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SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 600

RECEIVED BY: *lv*

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED INEFFICIENCY AND IMPRACTICALITY OF THE CENTRALIZED GUN LICENSING PROCEDURES OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), AND TO REVISIT THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10591, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "*COMPREHENSIVE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION REGULATION ACT*" AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR), WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING AND STRENGTHENING THE CAPABILITY OF THE PNP IN ENFORCING THE PROVISIONS THEREOF

WHEREAS, it is the declared policy of the State to maintain peace and order and protect the people against violence; In addition, the State recognizes the right of its qualified citizens to self defense, when it is the reasonable, through means to repel unlawful aggression as may be appropriate under the circumstances;

WHEREAS, in cognizance of the foregoing State policy, Republic Act No. 10591, otherwise known as the "*Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act*" was enacted to provide for a comprehensive law regulating the ownership, possession, carrying, manufacture, dealing in and importation of firearms, ammunition, or parts thereof, in order to provide legal support to law enforcement agencies in their campaign against crime, in stopping the proliferation of illegal firearms or weapons and the illegal manufacture and distribution of firearms or weapons, ammunition and/or parts thereof;

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 8 of aforesaid law provides that the Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), through the Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO), shall issue licenses to qualified individuals and to cause the registration of firearms;

WHEREAS, in view thereof, the PNP established satellite offices (SATO) to cater to the needs of gun owners in the various parts of the country in a speedy and efficient manner;

WHEREAS, however, while most government agencies have taken steps to decentralize their services and operations to make them more accessible to the public, the PNP-FEO has confirmed that it temporarily closed all satellite offices (SATO) for firearms license renewal to purge the whole system,¹ purportedly after it found out that out of 1.7 million gun owners in the country, 60 to 70 percent provided fictitious data²;

¹ Third Anne Peralta. FEO chief defends closing of firearms licensing office. Information retrieved from <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/manila/local-news/2014/03/06/feo-chief-defends-closing-firearms-licensing-office-331679> on 3/25/2014.

² Madel Sabater - Namit. Palace backs centralized gun licensing. Information retrieved from <http://www.mb.com.ph/palace-backs-centralized-gun-licensing/> on 3/25/14.

WHEREAS, although said intent to cleanse the whole system is reasonable and laudable, the PNP-FEO's decision to close all satellite offices have courted the ire and legitimate criticisms of some sectors across the country;

WHEREAS, in the recently centralized set-up, gun owners, even those who come from as far as Mindanao and Visayas, will now be obliged to personally go to the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame for license processing and renewal, while their license cards will be delivered by a courier;

WHEREAS, further, many gun owners have complained of the delays of delivery and even the non-delivery of their licenses;

WHEREAS, it is but imperative to investigate why there is a need to centralize the processing and registration of firearms licenses at Camp Crame, to the grave and utter prejudice and inconvenience of the public, when the same objectives having centralized control and management of firearms records can be achieved in view of the provision requiring the establishment of a database of the licensee and the registered firearms information and generation of appropriate reports which include the printing of license and certificate of registration and disposition, otherwise known as the: *Firearms Information Management System (FIMS)*, as prescribed and provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of aforementioned law;

WHEREAS, there is a very real danger that the said decision by the PNP might deter and discourage gun owners and enthusiasts from complying with the registration requirement, which may result to the proliferation of loose firearms, which will clearly run counter to the purpose of the law;

WHEREAS, there appears to be a real need for the PNP-FEO to introduce interim measures to ensure that matters do not get out of hand like the automatic renewal of existing firearms licenses for one (1) year, subject to the payment of the required fees, while the PNP-FEO addresses the concerns and issues in the current system, to abate the grave and utter inconvenience the same is causing the public;

NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the *Philippine Senate*, to direct the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs, and other appropriate committees of the Senate, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the decision of the PNP-FEO to centralize the gun licensing processes and procedures, and to revisit the provisions of Republic Act No. 10591, otherwise known as the "*Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act*" and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), with the end in view of improving the capability of the PNP in enforcing the provisions thereof.

Adopted,


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator