WHEREAS, on June 1, 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte certified urgent the passage of the bill proposing several amendments to R.A. 9372 or the Human Security Act of 2007. This allowed the House of Representatives to railroad discussions on House Bill No. 6875 or the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 in just two days since the President certified the measure. A counterpart version SB 1083 was earlier passed by the Senate last February. The bill has since then been enrolled with the President for his appropriate action;

WHEREAS, on June 3, the House of Representatives approved HB 6875 or the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 on third and final reading with 173 votes in favor and 31 against while another 29 abstained;

WHEREAS, several groups and individuals have expressed opposition to the bill including celebrities, artists, lawyers, farmers, workers, and students among other basic sectors of society. No less than former Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio has earlier criticized HB 6875 for violating the bill of rights enshrined in the Constitution;

WHEREAS, public criticism of the said bill mounted in the days before and immediately following House approval. Offline and online protests including efforts to write members of the House led to at least 20 representatives either retracting co-authorship or withdrawing support to the bill altogether. Criticisms on HB 6875 are centered on certain provisions allowing for the extension of warrantless arrests, the broadened yet vague definition of terrorism, and the establishment of the Anti-Terrorism Council (ATC) all of which run counter to constitutional safeguards on human rights;

WHEREAS, on June 4, House Deputy Speaker Aurelio Gonzales Jr. announced changes in the final vote record citing technical errors in the recording of electronic votes. The 173 yes votes were eventually reduced to 168, while the no votes increased from 31 to 36. The 5 additional lawmakers
who voted no, however, were still not enough to overturn the passage of the bill;

WHEREAS, on June 10, a memorandum was issued by the Nueva Ecija Police Provincial Office directing OICs of local government units to provide a statement of support to the controversial Anti-Terrorism Bill;

WHEREAS, under the law, governors and mayors are automatically deputized as representatives of the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) in their respective jurisdiction and not the other way around. Local government units are allowed to "inspect police forces and units, conduct audit, and exercise other functions as may be authorized by the commission;"

WHEREAS, public opposition to HB 6875 and SB 1083 is clear and evident. The efforts of the police force to fabricate public opinion backing the Anti-Terror Law through memoranda coercing local government officials to express support is by all means against the law. Further, the memorandum issued by the Nueva Ecija Provincial Police surfaced because it was posted publicly on social media channels which therefore warrants further investigation on whether other regional or local police offices issued similar documents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives, through the Committee on Public Order and Safety and the Committee on Human Rights to investigate, in aid of legislation, the unlawful issuance of memoranda by the Nueva Ecija Provincial Police coercing local government officials to express support to the Anti-Terrorism Bill.

Adopted,

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist