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S E N A T E

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RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

**URGING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MEASURES EMPLOYED BY THE NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS
WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DIRECTING CONCERNED GOVERNMENT
INSTRUMENTALITIES TO CONSIDER EMERGENCY PLANS IN DEALING WITH
THE OCCURRENCE OF THREATENING DISASTERS AND TO ALLOT
SUBSTANTIAL BUDGET TO FACILITATE THE SAME**

Whereas, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Red Crescent Societies, as both are actively involved in disaster management as well as in aiding assistance to disaster- stricken areas, have reported that nearly a quarter of a million people were killed due to natural and man-made disaster occurrences in 2008;

Whereas, the worldwide death toll in 2008 at 242,662 was the second biggest annual toll of the past decade related to casualties in disasters, where 9 out of ten of these disasters were weather- related;

Whereas, the phenomena is truly alarming considering that John Holmes, United Nations (UN) Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs claims that the effects of climate change are already being felt through the occurrence of what UN coined as “megadisasters” and cannot be anymore ignored simply as some future threat;

Whereas, recently, the UN raised the concern that “megadisasters” will continuously risk the life and property of the people especially in some of the world’s biggest cities unless the people and also the government heed the threat of climate change¹;

Whereas, the “megadisasters” are not peculiar to the Philippines, such that in the past years, the country has suffered unforgiving effects brought by strong typhoons and flash floods which caused marine vessel accidents, among others, as well as landslides, ruthless natural activities such as violent volcano eruptions for instance, and earthquakes;

Whereas, the ICRC cautioned that only gradual progress has been elaborated by communities in dealing with disaster preparedness, despite the warnings on the occurrence of more extreme weather events;

Whereas, the UN and ICRC have been pushing global awareness campaign all through countries in the hope that more communities will seriously take part in reducing the peril to the lives and save the community from the vicarious effects of drastic weather incidents, and at the least avoid contributing actions which trigger disaster occurrences;

Whereas, the government should play an immense role in responding to the challenges posed by climate change. It shall be in the forefront of disaster management and ensure the preparedness of the citizens as the threat of “megadisasters” can occur anytime, amidst the continuous peril of global warming;

Whereas, the partnership of UN and ICRC urge the governments to allot substantial funding to ensure preparation of communities for natural disasters, as well as to be drawn as assistance funds when such disasters occur in the country; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and other appropriate Senate committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the measures employed by the National Government in disaster management and preparedness programs with the end in view of directing concerned government instrumentalities to consider emergency plans in dealing with the occurrence of threatening disasters and to allot substantial budget to facilitate the same.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR