

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

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 245

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE NUMEROUS  
INCIDENTS OF DESTRUCTIVE FIRES IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article II, Section 5, states that: "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, during recent years, successive fire incidents have dominated media reports, which narrate harrowing stories of how raging fires took away lives and razed to the ground millions of pesos' worth of properties;

WHEREAS, our country has suffered numerous fire catastrophes in the past such as the Ozone disco fire tragedy of 1996 and the Manor Hotel fire disaster of 2001;

WHEREAS, another fire incident, which gutted a building in Binondo, Manila on Christmas eve of 2002, resulted in the death of two children, and a fire in Quezon City on 29 October 2004 burned alive 11 individuals;

WHEREAS, a report from Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) officer-in-charge Rogelio Asignado to the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) showed that there were 1,251 incidents of destructive fires throughout the country within the period of March 1-31, 2004 alone, resulting to the deaths of 28 persons, injuries to 35 others, and an estimated damage to properties amounting to ₱383,922,336;

WHEREAS, the BFP report revealed that the major causes of fire occurrences are faulty electrical wiring, open flames/cooking and leaking, and exploding liquefied petroleum gas;

WHEREAS, in a news article in the *Manila Bulletin* dated 28 October 2004, fire officers asked the Senate to include the BFP in its inquiry;


WHEREAS, the same news article alleged that the fire officers furnished journalists with documents to substantiate their claim that many BFP officials were in the habit of approving fire safety permits in exchange for bribes or selling fire extinguishers to building owners so that the latter's buildings will not be subjected to inspection;

WHEREAS, the frequent occurrences of conflagrations demonstrate the need to intensify fire prevention programs such as fire awareness campaigns and inspection and monitoring operations of establishments and residences for possible violations of fire-safety laws;

WHEREAS, repeated fire incidents call for the formulation of measures that will ensure public safety through prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires.

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the numerous incidents of destructive fires in the country.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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