



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

'18 MAY 17 P1 :38

RECEIVED BY

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 737

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE KILLINGS OF PUBLIC PROSECUTORS ALL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END GOALS OF RE-ASSESSING THE LAWS, MEASURES AND POLICIES IN PLACE FOR THE SECURITY OF SAID PROSECUTORS, REVIEWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUN BAN, AND ENACTING NEEDED LAWS TO STRENGTHEN THE SECURITY OF THE WOMEN AND MEN OF THE STATE'S PROSECUTION ARM

WHEREAS, it is the State's primordial duty to maintain peace and order, protect life, liberty, and property, and to promote general welfare;

WHEREAS, in a civilized world government by laws, the State's duties to maintain peace and order, protect life, liberty and property and promote general welfare carry with it the prosecution of various alleged violators of our criminal laws towards their conviction in court and incarceration in jails;

WHEREAS, our public prosecutors, under the Department of Justice's (DOJ) National Prosecution Service (NPS), are mandated to assist the Secretary of Justice in the performance of powers and functions of the DOJ relative to its role as the prosecution arm of the Government, particularly the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses;

WHEREAS, our public prosecutors, thus, play a crucial role as they determine who the State should prosecute. They are given a broad discretion to determine

whether probable cause exists and to charge those whom they believe to have committed a crime as defined by law and thus should be held for trial;

WHEREAS, obviously, due to the nature of their sworn duty and mandate, our public prosecutors are clearly constantly within the crosshairs of the most notorious, dangerous and evil-minded personalities in the country who they ought to prosecute;

WHEREAS, in 2017 alone, at least six (6) public prosecutors had been gunned down and killed all throughout the country: **Quezon Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Reymund Luna** (29 September), **Mati City Prosecutor Rolando Acido** (26 October), **Quezon City Prosecutor Johanne Noel Mingao** (11 January), **Caloocan Assistant City Prosecutor** (22 May), **Rizal Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Maria Ronatay** (18 July) and **Mandaluyong City Prosecutor Pablito Gahol** (3 September);

WHEREAS, on 11 May 2018, at around 4:55 p.m. near Puregold Jr. in Brgy. Holy Spirit, Quezon City, while inside his red Toyota Innova with his daughter, at least three (3) gunmen sprayed bullets that killed **Quezon City Assistant City Prosecutor/Chief Inquest Prosecutor Rogelio "Roger" Velasco**. The victim's car had at least twenty (20) bullet holes;

WHEREAS, as if to add more impunity into their barbaric acts, the killers of Quezon City Assistant City Prosecutor Velasco perpetrated their crime using firearms while there is an on-going gun ban mandated by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) in lieu of the May 2018 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections that was held on 14 May 2018;

WHEREAS, due to the above-mentioned killings of our public prosecutors whose lives are constantly in danger from the devious acts of the very criminals they prosecute, the State ought to flex its muscle more to show our countrymen that it can and it will protect the lives of those working for the government and that it shall relentlessly and viciously pursue all criminals without reservation;

WHEREAS, the lost lives of our valiant public prosecutors should not remain as mere statistics to be swept under the rug. The State shall now cower in fear and it has to act swiftly and ruthlessly against their killers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs and Justice and Human Rights, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the killings of public prosecutors all throughout the country, with the end goals of re-assessing the measures and policies in place for the security of said prosecutors, reviewing the implementation of the gun ban, and enacting needed laws to strengthen the security of the women and men of the State's prosecution arm;

Adopted,


GRACE POE