

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

15 FEB 18 P2:09

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1188

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THE MOST HIGHLY ELEVATED BRIDGE
IN THE PHILIPPINES IS IN DANGER OF COLLAPSING

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5, provides: "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported on 11 February 2015 that the Agas-Agas Bridge in Southern Leyte, which at 84 meters is the country's most highly elevated bridge, is at risk of collapsing;

WHEREAS, landslides resulting from heavy rains allegedly eroded the protective covers of the two columns of the 350-meter-long structure built in 2009 by the Arroyo administration with a ₱1.24-billion funding from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA);

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in Region 8 reportedly said previous preventive measures applied on the structure, such as gabion flood controls and drainage canals, have also been washed out;

WHEREAS, Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson has also been quoted in the news as warned that if neglected, these adverse conditions could seriously ruin the foundation of the superstructure;

WHEREAS, to protect the bridge from imminent damage, the department has set aside ₱46.63 million for the plan and program of work designed to protect its stability;

WHEREAS, infrastructures such as the Agas-Agas Bridge necessarily ensure the continuance of commerce and industry in areas where they are located;

WHEREAS, deterioration or destruction of such infrastructures would impact the local economy, aside from preventing the delivery of basic services to residents of affected areas;

WHEREAS, given the country's susceptibility to typhoons and other natural calamities that may severely damage public infrastructures, there is an urgent need to ensure that our public infrastructures are adequately and periodically maintained;

WHEREAS, to effect the adequate maintenance of such public infrastructures, stringent and thorough regulatory measures must be established;

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 report that the most highly elevated bridge in the Philippines is in danger of collapsing.

Adopted,

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
RP