

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

6 JAN 23 2008

SENATE  
P.S.R. No. 417 RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ON THE INCIDENCE FIRES IN DORMITORIES AND BOARDING HOUSES  
NEAR METRO MANILA UNIVERSITIES

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Section 5, states that "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. 6541, also known as the National Building Code, Section 1.01.02 states that, "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to safeguard life, health, property, and public welfare...; and to this end, make it the purpose of this Code to provide for all buildings and structures, a framework of minimum standards and requirements...";

WHEREAS, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, 9 January 2005, page A15 reported that a fire razed a two-storey apartment building in Manila's Sampaloc district last 8 January 2005, claiming eight lives and injuring four;

WHEREAS, some of the survivors had to escape through the windows, since allegedly, there were no fire exits in the building, which was made from light materials and concrete;

WHEREAS, firemen reported that suitcases and other belongings were blocking the exits of the building, making it difficult for the residents to escape;

WHEREAS, since January 2001, four boarding house fire incidents in Metro Manila were reported;

WHEREAS, findings by the United Fire Fighters of the Philippines in 2001, and previous hearings of the Senate Committee on Urban Planning, Housing, and Resettlement revealed that most dormitories and boarding houses near Metro Manila universities are in violation of the National Building Code and the Fire Code and are considered to be "virtual death traps";

WHEREAS, the recurrence of these incidents involving the destruction of life and property require and demand appropriate legislation, as well as thorough implementation of existing regulations on housing safety against fire and other calamities;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved that the proper Senate committee shall conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the incidence of fires in dormitories and boarding houses near Metro Manila Universities.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
*[Signature]*