

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 FEB -1 P3:40

SENATE

P. S. R. No. 1724

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

**A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
SERVICES, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S,
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE SUFFICIENCY OF WARNING SIGNALS AND
EFFECTIVE PHYSICAL BARRIERS INSTALLED AT THE
RAILWAYS OPERATED BY THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL
RAILWAYS**

WHEREAS, multitudinous accidents of horrendous proportions involving Philippine National Railways (PNR) trains happened in the past, and if unabated, will ominously continue to happen again and again;

WHEREAS, *Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution* provides that "[t]he maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, it was reported on January 13, 2016 by *The Philippine Star* that a PNR train hit a speeding passenger jeepney at the crossing of Paco Station, Manila on January 12, 2016, killing one person and injuring six others. Reports said that the driver of the jeepney allegedly tried to beat the railroad crossing barrier despite the incoming train;

WHEREAS, in 2014, two men reportedly died after being hit by PNR trains in separate accidents in Manila, just within hours of each other, with both victims being in areas of tracks where pedestrians are not allowed;

WHEREAS, while there appears to be a contributory negligence on the part of the victims, these deadly accidents raise the question of the sufficiency of PNR warning signals and effective physical barriers installed at the railways operated by the PNR;

WHEREAS, unless investigated, there will be more Filipinos who are at risk of losing life or limbs at the railways;

WHEREAS, a probe by the Philippine Senate should be held to look into the sufficiency of PNR warning signals and physical barriers installed at the railways operated by the PNR and to inquire into the need to craft a Railway Safety Act to ensure the safe operation not only of PNR trains but of all trains operating in the country;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, THAT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S, BE DIRECTED TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SUFFICIENCY OF WARNING SIGNALS AND EFFECTIVE PHYSICAL BARRIERS INSTALLED AT THE RAILWAYS OPERATED BY THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS (PNR) AND THE NEED TO CRAFT A RAILWAY SAFETY ACT TO ENSURE THE SAFE OPERATION NOT ONLY OF PNR TRAINS BUT OF ALL TRAINS OPERATING IN THE COUNTRY.

Adopted,


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III