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Senate  
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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 425

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY OF THE SENATE TO THE ISLAND NATION OF JAPAN IN THE WAKE OF THE DEVASTATING 11 MARCH 2011 EARTHQUAKE THAT TRIGGERED A DESTRUCTIVE TSUNAMI

*WHEREAS*, on 11 March 2011 at 05:46 UTC or 14:46 Japan time, an 8.9 to 9.1 magnitude offshore earthquake hit the east coast of Miyagi Prefecture's capital city of Sendai in Honshu, just 231 miles north east off of Tokyo in Japan;

*WHEREAS*, spawned by the country's biggest tremor in the last 1,200 years and one of the five largest earthquakes in the world since modern record-keeping began, massive tsunami waves of up to 10 meters or 33 feet high hauled boats, cars, houses and even buildings as far as 6 miles inland causing colossal destruction to Japan including damage to roads and railways as well as fires in many areas, and a crumpled dam washing away 1,800 homes;

*WHEREAS*, this major catastrophe left around 4.4 million households in north eastern Japan without electricity and more than a million households without water, furthermore many electrical generators were taken down, and at least two nuclear reactors were damaged, which prompted evacuations of the affected areas and the establishment of a state of emergency;

*WHEREAS*, latest news reports indicate that thousands of people have died and thousands more are missing in six different prefectures;

*WHEREAS*, the megathrust earthquake took place in the Japan Trench, some 130 kilometers or 81 miles east of Sendai, Honshu, where the Pacific Plate is subducting or is moving beneath the Okhotsk Plate and the epicentre was determined at 373 kilometers or 232 miles from Tokyo;

*WHEREAS*, the devastating seismic activity unleashed powerful pulses in the Pacific, hitting Japan first as walls of water rushed inland, dragging houses and bashing cars in its path and killing hundreds of people, and triggered tsunami warning in more than 50 countries and territories including the Pacific basin area of the Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan, New Zealand and Australia, and the entire Pacific coast of North and South America from Alaska to Chile, Russia and Central American countries including Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica;

*WHEREAS*, relations between Japan and the Philippines date back to at least the late Muromachi period of Japanese history in the 1500s, as Japanese merchants and traders had settled in Luzon even before the Spanish colonization and until to the present time, Japan remains a major source of development funds, trade, investment, and tourism;

*WHEREAS*, the havoc wreaked by this disaster is simply unimaginable and those devastated by the same deserve our sympathy and support;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved to express the profound sympathy of the Senate to the island nation of Japan in the wake of the devastating 11 March 2011 earthquake that triggered a destructive tsunami.

*Adopted,*

MARCELO "LITO" M. LAPID  
Senator

