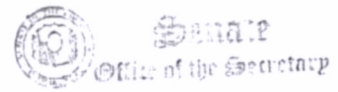


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'18 APR -4 P 1:35

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 703

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Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COMPLIANCE OF ACCOMMODATION ESTABLISHMENTS SUCH AS HOTELS, RESORTS, APARTMENT HOTELS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS IN PROVIDING ON-SITE FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, AND TO REVIEW THE APPLICABLE GUIDELINES AND RULES AND REGULATIONS THEREOF, IN ORDER TO REASSURE TOURISTS AND GUESTS OF THEIR SAFETY AND PROTECTION

1 WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares it
2 a State policy to "...protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill
3 health consciousness among them";

4 WHEREAS, Section 15, Article XIII of the Constitution further mandates the
5 State to "... adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development
6 which shall endeavour to make essential goods, health and other social services
7 available to all the people at affordable cost";

8 WHEREAS, first aid and emergency medical services are inseparable
9 components of the people's right to health, as they ensure that care is immediately
10 provided for those who urgently need it;

11 WHEREAS, various rules and guidelines have been enacted by different
12 government agencies on the provision of first aid and/or emergency services in
13 accommodation establishments such as hotels, resorts, apartment hotels and
14 recreational areas;

15 WHEREAS, Department of Tourism (DOT) Memorandum Circular No. 2012-02,
16 or the "*Rules and Regulations to Govern the Accreditation of Accommodation*

1 *Establishments- Hotels, Resorts and Apartment Hotels*” encourages owners and
2 operators of resorts to establish on-site first aid facilities with trained staff;

3 WHEREAS, Philippine Coast Guard Memorandum Circular No. 03-14 or the
4 *"Guidelines for Safety and Security Requirements of Coastal and Beach Resorts, and*
5 *Vessels with Pool Facilities Including Qualifications and Requirements of Lifeguards*
6 *for the Promotion of Safety of Life at Sea*” also requires coastal and beach resorts to
7 provide physicians, first-aiders, and necessary life-saving medicines and equipment
8 within the premises;

9 WHEREAS, the implementation of these guidelines must be reviewed, as there
10 have been reports that some accommodation establishments are not compliant;

11 WHEREAS, recently, news reporter Karen Davila reported that her son
12 suffered “crisscrossing abrasions,” cuts, gashes, and bruising” while taking surfing
13 lessons in Siargao;

14 WHEREAS, Ms. Davila bewailed the fact that there were no nurses or first aid
15 providers in the resort, and that the nearest hospital had no anti-tetanus shots or
16 medicines needed;

17 WHEREAS, although Ms. Davila’s case is publicly known, there are doubtless
18 other families, children, and individuals who have silently suffered the same
19 experience due to non-compliant accommodation establishments;

20 WHEREAS, the recent issues surrounding the non-compliance of
21 accommodation establishments and even local government units in Boracay island
22 raise the possibility that coastal resort owners may also be fully compliant with the
23 DOT and PCG’s guidelines on first aid and emergency medical services, thus
24 unnecessarily endangering the lives of tourists and families;

25 WHEREAS, it is important to assure tourists and families that our
26 accommodation establishments are safe, as our beaches are major contributors to
27 our economy and are crucial in generating local employment opportunities;

28 WHEREAS, in a report entitled “State of Oceans and Coasts: Philippines”,
29 officials of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Department of

1 Environment and Resources (DENR) noted that coastal and marine tourism
2 generated 2,992 million dollars and created 550,000 jobs in 2016¹

3 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE
4 SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, to direct the Senate Committee on Tourism to
5 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the compliance of accommodation
6 establishments such as hotels, resorts, apartment hotels and recreational areas in
7 providing on-site first aid and emergency medical services, and to review the
8 applicable guidelines and rules and regulations thereof, in order to reassure tourists
9 and guests of their safety and protection.

Adopted,


GRACE POE

¹ Baling, N. and Recide, R. "State of Oceans and Coasts: Philippines". Retrieved from
http://www.pemsea.org/sites/default/files/1h%20Philippines_SOC_Blue%20Economy%20Forum%202017.pdf