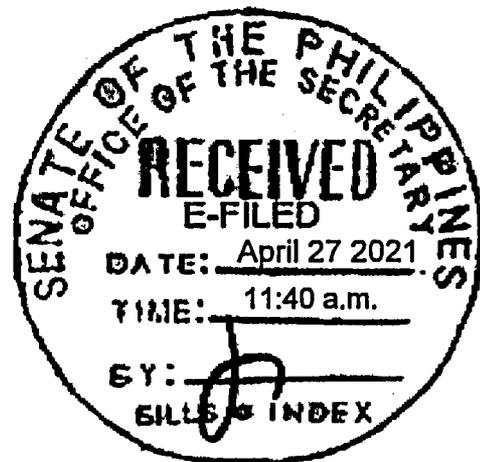


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. **709**

Introduced by Senators Franklin M. Drilon, Vicente C. Sotto III, Ralph G. Recto, Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Pia S. Cayetano, Leila M. De Lima, Win Gatchalian, Richard J. Gordon, Risa Hontiveros, Panfilo "Ping" M. Lacson, Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel, Grace Poe, Joel Villanueva

RESOLUTION

**CENSURING LIEUTENANT GENERAL ANTONIO PARLADE, JR.
SPOKESPERSON OF THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE TO END LOCAL
COMMUNIST ARMED CONFLICT (NTF-ELCAC), FOR HIS DISRESPECTFUL,
DEROGATORY AND DEMEANING STATEMENTS AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE
SENATE FOLLOWING THEIR CRITICISM OF HIS PERSISTENT RED
TAGGING OF CIVILIANS**

1 WHEREAS, Lt. General Antonio Parlade, Jr., in a series of statements, has
2 publicly tagged personalities, party list groups, universities, colleges, and members of
3 the academe as communists without the benefit of trial, bereft of proof or evidence;

4 WHEREAS, while Article XVI, Section 5(4) of the 1987 Constitution provides that
5 "No member of the armed forces in the active service shall, at any time, be appointed
6 or designated in any capacity to a civilian position in the government, including
7 government-owned or controlled corporations or any of their subsidiaries," Lt. Gen.
8 Parlade remains to be NTF-ELCAC's spokesperson, notwithstanding the Senate's
9 adoption of Committee Report No. 186, specifically the recommendation that "Lt. Gen.
10 Parlade be immediately relieved of his duties as spokesperson of the NTF-ELCAC" and
11 to "engage a spokesperson who does not hold concurrent mandates in the security
12 forces" to "prevent a potential conflict between the policies of the NTF-ELCAC and the
13 mandate of the security sector";

14 WHEREAS, as NTF-ELCAC Spokesperson, Parlade has likened Ana Patricia Non
15 to Satan, following Ms. Non's establishment of the first community pantry in
16 Maginhawa Village, Quezon City with Eight Hundred Pesos (Php 800) worth of
17 groceries and a small bamboo cart, operating on the principle of giving what you can
18 and taking what you need- a simple initiative that sparked a revolution of kindness,

1 with community pantries sprouting organically in different parts of the country, in a
2 stunning display of the Filipino "Bayanihan" spirit that inspires solidarity and hope, as
3 the country suffers from the havoc wrought by the pandemic;

4 WHEREAS, reports on the harassment of community pantry organizers being
5 compelled to produce permits and personal data by uniformed men arriving in military
6 trucks and police cars, coupled with Lt. Gen. Parlade's admission of subjecting
7 organizers to background profiling, has led to the closure of some community pantries,
8 for organizers' fear of being red-tagged;

9 WHEREAS, the Senators, in publicly denouncing Parlade's statements, have
10 pushed for the defunding of the NTF-ELCAC, which has a budget of Nineteen Billion
11 Pesos (PhP19 Billion) under the 2021 General Appropriations Act;

12 WHEREAS, in a television interview on 22 May 2021, Lt. Gen. Parlade was
13 quoted to have said the following disrespectful and demeaning statements in response
14 to the Senators' call to defund the NTF-ELAC: "I'll tell you, *sila ang stupid kung ito ay*
15 *binabawi nila. Pinirmahan nila 'yung batas na 'yan para maging serbisyo, ipagpatuloy*
16 *ang programa ng gobyerno. Ngayon sasabihin nila na ide-defund nila 'yung NTF-*
17 *ELCAC" and "Tell your staff to research well because they are paid a hefty sum, then*
18 *ask them for accurate news.";*

19 WHEREAS, under the Constitution, the power of the purse is exclusively lodged
20 in Congress, whose role does not end with the passage of the General Appropriations
21 Act (GAA) but extends to budget oversight, with Congress duty-bound to ensure that
22 funds are judiciously and efficiently spent for the appropriated purpose, considering
23 that budgeting involves the allocation of scarce resources for various competing
24 demands and needs of the public;

25 WHEREAS, consistent with the mandate of the NTF-ELCAC under Executive
26 Order No. 70 (s.2018) to "address the root causes of insurgencies" by "prioritizing the
27 delivery of basic services to conflict-affected communities," and recognizing that
28 "insurgencies are symptomatic of broader socio-economic and historical problems,
29 such as poverty and social inequality," Congress approved the 2021 budget of the NTF-
30 ELCAC to fund the delivery of basic services such as electrification, water and
31 sanitation, housing, and COVID-19 vaccinations to eight hundred twenty-two (822)
32 barangays which have been cleared of communist insurgency;

1 WHEREAS, the Senators' reprimand of Lt. Gen. Parlade is justified and scrutiny
2 of NTF-ELCAC's use of its budget is warranted, in light of the deplorable acts and
3 pronouncements of Lt. Gen. Parlade as NTF-ELCAC Spokesperson, which not only
4 serve to dampen the Bayanihan spirit and threaten the security of well-intentioned
5 individuals, but are also not in line with projects that Congress has agreed to fund
6 under the 2021 GAA and are contrary to the agency's mandate under Executive Order
7 No. 70 to pursue sustainable peace by addressing the root causes of insurgency;

8 WHEREAS, it should be emphasized that members of the Armed Forces of the
9 Philippines should always remain apolitical while in active service, otherwise, it
10 threatens the democratic principle of civilian supremacy over the military, as provided
11 under Article II Section 3 of the Constitution which states that "Civilian authority is at
12 all times supreme over the military. The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the
13 protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State
14 and the integrity of the national territory."

15 WHEREAS, contrary to the assertions of Lt. Gen. Parlade, progressive thinking
16 is not communism and expression of opinions or criticisms and purposeful involvement
17 in humanitarian community efforts do not constitute rebellion, sedition, or terrorism.
18 If Parlade's pronouncements and profiling of community pantry organizers were done
19 pursuant to NTF-ELCAC's policy direction, then the agency has clearly departed from
20 its mandate and members of the Senate have basis to realign its funds to more worthy
21 causes that would make better use of taxpayers' money, such as providing much-
22 needed aid to people suffering from the effects of the pandemic;

23 WHEREAS, Justice Leonen, in his dissenting opinion in the case of *Bayan Muna*
24 *v. Aquino* (G.R. No. 220028, 10 November 2015), said that "that toleration and the
25 creation of wider deliberative spaces are the more lasting and peaceful ways to debunk
26 worn-out ideologies," and Lt. Gen. Parlade's intolerance for deliberation and differing
27 opinions only proves that he is ill-suited to his position as NTF-ELCAC Spokesperson;

28 WHEREAS, instead of engaging in a constructive debate, Lt. Gen. Parlade has
29 chosen to demean and disparage the Senators, through statements that display his
30 limited grasp of Congress' role in the budget process and show his lack of respect not
31 just for the Senators as duly-elected representatives of the people but also for the
32 Senate as an institution: Now, therefore, be it

1 **RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Philippines censure Lt. General Antonio**
2 **Parlade, Jr. for his disrespectful, derogatory, and demeaning statements against**
3 **members of the Senate following their criticism of his persistent red-tagging of civilians**
4 ***Adopted.***

FRANKLIN M. DRILON

VICENTE C. SOTTO III

RISA HONTIVEROS

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

FRANCIS "KIKO" PANGILINAN

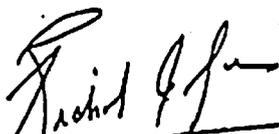
LEILA M. DE LIMA

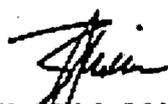
PANFILO "PING" M. LACSON

WIN GATCHALIAN

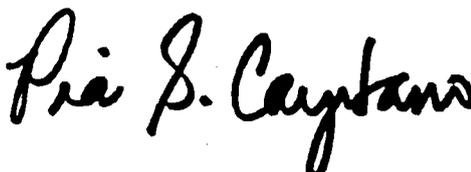
GRACE POE

RALPH G. RECTO


RICHARD J. GORDON


JOEL VILLANUEVA
Senator


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III


PIA S. CAYETANO


JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI