

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

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 310

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE FORMULATION AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARDS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR
LAND TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC UTILITIES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND
PROTECTION OF PASSENGERS

WHEREAS, last 11 May 2005, a Byron bus with body number 198 was heading for Dagupan City when it developed mechanical trouble and hit a roadside boulder along the Marcos Highway in Barangay Badiwan, Tuba, Benguet;

WHEREAS, the bus was carrying 44 people; due to the crash, 29 people died and 15 passengers were injured;

WHEREAS, according to GMA Network's Flash Report, which quoted results of a police investigation on the accident, failed brakes and reckless driving were the reasons of the bus crash; the driver was allegedly driving at high speed along Marcos highway and lost control of the bus;

WHEREAS, on 30 October 1999, five persons were also killed while 37 others were wounded when another Byron bus lost its brakes and hit the iron railings along the stretch of Marcos highway in Barangay Taloy Sur;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No 202, Section K, mandates the Land Transportation and Franchising Board (LTFRB) to formulate, implement, and enforce rules and regulations requiring operators of any public land transportation service to equip, install, and provide in their utilities and in their stations such devices, equipment facilities, and operating procedures and techniques as may promote the safety, protection, comfort, and convenience of persons and property in their charges,

WHEREAS, the LTFRB has ordered the suspension of the buses of Byron Bus Lines for a month; it has also ordered the Byron management to present its buses for government inspection and for roadworthiness test to determine their condition; it ruled that the machines, breaks, and maintenance of the buses have to be inspected before the suspension can be lifted;

WHEREAS, in total disregard of the LTFRB suspension order, the Byron Bus Lines management allowed its buses to ply their usual routes;

WHEREAS, based on the accident reports compiled by the LTFRB, since the start of the year, 14 accidents have occurred involving public utility buses of various transport companies, the causes of these crashes range from reckless driving to mechanical errors,

WHEREAS, despite the implementation by the LTFRB of the Public Transport Modernization program for buses, wherein the agency will phase out buses that are

already 15 years old or more, the LTFRB has not succeeded in eliminating all 15 year-old buses, as a result, the risk of the occurrence of road accidents continues to increase;

WHEREAS, the LTFRB should ensure that proper inspection of public utility buses is implemented before transport companies are granted a franchise, it should also conduct routine check-ups of the buses to avoid accidents from happening again;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Services to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the formulation and implementation of standards and operating procedures for land transportation public utilities to ensure the safety and protection of passengers.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm