



Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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**A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE RECENT DEATH OF HORACIO
TOMAS CASTILLO III ALLEGEDLY DUE TO HAZING-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8049, otherwise known as the "Anti-Hazing Law," prohibits physical violence during initiation rites and metes penalties to the officers and members of the organization who actually participated in the infliction of physical harm ranging from prison correccional to life imprisonment should the person subjected to hazing or other forms of initiation rites suffer any physical injury, dies or is raped¹;

WHEREAS, Horacio Tomas Castillo III, a 22 years old law student at the University of Santo Tomas, was found on a sidewalk in Balut, Tondo on the morning of September 17, 2017. He was brought to the Chinese General Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival. Horacio's body was bloated, bruised and had candle and cigarette marks all over the body;²

WHEREAS, it was reported that Horacio had asked for permission from his parents to attend the "welcoming ceremony" of the fraternity Aegis Juris where he is a new member. Thinking it was just a harmless social activity, the parents gave their consent to their child;

WHEREAS, the dean of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Faculty of Civil Law has suspended all officers and members of the fraternity following the death of its neophyte in alleged hazing rites. In his memo, UST Civil Law Dean Nilo Divina said that member of the Aegis Juris fraternity "would not be allowed to enter the campus of the Faculty of Civil Law, or attend classes until further notice;"³

¹ <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/423789/r-a-8049-or-the-anti-hazing-law>

² Cabico, Gaea Katreena, "We'll leave no stones unturned": UST condemns student death in alleged hazing" Philstar. <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2017/09/18/1740318/well-leave-no-stones-unturned-ust-condemns-student-death-alleged-hazing>

³ Cabalza, Cruz, Roxas. "UST suspends Aegis Juris fratmen pending probe into fatal hazing". Inquirer.net. <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/931504/breaking-philippine-news-updates->

WHEREAS, since the passage of the law in 1995, there are about 26 cases of hazing-related violence reported. Some of which are Mervin Sarmiento and Oliver Estrella (Holy Angel Academy, 1995), Alexander Icasiano (UP, 1998), Ace Bernabe Ekid (PMA, 2000), Dominante Tunac (PNPA, 2000), Rafael Albano (FEU, 2001), Marlon Villanueva (UPLB, 2006), Mark Rodriguez (CLSU, 2007), Chris Mendez (UP, 2007), Elvis Sinaluan (2009), EJ Intia (UMak, 2010), and Anthony Javier (WMSU, 2015);⁴

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8049, needs to be updated to keep abreast with the changing times and thus, there is a need to improve the existing mechanisms for the deterrence of hazing-related crimes. The community and the schools and universities are integral in ensuring that the crimes of the past will not happen again to pre-empt deaths of new members;

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the appropriate Senate Committees to inquire, in aid of legislation, into the recent death of Horacio Tomas Castillo III allegedly due to hazing-related activities.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bam Aquino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

university-of-sto-tomas-hazing-aegis-juris-fraternity-horacio-tomas-castillo-iii-fratmen#ixzz4t7Z1Sf9P

⁴ <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/specialreports/626256/hazing-deaths-in-phl-1954-present/story/>