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**SENATE**

P. S. Res. No. 1086

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Sen. Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO NUMEROUS MARITIME ACCIDENTS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REVIEWING MARITIME SAFETY STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF CREW AND PASSENGERS ON-BOARD SEA VESSELS**

**WHEREAS**, it is the duty of the State to ensure a safe, viable and dependable transportation system in the country in order to protect the welfare and safety of passengers and facilitate tourism development and economic progress in the country;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines being an archipelagic country, consisting of 7,107 islands covering a land area of 115,813 square miles and having main island groups of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, relies heavily on sea transport for personal travels, trade, commerce and tourism;

**WHEREAS**, on May 23, 2009, a passenger boat, MB Commando 6, was carrying about 69 people off Verde Island in Batangas Province at noon when the sea tragedy took place some 130 kilometers south of Manila;

**WHEREAS**, MB Commando 6 capsized on its way from Batangas Province to Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro, killing 12 passengers and injuring 43 other passengers;

**WHEREAS**, reports from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) indicate that the passenger boat was overloaded with passengers when it sank;

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to review the policies being implemented by the Government with respect to the provision of adequate life saving instruments and equipment in order to protect and save the lives of crew and passengers in times of sea vessel tragedies;

**WHEREAS**, there is a growing clamor to make public the records of sea worthiness of passenger vessels in order to protect the welfare of the general public and prevent the occurrence of future maritime tragedies in our country;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to review our existing laws on maritime safety and study the appropriateness of imposing stiffer penalties for violations of pertinent maritime safety laws, rules and regulations;

**WHEREAS**, given the series of maritime tragedies that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of crew and passengers, there is an urgent need to review existing policies on vessels' sea-worthiness in order to protect the lives of our citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committee on Public Services and other appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *In Aid of Legislation*, into numerous maritime accidents, with the end in view of reviewing maritime safety standards and regulations being implemented by the government in order to protect the lives of the crew and passengers on-board sea vessels.

**ADOPTED,**

  
**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
Senator