

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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FILED



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1265

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ILLEGAL TRADE
AND SMUGGLING OF DEPLETED URANIUM AND OTHER
RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS IN THE PHILIPPINES

1 **WHEREAS**, as enshrined in Article II, Section 8 of the Constitution, the
2 Philippines adopts a nuclear-free policy and has signed and ratified several treaties
3 reflecting its commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, while
4 advocating for the peaceful use of nuclear technology;

5 **WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 5207 or the "Atomic Energy Regulatory and
6 Liability Act of 1968" currently governs the regulation, storage, and use of nuclear
7 materials in the Philippines but the law may have some gaps in addressing
8 developments in nuclear security threats, such as the recently uncovered illegal
9 trading and smuggling of depleted uranium (DU), a by-product of the uranium
10 enrichment process;

11 **WHEREAS**, initiated by a crucial tip-off from the International Atomic Energy
12 Agency (IAEA), recent months-long joint operations by the Philippine Nuclear
13 Research Institute (PNRI), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine National
14 Police (PNP), and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), led to the seizure of over 100
15 kilograms of DU and the arrest of three individuals involved in its illicit trade;

1 **WHEREAS**, the seized DU, of unknown origin and potentially valued at ₱680
2 million, was discovered in residential houses across Pasay City, Cagayan de Oro, and
3 Mandaue City, highlighting gaps in monitoring and oversight, particularly due to its
4 hidden presence in civilian areas, and raising serious concerns on public health,
5 security, and environmental protection;

6 **WHEREAS**, although less radioactive than enriched uranium, prolonged
7 exposure to DU may lead to severe illnesses such as cancer, kidney damage, genetic
8 damage, and complications such as reproduction issues and harm to foetus
9 development;

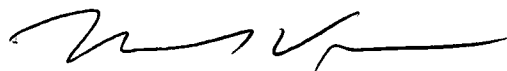
10 **WHEREAS**, the proliferation of DU threatens national security due to its
11 potential weaponization, including armour-piercing ammunition and "dirty bombs"—
12 an explosive mixed with radioactive materials capable of causing widespread
13 contamination, fear, and disruption, making them a possible instrument for terrorism;

14 **WHEREAS**, the improper custody and storage of DU and other radioactive
15 materials, especially in a disaster-prone country like the Philippines, could result in
16 environmental contamination, thereby causing irreparable damage to our ecosystem
17 and endangering public safety;

18 **WHEREAS**, while efforts to amend Republic Act No. 5207 are on-going, these
19 recent events highlight the urgent need to strengthen our regulations on radioactive
20 materials to combat criminal trafficking, strengthen international cooperation,
21 investment in secure handling and monitoring systems, enhancement of law
22 enforcement training, and public education on the risks of such substances;

23 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the
24 appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the
25 sufficiency of existing laws and implementation and enforcement gaps leading to the
26 illegal trade and smuggling of radioactive materials, including DU in the country.

Adopted,



MARK A. VILLAR