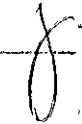


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

15 SEP 14 P3:08

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1582

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE 2014 COMMISSION ON AUDIT REPORT THAT THE
PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD FAILED TO ACT ON 226 DEFECTIVE LIGHT STATIONS,
THEREBY JEOPARDIZING THE SAFETY OF VESSELS
NAVIGATING IN PHILIPPINE WATERS

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides: “The maintenance of peace
2 and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are
3 essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy”;

4 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9993, also known as the Coast Guard Law of 2009, states:

5 Section 3. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) shall have the following
6 powers and functions:

7(f) To coordinate, develop, establish, maintain and operate aids to
8 navigation, vessel traffic system, maritime communications and search and rescue
9 facilities within the maritime jurisdiction of the Philippines....

10 WHEREAS, state auditors claimed that the PCG failed to act on the defective light
11 stations, thereby jeopardizing the safety of vessels navigating in Philippine waters;

12 WHEREAS, the 2014 Commission On Audit (COA) report showed that out of 563 light
13 stations of the PCG, only 337 are operational as of 31 December 2014 due to the alleged failure
14 of management to immediately repair defective parts;

15 WHEREAS, with 226 lighthouses non-operational, the ratio of visual aids to navigation
16 in the Philippines is allegedly at 2.9 light stations per 100 nautical miles of coastline, way below
17 the standard of four light stations per 100 nautical miles set forth by the International Association
18 of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA);

19 WHEREAS, the COA claimed that regardless of the advancement in technology and the
20 use of satellite-guided positioning devices, mariners still rely on these light stations as visual
21 confirmations of their electronic readings;

1 WHEREAS, lighthouses are particularly important to fishermen, whose boats are not
2 equipped with technology for navigation;

3 WHEREAS, the PCG management should prioritize the immediate repair of defective
4 light stations and regular monitoring of their condition;

5 WHEREAS, the PCG should also increase the number of light stations to reach IALA
6 standards and ensure the safety of all vessels navigating in Philippine waters;

7 WHEREAS, Congress, in consultation with the Department of Transportation and
8 Communications and other concerned agencies, should determine the need to pass laws or amend
9 existing laws in order to boost maritime safety;

10 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
11 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the 2014
12 Commission on Audit report that the Philippine Coast Guard failed to act on the 226 defective
13 light stations, thus jeopardizing the safety of vessels navigating in Philippine waters.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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/lfd