

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 175

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS
(PNR) TRAIN TRAGEDY IN PADRE BURGOS, QUEZON

WHEREAS, twelve (12) people were confirmed dead and at least one hundred fifty-eight (158) were reported to have been injured in the train crash, which occurred at about 2:30 a.m. last 12 November 2004 in Padre Burgos, Quezon;

WHEREAS, the train was traveling overnight from Legaspi City to Manila;

WHEREAS, the train crash was one of the worst crashes in the history of the Philippine National Railways (PNR);

WHEREAS, the survivors of the fallen coaches were dragged at least four hundred (400) meters more after they flew off the tracks;

WHEREAS, Noli Tolentino, a PNR maintenance engineer, said the accident was a case of over speeding because the train was running at a speed of seventy (70) kph;

WHEREAS, PNR maintenance engineers said they have imposed a twenty (20) kph limit in the accident cite primarily because of the descending sharp curves in the area;

WHEREAS, Edwin Tabogan, the train conductor, confirmed that the train was over speeding when the accident happened;

WHEREAS, Elma Aldea, a civil defense administrator, said the train should have slowed down due to missing bolts and wooden planks in the rails tracks, which were stolen and sold as scrap metal;

WHEREAS, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has already ordered the suspension of the entire south rail line of the PNR to allow investigations on the cause of the train tragedy in Quezon;

WHEREAS, President Arroyo has also ordered the immediate consideration of the PNR modernization project;

WHEREAS, the government has ordered the National Disaster Coordinating Council to assist the families of the victims;

WHEREAS, President Arroyo said it is necessary to review the status of the transportation system in the country in order to ensure that other transportation tragedies are prevented.

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Services and Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the Philippine National Railway (PNR) train tragedy in Padre Burgos, Quezon.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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