

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



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 683

RECEIVED BY: *fi*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT MANY PHILIPPINE TOWNS ARE STILL
WITHOUT FIRE TRUCKS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 states: "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 Daily Inquirer online* on May 22, 2014 reported that according to Interior Secretary Mar Roxas, the government plans to acquire hundreds of police cars and fire trucks as one-third of the country's municipalities still did not have fire trucks and those that had to make do with 20-year-old models;

WHEREAS, speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Mindanao Barangay StraTreegic Forest Project (BSFP) he attended with Environment Secretary Ramon Paje, Roxas reportedly said that of the 1,490 municipalities in the Philippines, 558 had no fire engines yet;

WHEREAS, he also alleged that of the 932 towns that had fire trucks, 440 of them had models older than 20 years;

WHEREAS, Roxas also reportedly said that to remedy the situation, the government planned to distribute new fire engines this year, but because the government could not afford to give one to each town at once, many towns would have to wait until next year;

WHEREAS, Roxas also reportedly added that he had tasked the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) to help the national government identify which towns should be given priority in the distribution of the new fire engines; three hundred and eighty fire trucks will be distributed this year and the other towns which will not get one this year will get theirs next year;

WHEREAS, according to BFP director Lindy Lauzon for Northern Mindanao, 19 fire trucks were up for distribution this year and that towns in the hinterlands of Lanao del Norte were among those given priority;


WHEREAS, Roxas claimed that the government will also be buying about 2,000 police vehicles this year so every town will get one; however, cities were not included in the planned purchase because they could well afford to procure their own squad cars;

WHEREAS, Roxas also reportedly said that in the next few weeks, notice to bid for the vehicles will be opened and they hope to distribute the vehicles this year; and that even areas led by non-Aquino allies will get police vehicles;

WHEREAS, community safety should be a priority of the State; thus, it is imperative that all towns should have the proper equipment, gear, and vehicles to ensure the protection of the community from natural and man-made hazards, such as fire;

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 report that many Philippine towns are still without fire trucks.

Adopted,

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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