



Eighteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1944



Introduced by  
**REPRESENTATIVE LOREN LEGARDA**

### RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE C-130 HERCULES PLANE CRASH IN SULU AS WELL AS INTO THE STATUS OF THE AIR ASSETS OF THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE (PAF) WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THE PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY AND APPROPRIATIONS MEASURES THAT WILL ENSURE THE OVERALL INTEGRITY, SAFETY AND RELIABILITY OF THE MILITARY ASSETS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**WHEREAS**, a Lockheed Martin C-130 Hercules transport aircraft carrying troops crashed in Patikul, Sulu on 4 July 2021;

**WHEREAS**, according to Armed Forces of the Philippines Spokesperson (AFP) Maj. Gen. Edgard Arevalo, the C-130 aircraft was in “tip-top shape”, still had 11,000 flying hours remaining before its next scheduled maintenance and that the aircraft followed all specified landing protocols<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, at least ninety-six (96) passengers were listed in the passenger manifesto, including three (3) pilots and five (5) air crew members<sup>2</sup>. As of this writing, the death toll has risen to 52, with 49 fatalities from the AFP and 3 were civilians. The remaining 47 passengers of the C-130 were injured<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, based on news reports, the C-130 Hercules crash is the 4th accident involving military aircrafts this year alone. On January 16, seven were killed in a UH-1H Huey helicopter crash in Impasugong, Bukidnon; a pilot was killed when an MD520MG helicopter crashed in Getafe, Bohol on April 27; and, six people were killed when an S-70i Black Hawk Utility helicopter crashed on the evening of June 23 in Tarlac;

**WHEREAS**, as a reserve officer of the Philippine Air Force with the rank of full Colonel and as the Group Commander of the 52nd Air Force Group Reserve (AFGR) which covers the units in the provinces of the Western Visayas Region, this Representation has always supported the call for the full implementation of the AFP Modernization Act, knowing very well the commitment and dedication of the military officials and personnel to uphold their duties in serving and protecting the country;

1. <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/05/2110338/afp-c-130-sulu-crash-not-brand-new-tip-top-shape>
2. <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/7/5/AFP-Sulu-plane-crash-death-toll.html>
3. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1146062>

**WHEREAS**, this Representation, as then Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, sponsored the budget increases for the AFP Modernization in the General Annual Appropriations Acts;

**WHEREAS**, Congress should also look into the implementation of Republic Act No. 6963, which provides assistance and benefits to families of deceased or permanently incapacitated soldiers, to ensure that special financial assistance and other allowed benefits are given for the next six months after the personnel's death or incapacity. The surviving spouse, or an employable child if the spouse is employed, should be given priority in employment in a government or agency or office where his/her qualifications are fitted;

**WHEREAS**, additionally, as provided by law, all surviving children of the deceased or permanently incapacitated military or police personnel are entitled to scholarships up to college in a nonexclusive institution. Equal assistance should be extended to the civilians and their families who have died and were injured at the crash site. These benefits should be accorded to the surviving dependents and families in recognition of the military personnel's sacrifices, hard work and commitment in the service for the country and fellow Filipinos;

**WHEREAS**, Congress must not only ensure funding for the procurement of modern military assets, but also for provisions for other equally important aspects of military capability modernization such as proper and periodic maintenance of assets, in this case, of the Philippine Air Force air assets, and, adequate training of personnel who will handle its operation and utilization. In addition, airports should also be fully equipped with appropriate and complete air field navigational facilities that will guide incoming and outbound aircrafts at any time of the day;

**WHEREAS**, the safety of our soldiers, and any Filipino for that matter, is primordial. Given the recent tragedy, it is only fitting that the House of Representatives should conduct a thorough investigation of the incident in order to ensure that such circumstances will be avoided in the future and, instead, ensure the safety and security of our military personnel and assets;

**NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS IT HEREBY RESOLVES**, that the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives are directed to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the C-130 Hercules plane crash in Sulu as well as into the status of the air assets of the Philippine Air Force, with the end in view of ensuring the proper implementation of policy and appropriations measures that will ensure the overall integrity, safety and reliability of the military assets of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

*Adopted,*

  
**LOREN LEGARDA**