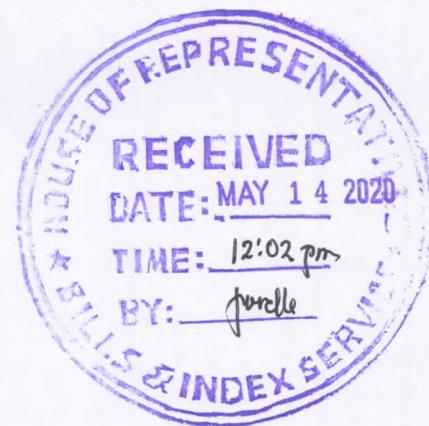


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 868



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Introduced by Honorable Representatives  
**ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party);**  
**CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT and FERDINAND R. GAITE (Bayan Muna);**  
**FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers); and SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Kabataan)**

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**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THAT THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIZE THE FUNDING OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY,  
HEALTH MEASURES TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE FROM COVID-19, AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
PROGRAMS INSTEAD OF PUSHING THROUGH WITH THE DEAL TO PURCHASE ATTACK  
HELICOPTERS AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC**

**WHEREAS**, on April 30, 2020, the U.S. State Department approved potential foreign military sales for six helicopters to the Philippines, according to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA);

**WHEREAS**, the potential deal includes either six AH-1Z attack helicopters made by Textron's Bell Helicopter unit for an estimated cost of \$450 million, or AH-64E Apache attack helicopters made by Boeing and Lockheed Martin for an estimated cost of \$1.5 billion;

**WHEREAS**, other equipment included in the sale package are six AGM-114 Hellfire II missiles, 26 Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) all up rounds, seven M197 20mm machine guns, Target Sight System (TSS), ammunition, communications equipment and electronic warfare systems;

**WHEREAS**, Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said that the offer made by the American companies are way out of the Philippine government's budget. However, the acquisition of attack helicopters will push through with the Philippine Air Force's selection of T129 ATAK helicopters of the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI). The Philippines has issued a Notice of Award to TAI in late 2019 and is targeting to purchase six units of T129 ATAK helicopters. A contract, however, is yet to be signed;

**WHEREAS**, Defense Sec. Lorenzana defended the upcoming purchase as it is supposedly intended for the government's counterinsurgency campaign, particularly against the communist rebels;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front to resume peace negotiations and address the social, economic and political inequalities as manifested in the lack of social services, landlessness, joblessness, massive poverty and hunger for these are the root causes of the

armed conflict. The continuing misprioritization of funds and militarization of the countryside will further heat up the conflict and aggravate the people's resistance especially now that the nation is in crisis;

**WHEREAS**, given the still globally surging COVID-19 outbreak and the International Monetary Fund's projection of a 3 percent global economic contraction, the government should prioritize public health and social welfare instead of spending multi-billion peso for the purchase of attack helicopters and other military equipment;

**WHEREAS**, according to President Rodrigo Duterte himself, the government is finding it harder to raise more revenues due to the impacts of the virus outbreak;


**WHEREAS**, the country should be realigning its resources to economic recovery, and this requires more government spending on healthcare and social services, as well continuing social amelioration for the poor and marginalized;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSES ITS SENSE FOR THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO PRIORITIZE THE FUNDING OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY, HEALTH MEASURES TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE FROM COVID-19, AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS INSTEAD OF PUSHING THROUGH WITH THE DEAL TO PURCHASE ATTACK HELICOPTERS AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC.**

Adopted,

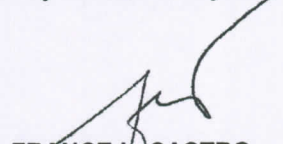
  
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