## Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Quezon City

## EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 858



INTRODUCED BY HON. PAOLO Z. DUTERTE, HON. ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, HON. ERIC G. YAP & HON. CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA

## **A RESOLUTION**

DENOUNCING AND CONDEMNING THE ATTACKS MADE BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES-NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY (CPP-NPA) DURING THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines is facing an unprecedented global Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic that has already infected more than 11,806 and killed at least 726 people in the Philippines, while infecting 4,196,600 and killing 284,004 people globally;

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the Philippine economy to temporarily shut down, grounded all forms of public transportation, stretched government personnel and resources to the limit, and has compelled citizens to remain under lockdown to stay safe;

**WHEREAS**, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, along with its counterparts in the private sector, is doing everything in its power to keep the Filipino people safe and provided for during this COVID-19, even risking the lives of its officials and personnel to ensure the same;

**WHEREAS**, President Rodrigo Duterte unilaterally declared a ceasefire with the CPP-NPA from 19 March 2020 to 15 April 2020 to allow government personnel to focus on the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the CPP-NPA declared that they will also cease actions against government troops and extend their ceasefire until 30 April 2020;

WHEREAS, despite the declaration of the ceasefire and extraordinary sacrifices made by government personnel during this COVID-19 pandemic, the CPP-NPA has treacherously and deliberately attacked military and civilian personnel distributing aid to Filipinos in dire need of government assistance;

WHEREAS, the most notable attacks made by the CPP-NPA against military and civilian personnel during this COVID-19 pandemic were on:

1. On 28 March 2020, the NPA attacked troops from the Philippine Army's 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division stationed in Rodriguez, Rizal.

- 2. On 11 April 2020, the NPA launched an attack on Philippine Army personnel while the latter were conducting a security patrol to distribute food packs in Baganga, Davao Oriental.
- On 13 April 2020, the NPA likewise attacked troops who were conducting active defense patrol in Jabonga, Agusan Del Norte during the enhanced community quarantine.
- 4. On 21 April 2020, the NPA attacked troops of the Philippine Army's 91<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion who were securing an area in the vicinity of Barangay Diaat, Maria Aurora, Aurora, as employees of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) were distributing cash to beneficiaries of the government's Social Amelioration Program, killing two (2) soldiers and injuring three (3) others.
- 5. On 22 April 2020, with the intent to disrupt the distribution of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP), NPA rebels attacked an area in Sitio Kaapihan, Barangay Malabog, Davao City, wounding two soldiers.
- 6. On 24 April 2020, CPP-NPA gunmen attacked a police vehicle in Monreal, Masbate, injuring a police officer and a local government official.
- On 08 May 2020, NPA rebels staged an attack in Sitio Manipis, Paquibato District, Davao City, where a soldier was killed, and two others were wounded.

WHEREAS, these treacherous attacks by the CPP-NPA not only clearly violate the declared ceasefire and jeopardize the safety and welfare of the Filipino people, but, more alarmingly, show the CPP-NPA's intention of using the current pandemic to advance its unlawful objectives against the Government and the people of the Republic of the Philippines.

**WHEREAS**, because of the CPP-NPA's actions, limited government resources that could have been allocated to disadvantaged Filipinos during this COVID-19 pandemic are being needlessly dissipated because of the CPP-NPA's attempts to destabilize the government and create chaos in the midst of a national emergency.

**WHEREAS**, these attacks by the CPP-NPA against our valiant military personnel and civilians, whose sole purpose in the operations where they were attacked was to aid our countrymen, are akin, if not constitutive of, terrorism, and must be condemned to the utmost degree.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to denounce and condemn the attacks made by the CPP-NPA during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted to the death and injury of military and civilian personnel, as well as damage to properties, and to hold those involved liable.

Adopted,



**PAOLO Z. DUTERTE** 

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**ERIC G. YAP** 

CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA