

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

Senate
Office of the Secretary

12 FEB 23 13:20

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 724

RECEIVED BY: *CS*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO BAN ALCOHOL DURING THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING IN ORDER TO PREVENT ALCOHOL-RELATED CRIMES AND ACCIDENTS, AND THE REPORTED NEED TO ARM AGENTS OF THE METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR SELF-DEFENSE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 mandates: "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 18 February 2012 issue reported that about 30 "drag racers" ganged up on a traffic enforcer who tried to break up their dangerous, often alcohol-fueled sport in Pasay City on the wee hours of Saturday;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Raul Reoteres suffered head wounds and bruises after taking a beating from the racers and their peers, whom the official described to be young males apparently belonging to "rich families";

WHEREAS, the mauling reportedly took place at around 2 a.m. on Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, a known favorite of drag racers since it usually has little or zero vehicular traffic in the early morning hours; the MMDA imposes a 60-kph limit on the highway;

WHEREAS, Chair of the Metro Manila Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Francis Tolentino reportedly ordered to warn of a tougher crackdown and arm the agency's traffic aides in order to protect themselves;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the MMDA chair said he will ask the Pasay City government to ban the sale of alcoholic drinks at the gasoline stations along the highway since the MMDA had received reports that drivers and other participants usually have a drink first at the gasoline stations before racing;

WHEREAS, Tolentino also allegedly said that the agency had also received word that some wealthy businessmen go to the area to place bets;

WHEREAS, in light of the dangers arising from drag racing, the legislature should craft measures that will prevent the proliferation of the sport; hence, precautionary measures should be enacted by the legislature;

WHEREAS, several local government units have enacted ordinances banning the sale of alcohol from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. in order to prevent alcohol-related crimes and accidents; the State could therefore adopt these ordinances and enact them into a law applicable nationwide;

WHEREAS, the State should also study the possibility of arming agents of the MMDA, if not with guns, then at least with police night sticks or tasers as a means of defending themselves; MMDA agents should also be provided training in self-defense and should, at night, be designated to "hot spots" in pairs;

WHEREAS, the legislature should also study whether or not stiffer penalties should be imposed to those found guilty of drag racing and those betting on such races;

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 reported need to ban alcohol during the wee hours of the morning in order to prevent alcohol-related crimes and accidents, and the reported need to arm agents of the Metro Manila Development Authority for self-defense.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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