

MANILA'S FINEST RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC
United Nations Avenue, Ermita
Manila

P E T I T I O N

February 7, 2005

TO: Hon. Senator MANUEL VILLAR
Chairman, Committee on Finance
Committee on Accounts & Committee
On Public Orders & Illegal Drugs

THRU: Hon. Senator ALFREDO S. LIM

Sirs:

It is a valued privilege that I am at the helm of the **MANILA'S FINEST RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.**, where we, its components, are only a handful of the surviving REMNANTS of the INP REGIME, who were replaced by energetic and robust men and officers of the now named Philippine National Police (PNP). Admittedly, we lost the luster of youth, strength, and stamina, for decades of selfless dedication to the identically sworn police job, without the least fear that our retirement years will be doomed and dismal, just because we belonged to the then INTEGRATED NATIONAL POLICE, the INP, the ironically deleted faction from the nation-wide police force nowadays ... **but we are still obsessed to covet justice and equity for our losing cause.**

Indeed **We are rare mortals in the MFRAI, who yield to the inevitable certainly that many of us will soon, or very soon, meet our CREATOR, surrendering to HIM nothing but our burden-filled life, as the devastated INP- Retirees who are denied of equal rights, equal benefits, equal privileges and equal remuneration in our retirement-era.** Sadly, the implied oppression comes from the same police force who forgot, missed and overlooked, deliberately or otherwise, that just like their present day heroes in the PNP, **we have been part and parcel of its prestigious past, with the SAME BREATH as capital for every risky police task.**

When we joined together, we were ALL old INP retirees mostly sick, weak and hopeless of about 1,000-lowly cops and officials, ranging from 70 & 90 years of age, ALL recipients of meager pensions, compared to the enormous benefits accorded to PNP retirees. We were bound by the same disgust, heralding the same PROTEST against the unconscionable disparity, in our retirement dues and benefits. Our lives flickered with abject poverty and the most of the desolate retirees succumbed to the deathly summons, in vain, despite the promising endeavor of no less than **former Senator ROBERT Z. BARBERS, the then CHAIRMAN of the Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs, who sponsored PSR No. 237, “to look into our appeal us to enjoy SIMILAR RETIREMENT BENEFITS as that of the PNP Retirees”**, copy is marked as ANNEX “A”. Verily, even the Speaker of the House, Hon. JOSE DE VENECIA, JR., filed his RESOLUTION NO. 150, dated July 23 2001, copy is attached as “ANNEX “B” to the House of Representatives, “to adopt remedial legislation to increase our pension and retirement benefits”. These two (2) legislators were, obviously, **NOT ALONE** in sympathizing with our ordeal with the akin sentiments of the **Board of Officers of the NAPOLCOM and PNP Retirees Association, Inc., (PRAI) and former Justice Secretary ARTEMIO TUQUERO**, who where in unison in assenting to the said **RESOLUTIONS**.

Unfortunately, like most of our poverty-stricken and ill members who failed to fight for survival, the said **RESOLUTIONS** met its natural death, reportedly for **LACK of FUNDS**. But we refused to be daunted by such defeat. Fighting for our cause, we petitioned for **DECLARATION RELIEF** before Branch 3 of the Regional Trial court of Manila, whose presiding **Judge, Hon. JUAN C. NABONG, JR.**, in his March 21 2003- **DECISION** emphatically **RULED** that the **INP was NEVER LEGISLATED OUT OF EXISTENCE in the PNP LAW or Republic Act No. 6975, as amended by RA-8551, a copy of his DECISION** is herewith marked as ANNEX “C”, for ready reference.

In the said court-verdict, said magistrate cited several provisions in the said RA-6975 which sanction his finding that **“THE INP WAS NEVER BOOTED OUT OF EXISTENCE or ABOLISHED BY RA-6975”**. He even added: **“Otherwise the words MERGE or TRANSFER or ABSORPTION would not have been used in Section 85 Phase III and 88”**. He likewise concurred with our asseveration that our appeal, is in consonance with **ARTICLE XVI, Section 8 of the CONSTITUTION**, as

well as with the provision on **Retirement Benefits under Section 6 of the REPUBLIC ACT 7432 of the SENIOR CITIZENS LAW, and conceded that we, “the INP Retirees equally served the populace with the same selfless dedication at the risk of our lives”.**

We are undoubtedly at the ending tenure of our lives, yet we **COWER** of that probability that our triumph in judiciary will be an exercise in futility, until our dim hope is rekindled with the awareness that honorable **Senator ALFREDO S. LIM had PROPOSED for the appropriation of THREE HUNDRED FIFTY MILLION PESOS (350,000,000.00) for us...the INP Retirees.** Such gesture is endearing to us who are indeed praying, that the bequeathed illusion for equity, of many departed colleagues will not perish in vain, especially for the barely surviving 500-ailing, emasculated and forlorn INP retirees, who are now under compulsion to beseech for your kind indulgence, to approve the said funding and inclusion in the budget of the proposed ₱350,000,000.00-appropriation for INP Retirees, to alleviate our sufferings. Then we can humbly submit that indeed, this government does not restrict its graces and benefits to the PNP retirees alone. On such occasion, We, the INP retirees, will no longer be strangers to its bestowed equity and justice, even for our expectedly short-lived existence.

For and in behalf, I remain, as always.

Very truly yours,

P/Col. FELICISIMO G. LAZARO (Ret.)