


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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1512

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PREVENTION OF  
COLLISIONS BETWEEN AIRCRAFTS AND BIRDS WHICH POSE SAFETY  
HAZARDS FOR THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY AND ITS PATRONS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5, provides: "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 Star* in its 26 November 2009 issue reported that locally-based airlines Cebu Pacific and Philippine Airlines are concerned with the increasing number of incidences of collision between aircrafts and birds, which pose safety hazards for the airline industry and its patrons;

WHEREAS, these collisions, commonly known as bird strikes, were said to cause flight delays and cancellations since the aircraft has to undergo strict safety checks before being allowed back into service;

WHEREAS, airline representatives said that the bird strikes incidents have alarmingly increased from 14 in 2008 to 54 as of October 2009, and added that there were 19 such incidents in October alone;

WHEREAS, the report said that airports in Manila, Iloilo, and Puerto Princesa had the most number of bird strike incidents so far this year, and incidents in airports in Bacolod, Cebu, Clark, Kalibo, and Ozamiz have also been reported to affect the airline networks;

WHEREAS, some of these incidents reportedly resulted in major damage to aircraft;

WHEREAS, representatives of the airline industry are urging the concerned government agencies to address this issue;

WHEREAS, the incidence of bird strikes has been a growing concern among airlines all over the world, as it is considered a common threat to flight safety that has caused damage to aircraft and even in rare instances injury to airline personnel and passengers;

WHEREAS, sources say that most bird strike accidents occur when birds, individually or in flocks, hit the windscreen or flies into engines, and it was reported that the incidents have caused an estimated annual damage of \$400 million within the United States of America alone and up to \$1.2 billion to commercial aircraft worldwide;

WHEREAS, both airline companies and state agencies have been devising countermeasures to prevent damages and flight delays due to bird strikes such as bird management and strategic flight paths;

WHEREAS, concerned government agencies should consider these countermeasures in drawing up plans to prevent the incidence of bird strikes, and Congress should empower these agencies to ensure that these countermeasures will be put into place in support for the local airline industry.

WHEREFORE, be it resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the prevention of collisions between aircrafts and birds which pose safety hazards for the airline industry and its patrons.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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