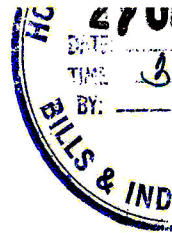


HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Third Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1276



Introduced by: Hon. Ferdinand R. Marcos II

**A RESOLUTION SEEKING A FULL INVESTIGATION
ON THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR THE LEYTE RITES**

WHEREAS, the recent holding of the 50th anniversary of the Leyte Landing rites was undertaken by the government of the Republic of Philippines reportedly upon pressure by another country;

WHEREAS, government appropriated no less than P75 million for the establishment of a Tent City, complete with all amenities for an estimated 16,000 visitors -- foreign dignitaries, US war veterans and government officials -- but only about 2,000 came;

WHEREAS, government spent millions in the holding of the rites proper, with money spent for the reenactment of Gen MacArthur's landing requiring the hiring of American and local actors, a director, production staff and other technical personnel;

WHEREAS, government also spent funds for the fuel of Navy ships, aircraft and other equipment, and the blank ammunition used for naval gunfire and infantry assault during the reenactment and disbursed huge amounts for accommodations and food of Filipino soldiers who participated in the rites;

WHEREAS, government also spent a large sum for the chartering of at least three ships with a total capacity of 5,000 passengers-- the MV Princess of Negros, at a reported P1 million a day, the Superferry at a similar rate, and the Golden Odyssey, a foreign vessel which was rented at a reported P5 million a day-- ostensibly to serve the needs of foreign visitors, government officials, at the cost of no less than P35 million;

WHEREAS, these vessels were never filled up, with only an estimated 600 passengers using them, to the detriment of Filipino war veterans who joined the celebrations but were transported in Navy vessels or who had to use buses to go to Leyte;

WHEREAS, government also spent no less than P500,000 for performers during the week-long affair, including 80 school children from Tanauan, Batangas who were housed, fed and trained for the event, even as a lesser amount would have sufficed to provide the same entertainment at less cost had people from Leyte been utilized;

WHEREAS, Department of Tourism officials told mediapersons that 40 airconditioned buses were chartered for their use but none was provided;

WHEREAS, preparations for the event were chaotic, forcing Filipino war veterans left out of the celebrations to say in exasperation that they will never return for the Leyte celebrations again;

WHEREAS, PCGG caretakers of the Sto. Niño Shrine reportedly collected P200 per visitor as entrance fee, contrary to existing policy to open up all tourist attractions to visitors;

WHEREAS, the organizers reportedly spent thousands of pesos for reprinting media kits upon discovering that the picture of President Ramos and his signature in some of the documents were missing, thus doubling costs for information dissemination;

WHEREAS, the celebrations proved to be an expensive event for government, but betrayed the dismal treatment of our very own war heroes, confirming our worst fears that the event would only be an ostentatious show that is meaningless to thousands of Filipino war veterans;

BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the House of Representatives undertake an investigation in aid of legislation into the funding of the Leyte Landing rites to determine whether public funds had been misused, and whether the resources of government benefited only foreign visitors and not our own war heroes, and prevent a recurrence of any other extravagant affair bankrolled by government.

ADOPTED,


HON. FERDINAND R. MARCOS II