

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 252



Introduced by Representative Alfred Delos Santos

RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE MARITIME SAFETY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **WHEREAS**, the Philippines has one of the largest coastlines in the world not
2 to mention the multiple inter-island seas in between provinces.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, there was a maritime tragedy that happened in the strait
5 between Iloilo City and Guimaras has left about thirty people dead and some
6 missing.

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8 **WHEREAS**, this tragedy is one of the many instances that Filipinos have met
9 danger while travelling the seas between provinces.

10
11 **WHEREAS**, this tragedy joins a long list of maritime disasters including the
12 MV Princess of the Stars, where 700 people died, the Princess of the Orient where
13 150 people died, and the Dona Paz where 4,000 people had died and is considered
14 to be the worst maritime disaster in peacetime.

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16 **WHEREAS**, the law places the heavy responsibility of extraordinary diligence
17 upon vessels and common carriers that ferry passengers from one point to another.

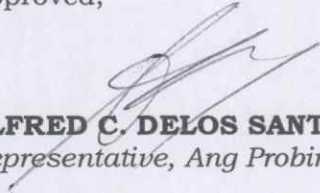
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19 **WHEREAS**, despite being an archipelagic country, maritime safety is not one
20 of the utmost priorities in the national agenda – given that our first responders, the
21 Philippine Coastguard, is currently incapable of fully traversing and patrolling our
22 vast waters.

23
24 **WHEREAS**, this lack of focus on bettering and improving maritime safety
25 has led to an all-too familiar pattern of incidents involving sinking vessels and
26 ships – especially during the rainy season.

27
28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives,
29 through the appropriate committee, conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation with the
30 participation of all the relevant agencies in order to assess the current state of
31 maritime safety and to craft legal reforms necessary to facilitate steady
32 improvement of such.

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Approved,



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS

Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party List