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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1082

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE FEASIBILITY OF USING MALL PARKING AREAS AS
EVACUATION CENTERS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides: "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, Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the "Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010", Section 2, provides that:

"It shall be the policy of the State to:

(a) Uphold the people's constitutional rights to life and property by addressing the root causes of vulnerabilities to disasters, strengthening the country's institutional capacity for disaster risk reduction and management and building the resilience of local communities to disasters including climate change impacts;

(1) Recognize and strengthen the capacities of LGUs and communities in mitigating and preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the impact of disasters";

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin*, in a news article posted on 10 December 2014, reported that the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is proposing the use of mall parking buildings and spaces as evacuation centers;

WHEREAS, MMDA Chairman Francis Tolentino was quoted in the news as saying that that when typhoon Ruby (international codename: Hagupit) brought heavy rains to Metro Manila on 8 December 2014, some malls allowed motorists to park overnight for free, and commuters who did not have a place to stay were allowed to spend the night in the parking lots of SM malls;

WHEREAS, Tolentino further claimed that compared to classrooms as evacuation sites, mall parking buildings are flood-free, spacious, secured, and structurally-sound;

WHEREAS, according to Tolentino, the availability of parking areas as evacuation centers during disasters is a good development and he hopes to develop this arrangement with the mall operators;

WHEREAS, Congress must look into the feasibility of adopting the proposed MMDA policy for national implementation through legislation;

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 feasibility of using mall parking areas as evacuation centers.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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