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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1149

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED ACCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED IN TOURIST DESTINATIONS IN THE COUNTRY PARTICULARLY THE RECENT SEA ACCIDENT IN PUERTO GALERA, MINDORO, AND THE DROWNING INCIDENT IN NASUGBU, BATANGAS WITH THE VIEW OF FORMULATING POLICIES AND ADOPTING BEST PRACTICES FOR A SAFER AND MORE ORGANIZED TRAVEL IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9593 declares tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance which ought to be harnessed as an engine of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI)* in its 23 May 2009 issue reported that at least 12 people, including three children and a Japanese national, died when a motorized ferry boat bound for Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro, capsized in the Verde Island Passage;

WHEREAS, the PDI in its 26 May 2009 issue reported that only eight (8) of the fifty (50) passengers aboard the MB Commando 6 which capsized off Verde Island were listed on the Boat's manifest; according to the Philippine Coast Guard Chief, this suggested that the boat was overloaded when it left for Puerto Galera;

WHEREAS, in the same 26 May 2009 article, it was reported that because the boat was overloaded, one of the boat's outriggers was destroyed by the big waves caused by the strong winds;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that a survivor said two boats had passed the capsized boat but the boats did not bother to stop; that the people on those two boats even had the temerity to take pictures and videos of the sinking ferry;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that another survivor claimed that many of the passengers were not wearing life vests and that they were given life vests only when they were already being rescued;

WHEREAS, in its 20 April 2009 issue, the *PDI* reported the drowning of four men while swimming in the Nasugbu Sea; the Nasugbu police chief reported that the victims drowned when big waves carried them away from the shoreline;

WHEREAS, Puerto Galera and Nasugbu are just two of the numerous tourist destinations;

WHEREAS, the safety and welfare of vacationers and tourists should not be needlessly exposed to perils and mishaps that can be prevented if only adequate

preventive measures were taken, and practices such as overloading; non-issuance of approved, certified and standard life vests; and failure to put up warning signs or posts were strictly disallowed and/or penalized;

WHEREAS, in the interest of our tourism industry, and in for the welfare and safety of our people and tourists, the proper government agency must come up with standard policies and procedures to prevent such accidents and mishaps occurring in destinations frequented by tourists and local vacationers;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the reported accidents that occurred in tourist destinations in the country particularly the recent sea accident in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro and the drowning incident in Nasugbu, Batangas with the view of formulating policies and adopting best practices for a safer and more organized travel in the Philippines.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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