

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 513

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SERIES OF AIRCRAFT CRASHES INVOLVING CHARTERED FLIGHTS, NON-SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS AND PILOT TRAINING SCHOOLS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING THE CURRENT AVIATION PROTOCOLS AND PRACTICES AND ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL SAFETY STANDARDS

WHEREAS, Republic Act 9497, otherwise known as the "*Civil Aviation Authority Act of 2008*", declares that the State shall "provide safe and efficient air transport and regulatory services in the Philippines by providing for the creation of a civil aviation authority with jurisdiction over the restructuring of the civil aviation system, the promotion, development and regulation of the technical, operational, safety, and aviation security functions under the civil aviation authority";

WHEREAS, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) is committed to enhancing aviation safety. It is mandated to use the 2022-2035 National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP) as guiding light to "continually reduce fatalities, and the risk of fatalities, through the development and implementation of a national aviation safety strategy";

WHEREAS, on 24 January 2023, a single-engine, six-seater Cessna 206 aircraft with tail number RP-C1174 took off from Cauayan Airport in Isabela at 2:15 pm bound for the Maconacon Aerodrome with 6 passengers on board. The last radio transmission

of the pilot that was received by the Cauayan Airport Control Tower was at 4 minutes after takeoff to report the location of the aircraft at the vicinity of the Naguilian Bridge about 15 air kilometers from Cauayan Airport. The aircraft was expected to land at its destination 30 minutes after departure, but it never did. After eliminating other possible reasons for its failure to land at the Maconacon Aerodrome, the plane was assumed to have crashed. These details have been reported by the Isabela Provincial Incident Monitoring Team;

WHEREAS, on 18 February 2023, a Cessna 340 with tail number RP-C2080 last made contact at 6:46 am, while the aircraft was abeam Camalig Bypass Road. According to the CAAP report, the aircraft, bound for Manila, departed Bicol International Airport at 6:43 am and was carrying four persons on board, a pilot, a crew, and two passengers;

WHEREAS, both retrieval operations for the recent crashes involving the Cessna planes are still ongoing. The Isabela Incident Management Team shared that a total of 452 ground search personnel and 13 tracker dogs are already designated for the operations that already lasted more than 30 days;

WHEREAS, the operations to recover the remains of pilot Capt. Rufino James Crisostomo Jr., aircraft mechanic Joel Martin, and Australian engineers Simon Chipperfield and Karthi Santhanam were delayed several times due to the bad weather and dangerous terrain at the summit of Mayon Volcano;

WHEREAS, the recent investigation on Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) glitch on 1 January 2023 has uncovered a number of perennial problems in Philippine civil aviation industry;

WHEREAS, in order to ensure the safety of pilots, student-pilot, crew members, and passengers, and prevent casualties and damage to properties on the ground, there is a need to determine the state of the aviation industry in the country particularly on

aircraft and fleet maintenance, operating standards, training systems of aviation schools, and why non-compliant aircraft dubbed as "flying coffins", are allowed to take flight;

WHEREAS, a safe aviation system is a strong contributor to economic development. The air transport industry has a substantial economic impact, both through its own activities and as an enabler of other industries;

WHEREAS, it is within the oversight function of the Senate to look into this matter. The status of our civil aviation impacts not only the safety and convenience of passengers but also the tourism industry and ultimately, the whole economy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the series of aircraft crashes involving chartered flights, non-scheduled commercial flights and pilot training schools, with the end view of strengthening the current aviation protocols and practices and ensuring compliance with international safety standards.

Adopted,


RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.