

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'13 AUG -1 P4 29

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 157

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S CALL FOR GOVERNMENTS TO STRENGTHEN PROGRAMS TO CURB TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND REDUCE ROAD DEATHS IN ACCORDANCE TO THE AIMS OF THE UNITED NATION'S DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY

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, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched last 11 May 2010 the United Nation's Decade of Action for Road Safety, with the aim of stabilizing and then reducing road deaths by 2020;

WHEREAS, in connection to this, World Health Organization (WHO) released a statement asking governments to strengthen programs aimed at curbing traffic accidents as response to the escalating number of people injured on roads in developing countries;

WHEREAS, the WHO pointed out that road traffic injuries are a leading cause of death and disability in the Western Pacific Region where several Southeast Asian nations belong to;

WHEREAS, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific Dr. Shin Young-soo reportedly said that traffic accidents are predictable and can often be prevented, and in order to do that, commitment and informed decision-making by governments, industry, non-governmental organizations, and international agencies are necessary;

WHEREAS, Shin stressed that while many countries lack the appropriate legislation in avoiding road accidents, some countries that do have that kind of legislation lack enforcement;

WHEREAS, statistics from the WHO said road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death and disability among people aged 15 to 44, and estimates from the health agency say that about 300,000 people die on the road each year in the Western Pacific Region;

WHEREAS, according to the WHO, about 95 percent of deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries in the Western Pacific Region, and the vulnerable road users are pedestrians, motorcyclists, and cyclists; this group accounts for majority of deaths in the low- and middle-income countries,

WHEREAS, the WHO warned that road traffic injuries are expected to increase further in the coming decade;

WHEREAS, WHO reportedly stated that many families of individuals who suffered from accidents endure poverty as they have to pay for prolonged medical care, while others are driven into poverty because of the loss of a breadwinner;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Congress should favorably respond to this call from the WHO, and initiate the formulation of appropriate legislation to curb traffic accidents and reduce road deaths;

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 World Health Organization's call for governments to strengthen programs to curb traffic accidents and reduce road deaths in accordance to the aims of the United Nation's Decade of Action for Road Safety.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
aw

/ptmt