

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 950

Introduced by REP. JUDY J. SYJUCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As provided under our Constitution, it is the principle of the State, that, the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare---are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy. This principle bequeaths upon our military and police institution and personnel the responsibility to protect and defend our people and the nation as well.

The preservation of the integrity of our military and police institution is a vital element to the realization of this mission. The promotion of the welfare of every military and police personnel will enable them to perform their duty with utmost loyalty. To accommodate and address their concerns and grievances is as crucial as their responsibility to our country.

The recent military rebellion or *coup d'etat*, led by junior military officers, is a reflection of prevailing sentiments and grievances within the military organization. History of *coup d'etat*s will prove the lack of a feedback mechanism that would provide channel for these sentiments and grievances, which could pave way for a prompt resolution of their concerns.

This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize a feedback mechanism in the AFP and PNP through the creation of the AFP/PNP Welfare and Affairs Office to serve as the channel for legitimate grievances and concerns of both the military and police personnel.

Hence, in the interest of our nation's political and economic stability, immediate consideration and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

JUDY J. SYJUCO

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AN ACT
INSTITUTING A FEEDBACK MECHANISM IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE AFP/PNP WELFARE AND AFFAIRS OFFICE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared as the policy of the State to uphold the integrity of the military and police institutions and to protect the welfare of all its enlisted personnel.

SECTION 2. C reation of the AFP/PNP Welfare and Affairs Office. – The AFP/PNP Welfare and Affairs Office is hereby created under the Office of the President to serve as the channel for legitimate grievances and concerns of both the military and police personnel.

The Office shall be composed of a Chairman with six (6) Board Members to be appointed by the President from a list of nominees submitted by the Secretary of the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). The nominees must be a retired military or police officer with a distinguished record of service.

SECTION 3. Powers and Functions. - The AFP/PNP Welfare and Affairs Office shall have the following powers and functions:

(a) To accept verified grievances and complaints from any member of the AFP or the PNP;

(b) To evaluate the verified grievance or complaint upon consultation with the other affected personnel;

(c) To summon officials and personnel for verification and cross examination; and

(d) To recommend courses of action to the President upon proper review of the grievance submitted.

SECTION 4. Confidentiality and Evaluation of Information – All information in the verified grievance or complaint shall be treated with absolute confidentiality and requires proper evaluation as provided by the rules prescribed by the Office.

SECTION 5. Appropriation. The amount needed to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation. The publication shall not be later than seven (7) days after approval hereof.

Approved,