

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH (18TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

174

House Res. No. _____



Introduced by Rep. BERNADETTE R. HERRERA-DY

RESOLUTION

URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ACTIONS OF THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER AND THE PHILIPPINE STAR IN ALLEGED SPREADING OF FALSE NEWS, UNFAIR REPORTING OUT OF CONTEXT, AND OTHER ACTS OF IRRESPONSIBLE REPORTING.

WHEREAS, the House Committee on Public Information has jurisdiction over all matters directly and principally relating to the production and dissemination of information to the public through all forms of mass communications and media such as print and broadcast media, movie and television, video, advertising, cable television and the internet, including the regulation thereof, and the rights and responsibilities of persons and entities engaged therein;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Daily Inquirer is a daily nationwide broadsheet founded in 1985 and has grown into one of the most widely read publications across the country, with over 2.7 million daily readers and a market share of over 50%;¹

WHEREAS, the Philippine Daily Inquirer is among the top news organizations in the country and among those with the widest reach, with four regional bureaus, over 130 provincial correspondents, numerous sister publications, and an online presence that garners over one million views per day;²

WHEREAS, the Philippine Daily Inquirer claims it is committed to bringing “Balanced news, fearless views” to their readers is at the cornerstone of their journalism;³

WHEREAS, the Philippine Star is a daily print and digital newspaper and flagship of the PhilStar Media Group, with its first publication on 28 July 1986, claiming it is committed to providing truthful news reporting under the motto “Truth Shall Prevail”.

WHEREAS, over the past few years, the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Philippine Star have displayed irresponsible reporting of news, amounting to actual fake news or taking statements out of context on numerous occasions;

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2013, the Philippine Daily Inquirer published a page 1 news report entitled “NDF Anniversary: Bayan Muna clears NPA: No extortion, it’s civil war”⁴, allegedly based on a Bayan press statement⁵, had not even identified the parties correctly (Bayan or Bagong Alyansa Makabayan is not the same as Bayan Muna), it had also taken the report completely out of context;

¹ The Philippine Daily Inquirer, ‘About Us’, [<http://www.inquirer.com.ph/about-us-2/>], accessed 8 July 2017.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ The Philippine Daily Inquirer, ‘Bayan clears NPA: No extortion, it’s civil war’, 24 April 2013, [<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/396177/bayan-defends-mpa-says-ambush-not-case-of-extortion>], accessed 8 July 2017; *N.B.* Current report now reflects Bayan and not Bayan Muna.

⁵ Bayan, ‘Statement on the NPA action involving Mayor Ruth Guingona’, 23 April 2013, [<http://www.bayan.ph/site/2013/04/statement-on-the-mpa-action-involving-mayor-ruth-guingona/>], accessed 8 July 2017.

WHEREAS, in a report published on 9 August 2011 entitled, 'Poll fixers going out of business – Mission impossible' had likewise taken the impromptu speech of Ferdinand T. Rafanan during a Mass as completely out of context;⁶

WHEREAS, in a report published online on it's Facebook page on 24May2017, the Philippine Daily Inquirer posted five photos purportedly of the Marawi siege showing devastation and burning vehicles, was immediately disproven as having been taken and previously published by the same Philippine Daily Inquirer of the Cotabato bombing in 2013;⁷

WHEREAS, in a recent report entitled 'Pimentel tells Fariñas: Inhibit from Marcos inquiry' is yet another case of a statement erroneously and potentially maliciously taken not only out of context, but was the complete opposite of the statements made by Rep. Johnny Pimentel stressing that Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas cannot and should not recuse himself since the latter is the author of House Resolution No. 882 which initiated the investigation in the first place;⁸

WHEREAS, a report published by the Philippine Star on 12 July 2017 entitled 'DOT: Proposed trip to Iceland, Norway, part of legitimate program', filed by a certain Rosette Adel, identified members of the House of Representatives as initially part of a so-called junket to Iceland and Norway, a project that has since been cancelled;

WHEREAS, in that same report it is categorically stated that "the names of the lawmakers were confirmed by House Secretary-General Cesar Strait Pareja", which the latter vehemently denies as he was never even contacted to confirm or comment on the matter, clearly a situation where false information is being published and disseminated to the general public;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Philippines, urging the House Committee on Public Information to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on these actions by the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Philippine Star in allegedly spreading false news, unfair reporting out of context, and otherwise conducting irresponsible news reporting.

Adopted,


BERNADETTE HERRERA-DY

⁶ Ferdinand T. Rafanan, The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Opinion/Latest Opinion, 'Quoted Out of Context' 16 August 2011, [<http://opinion.inquirer.net/10063/quoted-out-of-context>], accessed 8 July 2017.

⁷ Jeel Monde, Philippine News, 'Netizens Slam Inquirer For Allegedly Spreading Fake News About Marawi Incident', [<https://philnews.ph/2017/05/24/netizens-slam-inquirer-spreading-fake-news/>], accessed 8 July 2017.

⁸ The Philippine Daily Inquirer, 'Pimentel tells Fariñas: Inhibit from Marcos inquiry', [http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/911893/pimentel-tells-farinas-inhibit-from-marcos-inquiry__trashed] *N.B.* The report had recently been deleted.