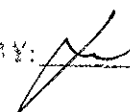


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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 494

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO IMPOSE STRICTER PENALTIES FOR
ROAD ACCIDENTS AND ENFORCE HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF
DRIVER'S LICENSE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides 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, based on the 16 May 2011 article in the *Manila Bulletin*, a total of 332 people died in 3,929 vehicular accidents that occurred around the country in the first three months of the year;

WHEREAS, road accidents are common in the country, especially in the provinces; in 2009 alone, a total of 20,000 accidents were reported while a total of 18,810 were recorded in 2010;

WHEREAS, according to Superintendent Edwin Butacan, spokesman of the Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNPHPG), driver's error in the sense of overtaking, bad turning, and bad overtaking turned out to be the main reason of the car accidents, accounting for more than 2,000 of the 3,929 road accidents from January to March this year;

WHEREAS, Superintendent Butacan further alleged that a total of 1,590 people were reported injured as of March this year, admitting that the casualty figures have already changed with the series of accidents that occurred since April and the latest was the taxi-bus collision on Commonwealth Avenue that resulted in the death of veteran journalist Lourdes "Chit" Estella Simbulan;

WHEREAS, based on the records of PNPHPG, private cars have the most number of vehicles involved in the accidents, followed by motorcycles; buses ranked third with 424 cases since January from March;

WHEREAS, there is a need for increased visibility of the traffic enforcers and mobile patrol cars to enforce traffic laws that are applicable to certain areas to serve as deterrent for driving violations since motorists, particularly taxi, bus, and jeepney drivers, have the tendency to obey traffic laws once they see patrol cars and traffic enforcers;

WHEREAS, it is also imperative for the government to enforce stricter rules and qualifications in issuing drivers license, particularly those who are driving public utility vehicles, such that those who were involved in driving altercations should not be allowed to renew their licenses unless they present proof that they underwent training by accredited training centers of the Land Transportation Office;

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 need to impose stricter penalties for road accidents and enforce higher qualifications for issuance of driver's license.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/dpm