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Senate
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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 550

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

**A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
SAFETY OF THE STRUCTURE AND DESIGN OF THE SOUTH
METRO MANILA SKYWAY PROJECT ("SKYWAY") GIVEN THE
NUMEROUS INCIDENTS OF VEHICLES FALLING FROM THE
SKYWAY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING MEASURES
TO IMPROVE SAFETY ON ROADS, ESPECIALLY OF
ELEVATED ROAD SYSTEMS, IN THE PHILIPPINES**

WHEREAS, *Article II, Section 5* of the *1987 Philippine Constitution* provides that 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, a shuttle bus, which had finished taking Skyway tellers to their booths, fell off the Skyway's southbound lane around 5:17 a. m. of March 2, 2014¹, injuring the shuttle bus driver and a passenger of the sports utility vehicle (SUV) which collided with the shuttle bus;

WHEREAS, that shuttle bus which fell off the Skyway on March 2, 2014 was not the first vehicle to fall off the Skyway;

WHEREAS, the following accidents in the Skyway have also been reported, to wit:

- on October 11, 2006, an SUV fell from the Skyway and landed on a jeepney on the southbound side of the South

¹ GMA News. Retrieved from:
<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/350774/news/metromanila/mini-bus-falls-off-skyway>.
Retrieved on March 3, 2014.

Luzon Expressway after being sideswiped by another SUV. That crash killed one and injured three people²;

- on January 25, 2007, an armored van fell off the elevated Skyway system, crushing four (4) vehicles, knocking down an electrical post on the South Superhighway, and killing one person³;
- on July 26, 2011, GMA News reported that a Dimple Star Transport Corporation bus on its way to Alabang, Muntinlupa, fell from the Skyway onto the west service road in Marcelo Green Village in Parañaque City, killing three and injuring four people⁴;
- on December 16, 2013, GMA News reported that eighteen people were killed⁵ and sixteen were hurt after a Don Mariano Transit bus fell off the southbound part of the Skyway before dawn of that day⁶;

WHEREAS, after accidents like these, it is important to find out whether the Skyway operator is properly enforcing the traffic rules, speed limit, and other regulations in the Skyway, however, given this many number of accidents of motor vehicles falling off the Skyway, there is a need to ask the more difficult question of whether the design and structure of the Skyway itself is “safe”, by international standards, in the first place;

WHEREAS, elevated road systems are projected to become common in Metro Manila and other urbanized cities in our country in the very near future as one of the solutions to our cities’ worsening traffic situation;

WHEREAS, the Executive Department has recently given the green light for the construction of Stage 3 of the Metro Manila

² GMA News. Retrieved from: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/340486/news/nation/infographic-other-fatal-crashes-on-skyway-since-2006>. Retrieved on January 6, 2014.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ GMA News. Retrieved from: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/227430/news/nation/3-killed-4-hurt-as-bus-falls-from-skyway>. Retrieved on January 6, 2014.

⁵ Number of fatalities was raised to nineteen (19) as the driver of the ill-fated bus died on December 24, 2013.

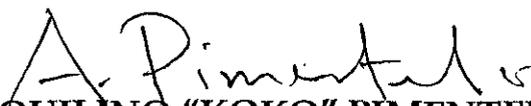
⁶ GMA News. Retrieved from: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/339967/news/metromanila/bus-falls-off-skyway-near-bicutan-18-dead>. Retrieved on January 6, 2014.

Skyway - the Php26.5 billion expressway that shall connect the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) and South Luzon Expressway (SLEX)⁷.

WHEREAS, given the fact that we already have an existing Skyway and plans to construct more Skyways, there is therefore a pressing need to ensure that elevated road systems in the Philippines are "safe" by international standards;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE BE DIRECTED TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SAFETY OF THE STRUCTURE AND DESIGN OF THE SOUTH METRO MANILA SKYWAY PROJECT ("SKYWAY") GIVEN THE NUMEROUS INCIDENTS OF VEHICLES FALLING FROM THE SKYWAY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING MEASURES TO IMPROVE SAFETY ON ROADS, ESPECIALLY OF ELEVATED ROAD SYSTEMS, IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Adopted,


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

⁷ GMA News. Retrieved from <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/328450/economy/business/palace-approves-p26-5-b-skyway-connecting-nlex-and-slex>. Retrieved on January 6, 2014.