


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

Special
Order of the Secretary

'12 JAN 26 P1:46

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 689

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMINGLY INCREASING ACCIDENTS INVOLVING
TRUCKS, BUSES, AND LARGE LOAD VEHICLES DUE TO FAULTY ELECTRICAL AND
MECHANICAL COMPONENTS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9, states that "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all;"

WHEREAS, an article featured in the motoring section of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* last 18 January 2012 said that there are increasingly alarming accidents involving wayward trucks and buses because of faulty brakes, on top of other factors;

WHEREAS, the article cited recent incidents involving these so-called "rolling coffins":

- In 12 January 2012, a ten-wheeler dump truck carrying gravel lost its brakes as it moved down the hills of Antipolo, Rizal, killing five people and seriously injuring thirteen people after hitting a row of motorists, pedestrians, parked vehicles, and, finally, a police precinct;
- In 1999, a fuse cargo truck lost control traversing a crowded road in Las Piñas and collided with oncoming vehicles, killing one woman in the process;
- One early morning in 1995, a dump truck lost its brakes and slammed into a shanty killing all five members of the family that lived there;

WHEREAS, the article mentioned that automotive experts in the country are urging the government for stricter random checks on heavy vehicles used for industrial and commercial purposes;

WHEREAS, local automotive experts interviewed in the article gave the following suggestions on what the government can do to curb these accidents:

- Mount a stricter implementation of already existing regulations, such as the Motor Vehicle Inspection System in issuing licenses to properly trained and truly qualified drivers of trucks, buses, and large load vehicles, and the registrations for these vehicles that deem them road-worthy;
- Train concerned government officials in forensic crash investigation and automotive technologies for them to properly examine the causes of accidents caused by malfunctioning trucks, buses, and other large load vehicles;

- Investigate how construction and construction-related firms enforce their policies with regard to their delivery quotas that force their truck drivers to both overload and speed to their delivery destinations because of unreasonable quotas;
- Probe into and monitor the maintenance history of the vehicles in the employ of bus companies and construction/construction-related firms;
- Require trucks, buses, and large load vehicles to apply for approvals and certifications from accredited agencies once each vehicle has completed maintenance and repair;
- Install more stringent regulations on the conversion of right-hand drive vehicles and upgrading trucks, buses, and other large load vehicles to ensure their electrical and mechanical integrity;
- Enforce random checks of trucks, buses, and large load vehicles for faulty brakes, suspension, etc.;
- Deputize competent, capable, and accredited non-government organizations to aid the Land Transportation Office and augment their efforts in carrying out their mandate to ensure the safety of vehicles plying the country's roads;

WHEREAS, it should also be suggested that penalties for violators of existing laws of the land pertaining to these accidents should be increased, especially those penalizing the operators and owners of these "rolling coffins";

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the alarmingly increasing accidents involving trucks, buses, and large load vehicles due to faulty electrical and mechanical components.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
 MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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