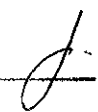




Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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

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**SENATE**

P. S. R. NO. 197

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**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

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RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MARITIME COLLISION INVOLVING THE M/V ST. THOMAS AQUINAS AND THE M/V SULPICIO EXPRESS SIETE AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAW AND POLICIES BY MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY AND PHILIPPINE COAST GUARDS WITH THE END VIEW OF RECOMMENDING MEASURES TO ASSURE THE MARITIME SAFETY TO PASSENGERS AND SHIPS IN MARITIME TRAVEL

WHEREAS, a collision between the M/V St. Thomas Aquinas, owned by 2Go Group, Inc., and the M/V Sulpicio Express Siete, owned by PSACC (formerly Sulpicio Lines), happened on the night of August 16, 2013 in the vicinity of Lawis Ledge, Talisay, Cebu.

WHEREAS, the M/V St. Thomas Aquinas is a 42-year old ro-ro passenger vessel which had 754 passengers and 116 crew or a total of 870 people and 104 equivalent 20 footer container units (TEUS) on-board while the M/V Sulpicio Express Siete is a 33-year old cargo vessel and carrying 38 crew at the time of the collision.

WHEREAS, the M/V St. Thomas Aquinas sunk and according to data provided by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) 788 persons have been rescued, 75 persons have been confirmed dead in the collision while 45 persons were still missing.

WHEREAS, based on the preliminary investigation, it appeared that one of the vessels violated the rules on which lanes to use when travelling in and out of the narrow passage of the port.

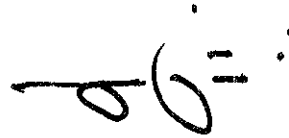
WHEREAS, in conjunction with the rescue operation of passengers, an oil spill resulted from the sunken M/V St. Thomas Aquinas shall be addressed and handled.

WHEREAS, there is a need to review, revise, improve and determine the rules and regulations for granting of Certificate of Public Convenience for the operation of domestic and overseas water carriers as well as registration of vessels and issuance of certificates, licenses or documents necessary or incident over the same.

WHEREAS, Congress needs to review and strictly monitor the implementation of the rules and policies concerning maritime industry under the jurisdiction of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the Philippine Coast Guard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate, to direct the proper committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to review and amend the law, rules and policies for maritime industry especially those involving regulation of licenses to public vessels and seaworthiness to strengthened the protection for passengers and vessels.

ADOPTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Ejercito', with a horizontal line extending to the left.

**JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**