

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. **1726**



INTRODUCED BY REP. BIENVENIDO “BENNY” ABANTE, JR.

“RESOLUTION URGING THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO REALLOCATE THE 16 BILLION PESOS ALLOTTED FOR THE NTF-ELCAC’S (NATIONAL TASK FORCE TO END LOCAL COMMUNIST ARMED CONFLICT) BARANGAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO SUBSIDY PROGRAMS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) MEANT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR UNEMPLOYED FILIPINOS AND UNDERPRIVILEGED FAMILIES.”

WHEREAS, the Philippines has the world’s longest-running communist insurgency, a conflict that has claimed the lives of thousands of combatants and civilians and has for decades posed a threat to the peace and security of our nation.

WHEREAS, various strategies and programs have been undertaken to address the communist insurgency, one of which is the creation of the NTF-ELCAC, established via Executive Order Number 80, s. 2018.

WHEREAS, EO No. 80, s. 2018 states that the NTF-ELCAC was created to ensure efficient and effective implementation of a “Whole-of-Nation Approach” that “addresses the root causes of insurgencies, internal disturbances and tensions, and other conflicts and threats by prioritizing and harmonizing the delivery of basic services and social development packages by the government, facilitating societal inclusivity, and ensuring active participation of all sectors of the society in the pursuit of the country’s peace agenda.”

WHEREAS, to enable the NTF-ELCAC to meet its objectives, Congress appropriated 19 billion pesos in the 2021 General Appropriations Act for the the task force's anti-insurgency projects, with 16 billion pesos allotted for the implementation of projects in barangays in remote areas aimed at discouraging residents from joining or assisting communist insurgents.

WHEREAS, NTF-ELCAC communications efforts appear to center on publicly accusing elected officials, journalists, non-government organizations, activists, lawyers, educators, celebrities, and private citizens of having links to armed communist insurgency groups, a practice commonly referred to as “red-tagging.”

WHEREAS, despite warnings from legislators and concerned public officials to refrain from this practice, NTF-ELCAC officials continue to red-tag individuals, the latest of whom include individuals organizing “community pantries” that seek to provide free food and basic necessities for citizens hard up because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS, the NTF-ELCAC’s continued red-tagging of groups and individuals is inconsistent with its task of implementing a “Whole of Nation Approach” to counter the insurgency by “facilitating societal inclusivity and ensuring active participation of all sectors of the society in the pursuit of the country’s peace agenda.”

WHEREAS, our country is currently in the middle of a pandemic that has claimed over 16,000 lives in the Philippines alone, with a total of close to a million COVID-19 cases tallied since January 2020 and 107,988 active cases as of 22 April 2021.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted the Philippine economy, leading to unemployment and hunger, especially among the country’s poverty-stricken and marginalized sectors.

WHEREAS, given the gravity of the problems brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, and in light of the inability of NTF-ELCAC to properly perform its functions, the government should prioritize efforts to provide financial assistance and other forms of support to our countrymen who have no sources of income or have limited means as a result of the pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives, that the House move to reallocate the 16 billion pesos allotted for the NTF-ELCAC’s barangay development projects to subsidy programs under the DSWD and the DOLE meant to provide financial support for unemployed Filipinos and underprivileged families.

Adopted,



BIENVENIDO “BENNY” ABANTE, JR.