be extended by his Excellency, President Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Philippines, to grant amnesty to all active and former members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, in connection with the charges leveled against them for their alleged participation in the so-called "Oakwood Mutiny" in July, 2003, "The Marine Stand-off" in February, 2006, "The Manila Peninsula Hotel Incident" in November, 2007, and related occurrences, under such terms and conditions conducive towards national harmony and reconciliation.

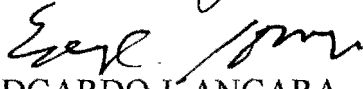
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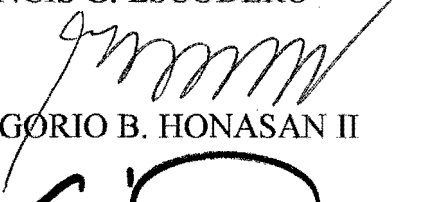

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