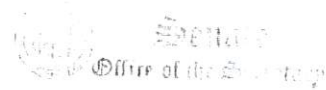


**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**



24 MAR 20 P6:01

SENATE

P.S.R. No. 979

RECEIVED BY:

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNTRY'S AGRARIAN REFORM LAWS *VIS-À-VIS* THE VIOLENT EVICTION OF CLOA HOLDERS IN SITIO BALUBAD, BARANGAY ANUNAS, ANGELES CITY, AND THE DEMOLITION OF THEIR HOMES

WHEREAS, On March 12, 2024, around two thousand (2000) residents of Sitio Balubad, Barangay Anunas, Angeles City, occupying land with an area of 73.5565 hectares claimed by Clarkhills Properties Corporation ("Clarkhills"), were violently evicted from their homes, with the confrontation between residents and the demolition team marred by gunshots, as well as thrown rocks and bottles, leading to the wounding of 8 people, including an elderly woman who sustained two bullet wounds;

WHEREAS, a previous attempt to eject residents from their homes on **February 8, 2024**, also led to the stabbing of an American national;

WHEREAS, witnesses stated that Clarkhills security guards fired shots at residents who were reconstructing the wall destroyed by the demolition crew following the February incident, resulting in injuries;

WHEREAS, armed men threatened to shoot Joann Manabat, of Rappler Luzon, and purportedly accosted Rowena "Weng" Quejada, of K5 News Olongapo, before confiscating her belongings, while the aforementioned reporters were covering the violent ejection of residents from their homes;

WHEREAS, residents allege that while officers of the Philippine National Police ("PNP") were present, they did nothing to present to maintain peace-and-order or restrain the violence that occurred;

WHEREAS, Angeles City Mayor Carmelo Lazatin condemned the "surprise demolition," stating that the city government would "press charges against those who attacked hapless unarmed civilians in the surprise demolition conducted by armed men";

WHEREAS, because of the chaotic ejection and demolition carried out by what amounts to a private armed group, most of the residents, including their children, were forced to seek temporary shelter in a church, and in their Barangay's covered court;

WHEREAS, the resident's homes and farms were built on land originally titled in the name of *Alyansa ng mga Maka-Maralitang Asosasyon at Kapatirang Organisasyon, Inc.* ("AMAKO") under Transfer Certificate of Title Nos. 86340 and 86341;

WHEREAS, the residents, as Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries ("ARBs"), were able to acquire Certificates of Land Ownership Award ("CLOAs") from the Department of Agrarian Reform ("DAR");

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2005, the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board ("DARAB"), on appeal from the Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board ("PARAB"), rendered a decision ordering the cancellation of the CLOAs issued to the residents of the disputed land, ruling, in essence, that because the land was residential and not agricultural, it fell outside the ambit of the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program ("CARP");

WHEREAS, the residents tried to appeal their case to the Supreme Court, but their counsel-on-record filed a manifestation that they would no longer be pursuing said appeal, thus, the decision of the DARAB cancelling the residents' CLOAs attained finality;

WHEREAS, AMAKO, and its successors-in-interest, including Clarkhills, filed actions for recovery of possession against the residents, before the Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudicator ("PARAD"), which eventually resulted in the issuance of writs of execution and demolition against the CLOA-holders, and other residents occupying the disputed property;

WHEREAS, adding insult to injury, despite the cancellation of their CLOAs, many of the residents continued paying the amortizations for the land they were awarded by the DAR, even receiving certifications of full payment from the Landbank of the Philippines ("LBP");

WHEREAS, residents also question the continued exercise by the DARAB of jurisdiction over the disputed property, considering it was previously declared to be residential and not agricultural, and thus ostensibly exempted from CARP coverage; and

WHEREAS, the cancelation of the residents' CLOAs and subsequent attempts to evict them from their homes appear to be contrary to the primary objective of the

country's agrarian reform program, which is to uphold the welfare of the landless farmers and farmworkers, promote social justice, and establish owner cultivatorship of economic-size farms as the basis of Philippine agriculture.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED TO CALL FOR THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNTRY'S AGRARIAN REFORM LAWS *VIS-À-VIS* THE VIOLENT EVICTION OF CLOA HOLDERS IN SITIO BALUBAD, BARANGAY ANUNAS, ANGELES CITY, AND THE DEMOLITION OF THEIR HOMES.

Adopted.


RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator