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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 983

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE(S)
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON
THE QUALITY OF OUR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO ENSURE PUBLIC
SAFETY

1 **WHEREAS**, on January 9, 2019 in Pakil, Laguna, a portion of a
2 bridge under construction reportedly collapsed due to the alleged lack of
3 scaffolding and support system installed by the contractor according to the
4 Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
5

6 **WHEREAS**, on November 24, 2018 in Quezon City, the rear half of
7 a 22-wheeler truck was reported to have sunk into a drainage tunnel after a
8 portion of a newly paved road collapsed;
9

10 **WHEREAS**, on November 18, 2018, the vehicle driven by Senator
11 Grace Poe’s father-in-law reportedly fell from the third level of a parking
12 building at a shopping mall in San Juan City, where four years ago, or on
13 August 15, 2014, a car was also reported to have fallen from the third
14 level;
15

16 **WHEREAS**, on May 22, 2018 in Imus City, Cavite, a portion of the
17 700-meter flyover project of the DPWH Calabarzon, which was on its final
18 stages of construction, reportedly collapsed;
19

20 **WHEREAS**, on April 26, 2018 in Zamboanga City, government
21 officials inspecting a government housing complex for victims of the
22 Zamboanga Siege reportedly plunged into the water when the wooden
23 footbridge bearing them collapsed;
24

1 **WHEREAS**, these unfortunate events highlight the need to inquire
2 into the quality of our public and private infrastructure projects not only
3 because public funds are spent in the case of government infrastructure
4 projects, but more so because unsafe infrastructure projects compromise
5 public safety and welfare;
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the Duterte administration under its “Build, Build,
8 Build” program intends to roll out 75 flagship projects worth about USD36
9 billion in investments, with 32 of these projects consisting of roads and
10 bridges;
11

12 **WHEREAS**, based on the Construction Statistics from Approved
13 Building Permits released by the Philippine Statistics Authority, there were
14 152,012 construction projects for the year 2017;
15

16 **WHEREAS**, if these roads, bridges, and buildings will turn out to be
17 unsafe, then not only will there be waste of money on these infrastructure
18 projects, but worse, we put our countrymen at risk by giving them roads,
19 bridges, and buildings that are substandard and may easily collapse,
20 thereby causing injury or, God forbid, death;
21

22 **WHEREAS**, Congress must exact accountability for all defective
23 infrastructure projects, especially for the construction of roads, bridges,
24 and buildings commonly used by all of us as we go about our daily lives;
25 and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, under the general welfare clause of the Constitution, it
28 is a matter of obligation for Congress to ensure that infrastructure projects,
29 especially roads, bridges, and buildings, meet minimum safety standards,
30 through appropriate legislation;
31
32

33 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved,
34 that the Senate of the Philippines direct its appropriate committee(s) to
35 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the quality of our public and
36 private infrastructure projects to ensure public safety, with the end view of
37 enacting remedial measures to ensure that our infrastructure projects,
38 especially the roads, bridges, and buildings, meet minimum safety
39 standards and are safe for our people to use.

Adopted,


AQUILINO “KOKO” PIMENTEL III