


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

NOV 10 04:53

S E N A T E

P.S. Resolution No. 1452

RECEIVED


Introduced by Sen. Richard J. Gordon

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS TO INVESTIGATE THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (DOTC), THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (MARINA) AND OTHER SIMILAR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHO ARE MANDATED BY LAW TO REGULATE AND ENFORCE LAWS RELATING TO MARITIME OPERATIONS AND SAFETY FOR POSSIBLE MALFEASANCE, MISFEASANCE AND NONFEASANCE OF THEIR DUTIES RESULTING IN THE WANTON DISREGARD OF SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS BY FERRY OPERATORS THEREBY CAUSING AVOIDABLE SEA TRAGEDIES AND LOSS OF LIVES

WHEREAS, the Philippines holds the unflattering distinction for having the world's worst peacetime maritime safety record;

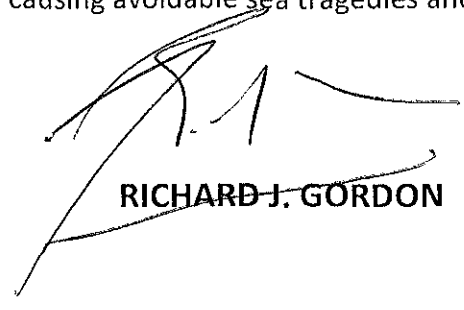
WHEREAS, a review of Philippine performance on maritime safety reveals a long history of allegations of gross negligence and collusion between ferry operators and government agencies resulting in maritime disasters and loss of lives. Since the record setting MV Dona Paz tragedy, more deadly maritime disasters have happened. This includes the sinking, of the MB Commando 6 in May of 2009 where the very young Franco Eugenio lost his life and the very recent sinking of the Super Ferry 9 and the MV Hera;

WHEREAS, it would seem that our weak criminal justice system has only served to compound the problem and emboldened large and small ferry operators like the MB Commando 6 to blatantly disregard safety rules knowing they can easily evade criminal prosecution;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and other government agencies mandated by law to regulate and enforce laws relating to maritime safety seem helpless from preventing such major disasters arising from alleged collusion and gross negligence between these ferry operators and government regulators;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations to investigate the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and other similar government agencies mandated to regulate and enforce laws relating to maritime operations and safety for possible malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance of their duties resulting in the wanton disregard of safety rules and regulations by ferry operators thereby causing avoidable sea tragedies and loss of lives.

Adopted,


RICHARD J. GORDON