

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

8 NOV 13 11:04

SENATE

RECEIVED BY

P. S. Res. No. 753

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SERVICES, TOURISM AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION AND INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE SINKING OF M/B DON DEXTER OFF THE COAST OF MASBATE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DRAFTING A LEGISLATION THAT WILL IMPOSE STRICTER RULES IN GRANTING / ISSUING PERMITS TO SMALL MARINE VESSELS THAT FERRY LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS TO REDUCE SEA ACCIDENTS

Whereas, the Philippines added yet another to its growing list of sea tragedies when a small outrigger boat, M/B Don Dexter sank off Dimasalang town in Masbate province last November 4;

Whereas, the sinking recovered 100 survivors, and left at least 42 passengers dead and 9 missing;

Whereas, M/B Don Dexter had an authorized capacity of only 100 passengers;

Whereas, the use of outriggers, pump boats, and motor launches is common in the Philippines to ferry passengers between islands;

Whereas, traveling by sea is the cheaper alternative for most travelers as third class passage on a domestic liner costs less than a quarter of the cheapest airfare;

Whereas, our record of maritime disasters not only reflect the poor state of our shipping vessels, but also stunt the growth of our tourism industry as international visitors are mixed in with the locals when accessing far-flung provinces and island resorts;

Whereas, the immediate passage of a maritime legislation is imperative, addressing in particular passenger safety, and accountability of ship-owners and operators in the case of accidents;

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committees on Public Services, Tourism and other appropriate committees, to conduct a thorough investigation and inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the sinking of M/B Don Dexter off the coast of Masbate, with the end in view of drafting a legislation that will impose stricter rules in granting / issuing permits to small marine vessels that ferry local and international passengers to reduce sea accidents.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR
Senator