

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 976

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATHS OF JOSE "JOECAP" CAPADOCIA, MARILOU FROSTROM, PERLITA BANDAYANON, BRIG. GEN. CARLOS CLET, MAJ. ROLANDO SACATANI, CAPT. ALVIN ALEGATA, QUARTER MASTER 3RD CLASS DEMILYN REYNO, AND CREWMAN SGT. ROE GEM PEREZ, PASSENGERS OF THE ILL-FATED BELL 412 PRESIDENTIAL HELICOPTER BOUND FOR IFUGAO, AND COMMENDING THEM FOR THEIR PROFESSIONALISM, HARD WORK, DEDICATION AND BRAVERY IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR SWORN DUTIES TO THE COUNTRY AND TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

WHEREAS, on 7 April 2009, a Bell 412 Presidential helicopter, with tail number 1946, took off at 4:16 o'clock in the afternoon from the Loakan Airport in Baguio City, bound for Ifugao;

WHEREAS, onboard were members of the Composite Advance Planning and Action (CAPA) Team, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's advance party to her functions -- Jose "Joecap" Capadocia, Press Undersecretary for Media Relations; Marilou Frostrom, Appointments Secretary; Perlita Bandayanan, Presidential Management Staff Assistant Director; Brig. Gen. Carlos Clet, Presidential Senior Military aide; and Clet's aide Quarter Master 3rd Class Demilyn Reyno;

WHEREAS, together with pilot Maj. Rolando Sacatani, co-pilot Capt. Alvin Alegata, and crewman Sgt. Roe Gem Perez, the party was en route to Ifugao, to prepare for President Arroyo's inspection the following day of the Halsema Highway, a priority infrastructure project of the administration, which was being delayed by disputes concerning right of way;

WHEREAS, tragedy struck when the helicopter crashed into a heavily forested mountain along the Mount Pulag range, possibly due to inclement weather, unbeknownst to Malacañang;

WHEREAS, not having received any word from the contingent, a plane was deployed between 10:00 and 11:00 o'clock in the evening of the same day to search for the helicopter and its passengers;

WHEREAS, the plane picked up signals from the helicopter's emergency locator transmitter, which functioned only on impact or if switched on by the pilot in the event of an emergency;

WHEREAS, around 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of 8 April 2009, the wreckage of the helicopter was found on a steep slope within the boundaries of Barangay Tangawan, Kabayan, Benguet and Barangay Eheb, Tinoc, Ifugao;

WHEREAS, crashing the hopes of a rescue, the remains of all the passengers were later on found and subsequently identified through forensic examination;

WHEREAS, despite the poor weather conditions, the members of the CAPA Team and the crew of the helicopter pushed on to accomplish what they were tasked to do, exhibiting utmost professionalism and dedication to their jobs;

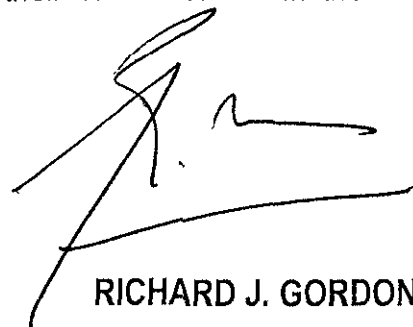
WHEREAS, they had sworn to serve the country and the Filipino people by assisting the President in the discharge of her duties and ensuring that the needs of the people are addressed in the best possible manner;

WHEREAS, it is for this reason that they should be commended and bestowed the highest honors, for risking life and limb in the fulfillment of their oath to the country and to the people. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate of the Philippines, to express profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the deaths of Jose "Joecap" Capadocia, Marilou Frostrom, Perlita Bandayanon, Brig. Gen. Carlos Clet, Maj. Rolando Sacatani, Capt. Alvin Alegata, Quarter Master 3rd Class Demilyn Reyno, and Crewman Sgt. Roe Gem Perez, passengers of the ill-fated Bell 412 Presidential helicopter bound for Ifugao, and commending them for their professionalism, hard work, dedication and bravery in the performance of their sworn duties to the country and to the Filipino people;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to provide a copy of this Resolution to the families of the deceased, to the Office of the President, and to the Armed Forces of the Philippines to ensure the recognition and appreciation of the people for their valiant efforts in the service of the country.

Adopted,



RICHARD J. GORDON