

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )**

7 NOV 12 PM 5:55

**P.S. Res. No. 200**

RECEIVED BY: J. Enrile

**Introduced by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile**

**A RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE EXPLOSION THAT CLAIMED THE LIVES OF 11 VICTIMS AND CAUSED DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION TO PROPERTY IN GLORIETTA 2 IN AYALA CENTER, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING IMMEDIATE REMEDIAL MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD PUBLIC SAFETY MORE EFFECTIVELY**

**WHEREAS**, on October 19, 2007, an explosion took place in Glorietta 2 Mall in Ayala Center which left 11 victims dead, more than a hundred wounded, and millions worth of property damaged and destroyed;

**WHEREAS**, the explosion was originally perceived to be caused by a bomb allegedly planted by a terrorist group which have been known to cause alarm and terror usually in populous places such as markets, wharfs, public transport stations, among others;

**WHEREAS**, initial reports of arson and police investigators yielded that they had found signs of a “gas explosion” caused by “an accumulation of methane” in the basement of Glorietta 2 when one of the pumps in the sewage system malfunctioned. It was also indicated that heat from the motors, ventilator fans, and automatic switches in the area could have ignited the methane inside the enclosed basement and this could have triggered the eruption of a 3,500-liter diesel tank which was also located in the basement;

**WHEREAS**, experts from the United States of America, Australia and Israel, particularly on metallurgical forensic, petro-chemicals, security and terrorism, also helped local investigators to find out the real cause of the explosion;

**WHEREAS**, initial findings by foreign experts likewise did not find any traces of RDX, a component used in high explosives including C4 which is used by the military, in the samples of debris and rubble taken from the site;

**WHEREAS**, amid these initial reports, Ayala Land, Inc., the owner of the mall, has issued statements refuting the “gas blast theory” and rejected suggestions that the incident was accidental. Furthermore, they maintained that “procedures were in place and were followed well” prior to the explosion. Instead, they have chosen to hire their own set of foreign investigators;



**WHEREAS**, only recently, the Philippine National Police (PNP) has already publicly confirmed its gas explosion theory and indicated that the mall owners and Makati City engineers could be held liable for “negligence;”

**WHEREAS**, on October 27, 2007, the Australian Forensic Police concluded their independent investigation and indicated that the blast was a “fuel air mixture explosion” emanating from the Glorietta 2 basement. The report, however, did not “determine the exact gas that acted as fuel for the blast but listed possible gases, including sewer gas and sludge fumes that could consist of sulfur dioxide, methane, ammonia and diesel fumes”;

**WHEREAS**, on November 6, 2007, no less than US Ambassador Kristie Kenney affirmed the Australian findings, saying that American experts have also concluded that the explosion in Glorietta was a “tragic accident” and not a “bomb attack”;

**WHEREAS**, presently, the public can witness the proliferation of malls and commercial establishments in the metropolis, particularly in already crowded and populous areas such as Makati, Pasig, Quezon Cities, among others;

**WHEREAS**, while it is indeed the responsibility of mall owners and the local government units where such malls are located to ensure that the building and establishments therein meet safety standards, it is also necessary to resort to other precautionary measures to prevent similar incidents from taking place again in the future, for the safety of the public, and to prevent unnecessary loss of lives;

**WHEREAS**, legislation may be needed to strengthen whatever precautionary measures that may be formulated, as a law can be a guide, a deterrent, and a tool in determining the liability, and the appropriate penalties for the acts or omissions which may have led to this and other similar tragedies;

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, for the appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the explosion that claimed the lives of 11 victims and caused damage and destruction to property in Glorietta 2 in Ayala Center, with the end in view of recommending immediate remedial measures to safeguard public safety more effectively.

Adopted

  
JUAN PONCE ENRILE  
Senator