

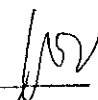
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 194

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Teofisto "TG" Guingona III

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON) 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;

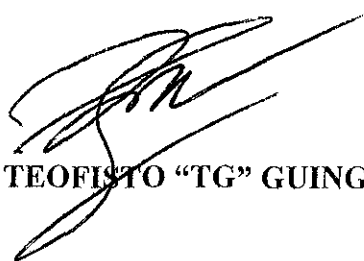
WHEREAS, a review of Philippine performance on maritime safety reveals a long history allegations of gross negligence and collusion between ferry operators and government agencies resulting in maritime disasters and loss of lives. Since the record setting M/V Doña Paz tragedy, the more deadly maritime disasters have happened. This includes the recent sinking of the M/V St. Thomas Aquinas in Cebu on 16 August 2013 where 71 people were reportedly dead and 49 people were still missing;

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 M/V St. Thomas Aquinas 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 (Blue Ribbon) 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.

Adopted,


TEOFISTO "TG" GUINGONA III