

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION)



'15 MAY 20 P3:14

SENATE
PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION **1365**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO THE KENTEX FACTORY FIRE IN VALENZUELA CITY, METRO MANILA, WHICH CLAIMED THE LIVES OF SEVENTY-TWO (72) WORKERS, AND TO RECOMMEND LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO IMPROVE NATIONAL BUILDING SAFETY STANDARDS, AS WELL AS OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS, IN ORDER TO AFFORD STRONGER PROTECTION FOR ALL FILIPINO WORKERS.

WHEREAS, on 13 May 2015, a fire razed the factory of the Kentex Manufacturing Corporation in Valenzuela City, Metro Manila, which claimed the lives of seventy-two (72) of its workers;

WHEREAS, investigations have led to the discovery of violations by the company not only of national building safety standards, but also of occupational health and safety standards;

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) issued a statement that the factory had passed safety and health inspection in September 2014, or eight months prior to the incident; but, Kentex workers, however, vehemently claim otherwise;

WHEREAS, Kentex was also found to have committed other serious labor violations;

WHEREAS, no less than the International Labor Organization (ILO) commented that the Kentex factory fire was a "preventable accident", and urged the Philippine government to step up its occupational safety and health standards;

WHEREAS, Section 3, Article XIII of our Constitution guarantees that the State shall afford full protection to labor, particularly the entitlement of workers to humane conditions of work;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to look into this tragic incident considering the disastrous loss of life and the noted violations of law and workers' rights, for the purpose of enacting remedial legislation as well as improving existing ones, and also of improving the coordination and cooperation between the national government and the local government on the matter of implementation and enforcement of existing building and labor laws and regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate direct the proper Committee to inquire, in aid of legislation, into the circumstances attendant to the Kentex factory fire for the purpose of recommending legislative measures to improve our building safety standards, as well as our occupational safety and health standards and other employment standards, to afford stronger protection for all Filipino workers.

Adopted,


FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.