

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

8 JUL 21 P2:59

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 514

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED MISHANDLING OF THE P3.5-
BILLION FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT IN THE CAMANAVA AREA

WHEREAS, tons of garbage are reportedly clogging a main canal leading to a pumping station in Navotas City, hampering flood control operations in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela (Camanava);

WHEREAS, Engineer Gilvis Indanan of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) allegedly said that the Spine Creek on Lapu-Lapu Avenue in Dagat-Dagatan, which serves as the catch basin for water tributaries at the boundaries of Caloocan, Malabon, and Navotas could not properly serve its purpose because it is full of plastic wastes;

WHEREAS, Engr. Indanan also allegedly said that every time they operate the pumping station, almost daily or when water level is high, they have to haul at least 2 or 3 truckloads of garbage; He said that when it rains and flood occurs, pieces of garbage are trapped at the two-screened pumping station, slowing down the operation of the flood control machine;

WHEREAS, the equipment, powered by diesel or electricity, could allegedly pump around 13 cubic meters of water per second, enough to control floodwaters within the area. Engr. Indanan said that during the recent typhoon "Frank", the pumping station consumed around 250 liters of diesel fuel just to pump out floodwater to the sea;

WHEREAS, Francisco Cruz, a machine shop mechanic near the Spine pumping station, allegedly said that the flood control machine did not function the day that typhoon "Frank" swept through the metropolis. Floodwaters reportedly inundated 19 out of 21 barangays in Malabon City and large parts of Caloocan, Navotas, and Valenzuela;

WHEREAS, Malabon City chief engineer Ruth Senaida blamed the DPWH for the flood in Malabon, saying the agency allegedly abandoned the construction of dikes designed to prevent seawater from entering low-lying barangays in the city. However, DPWH engineer Macariola Bartolo, director of the multi-billion-peso foreign funded flood control project that is expected to solve the perennial flood problem in the Camanava area, earlier reported that the flood control project is 99.17 percent complete;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that the project was supposed to be finished in June last year, but its completion was extended for another year. Only last week, the DPWH again asked for another year's extension to complete the project. DPWH officials in charge of completing the project allegedly blamed the current oil crisis or the delay in finishing the project;

WHEREAS, Engr. Bartolo reportedly said that there have been extraordinary increases in the costs of materials and supplies such as equipment, cement and steel. She

also allegedly said that the original project cost of P3.5 billion could still go up, which is one reason why the project was extended for another year. The original cost was allegedly based on 2000 price levels;

WHEREAS, the project manager had allegedly blamed Malabon officials for not doing their part in the “shared responsibility”. She deplored local officials for neglecting the local drainage system and allowing relocated informal settlers to go back to the project site.

WHEREAS, she also allegedly cited the interference of the University of the Philippines (UP) geologic experts Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo and Dr. Fernando Siringan, who questioned the project’s alleged “flawed design”. The UP professors’ study resulted in a Congress inquiry that forced DPWH to stop the construction for over a year. She pointed out another problem – the right of way issue, noting that the DPWH has allegedly spent over P500 million to buy property;

WHEREAS, some members of the Malabon flood advisory council said that they are ready to take legal action against those responsible for the project’s mishandling;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged mishandling of the P3.5-billion flood control project in the Camanava area.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/fldp