


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

5 MAY 17 P4:47

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 261

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY MEASURES BY THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE (PAF) IN THE USE OF ITS AIRCRAFT FACILITIES

WHEREAS, on 28 April 2005, Raymundo Punongbayan, four other scientists and staff of Phivolcs, two Air Force pilots, and two soldiers were aboard a Huey UH-1H helicopter when it crashed and burst into flames around 9:45 a.m. near Mt. Mamal, Barangay Ligaya, Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, leading to the death of all passengers;

WHEREAS, investigators of the aircraft accident have yet to ascertain the cause of the Huey helicopter crash;

WHEREAS, the crashed Huey was among the eight helicopters received by the PAF from the United States in January 2002 under its Excess Defense Article Program; the PAF presently has about 50 Huey helicopters, which are hand-me-downs from the United States;

WHEREAS, at least six accidents involving Huey helicopters have occurred in the last 10 years; the deadliest accident happened in March 1996, when a Huey helicopter crashed near Catbalogan, Northern Samar, resulting to the death of all its passengers;

WHEREAS, PAF Chief Lt. Gen. Jose L. Reyes has ordered the grounding of all Huey helicopters after the incident, except those engaged in vital missions;

WHEREAS, the government has the duty to prioritize the maintenance of its air assets through the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) modernization program in order to prevent such tragedy from happening again;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the adoption and implementation of safety measures by the PAF in the use of its aircraft facilities.

Approved,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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