

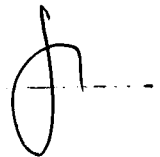
NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Third Regular Session* )

Office of the Secretary

25 JAN 27 P2:39

**SENATE**  
**P. S. RES. No. 1291**

REC



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Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ARMED ENCOUNTER BETWEEN TROOPS FROM THE PHILIPPINE ARMY 32<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY BATTALION AND LAWLESS ELEMENTS ALLEGEDLY SUPPORTED BY THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT**

1 WHEREAS, on January 22, 2025, troops of the Philippine Army 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry  
2 Battalion, acting as security escorts for United Nations Development Programme  
3 (UNDP) personnel who were on the field for a humanitarian project, were reportedly  
4 ambushed by armed men at Lower Cabengbeng, Sumisip Town, Basilan;

5 WHEREAS, the armed encounter resulted in the death of four (4) people —  
6 two (2) soldiers and two (2) lawless elements, injury to 12 others, and the destruction  
7 of a KM450 military vehicle;

8 WHEREAS, the armed men were identified by the Armed Forces of the  
9 Philippines (AFP) as lawless elements led by Najal Buena and Oman Hajal Jalis,  
10 individuals who are notorious for involvement in violent family conflicts in the area,  
11 and allegedly supported by some members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front  
12 (MILF);

13 WHEREAS, AFP Chief of Staff General Romeo Brawner, Jr., in a press  
14 conference, assured that the entry of soldiers in Sumisip town was duly coordinated  
15 with MILF through a letter of the Joint Normalization Committee, which was copy  
16 furnished to different units of both government and MILF sides;

1 WHEREAS, Bangsamoro Education Minister Mohagher Iqbal and MILF  
2 Coordinating Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) Chairperson Butch  
3 Malang said the encounter may have been caused by lack of coordination between  
4 the two sides;

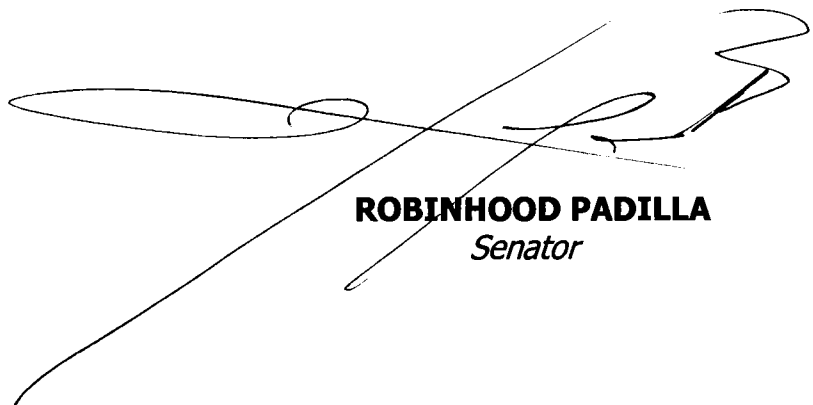
5 WHEREAS, according to MILF-CCCH Chairperson Butch Malang, government  
6 security forces entering MILF communities are required to inform the Government of  
7 the Philippines (GPH)-CCCH through letters or messages, and the GPH-CCCH will then  
8 coordinate with the MILF-CCCH. He stressed that MILF-CCCH received no information  
9 that soldiers will be entering a MILF area;

10 WHEREAS, there appears to be conflicting accounts on whether or not there  
11 was proper coordination regarding the entry of soldiers in Sumisip town, which is a  
12 MILF community;

13 WHEREAS, such violent acts of lawless elements threaten the area's peace and  
14 security, and undermine the progress and significant gains of the peace process in  
15 Mindanao, prompting the need to determine the adequacy and effectiveness of  
16 existing mechanisms for peaceful resolution of conflicts and bridge policy gaps, as  
17 needed: Now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate  
19 Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the armed encounter  
20 between troops from the Philippine Army 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion and lawless elements  
21 allegedly supported by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Adopted,



**ROBINHOOD PADILLA**  
*Senator*