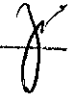


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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1359

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON REPORTED LABOR RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF THE  
VALENZUELA FOOTWEAR FACTORY RECENTLY GUTTED BY A FIRE

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 Constitution, Article 2, also provides:

Section 18. The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It  
shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.

WHEREAS, various media in May reported that a fire gutted footwear factory in  
Valenzuela City, killing at least 72 persons, most of them workers;

WHEREAS, the fire, which started noon of 13 May 2015, allegedly forced workers of  
Kentex Manufacturing, Inc. to rush upstairs, only to be trapped due to locked windows;

WHEREAS, initial police investigation purported that the victims died of suffocation  
from thick black smoke distinctly produced from burning rubber;

WHEREAS, aside from concerns that the factory building did not comply with fire and  
safety standards, media have also quoted labor groups saying that the victims, as well as other  
workers of the slipper factory, were underpaid;

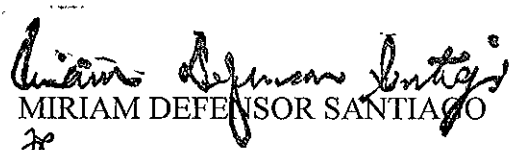
WHEREAS, the victims' employers also allegedly failed to provide hazard pay and remit  
payments for social benefits;

WHEREAS, the appalling death toll in the fire warrants an investigation, so that this  
august body may put in place measures to prevent similar incidents;

WHEREAS, Congress must intensify existing legislation to ensure workers' protection;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to  
conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on reported labor rights violations of the Valenzuela  
footwear factory recently gutted by a fire.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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/kmp