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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 1275

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Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE HEROIC SERVICES OF
THE RESCUE UNITS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES,
THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD,
THE SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM,
THE OLONGAPO CITY FIRE AND RESCUE TEAM,
AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS ZAMBALES CHAPTER
IN THE WAKE OF THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY TYPHOON "KIKO"

WHEREAS, Typhoon "Kiko" (international code name: "Morakot") battered the country from 7 to 8 August 2009, wreaked extensive damage in Northern and Central Luzon, particularly in the provinces of Benguet, Tarlac, Zambales, and Pampanga, and claimed the lives of 22 persons, 14 of whom perished in the landslide near Baguio City, and 3 of whom were tourists trapped with 3 Filipino tour guides in the Mount Pinatubo trekking area; incessant heavy rains caused the collapse of the San Juan dike and lahar and mudflow split the municipality of Botolan into two and displaced more than 4,000 families in that area alone; to date, damage to infrastructure and agriculture has amounted to over PhP225 million;

WHEREAS, on 7 August 2009, responding to calls of this representation to Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Administrator Armand Arreza and Angelito Layug, Head of the Olongapo City Disaster Management Office, the SBMA Emergency Response Team, the Olongapo City Fire and Rescue Team, as well as the Philippine National Red Cross Zambales Chapter, coordinated their efforts to ensure that the victims were brought to safety and provided with relief goods;

WHEREAS, on the same day, the Philippine Air Force (PAF) dispatched two Huey II helicopters in response to calls of this representation to Brigadier General Lino Horacio Lapinid, Colonel Roy O. Deveraturda, and Colonel Nicanor M. Vivar, and hundreds of persons marooned on rooftops and trees in inundated areas in at least eight *barangays* were evacuated and provided with relief goods through the timely and valiant efforts of pilots from the 505th Search and Rescue Group, namely, Major Antonio Z. Francisco, Jr., Major Robert R. Bitag, Jr., Major George F. Padua, and Captain Dennis Rommel R. Hindang;

WHEREAS, amidst strong winds and rain, a search mission was also conducted in the Mount Pinatubo trekking area at the request of this representation, and as such, six foreign nationals were rescued by Captain Aris Oliver Beltrano and Captain Salvador Dee of the 207th Tactical Helicopter Squadron of the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing through the use of two PAF UH-1H helicopters;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Navy's six Disaster and Rescue Response Teams equipped with an aircraft, rubber boats and trucks evacuated over 500 persons and distributed medicine and relief goods, and by virtue of expeditious and efficient search, rescue and relief operations by the Philippine Army, residents of flooded areas were immediately transferred to evacuation centers;

WHEREAS, under the command of Admiral Wilfredo D. Tamayo and Rear Admiral Ramon C. Liwag, the Philippine Coast Guard deployed aircrafts, trucks, rubber boats and diver teams and evacuated survivors to safety and afforded them adequate disaster response;

WHEREAS, the number of injuries, casualties and deaths would have certainly increased with the rise of floodwater and mudflow without the tireless, round-the-clock service of these search and rescue groups;

WHEREAS, the courage, humanitarian spirit and selfless responsiveness of the search and rescue teams from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine Coast Guard, and other search and rescue groups significantly alleviated the plight of the thousands of people affected by Typhoon "Kiko." Now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate of the Philippines, to recognize and commend the heroic and selfless service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine Coast Guard, the SBMA Emergency Response Team, the Olongapo Fire and Rescue Team, and the Philippine National Red Cross Zambales Chapter in the wake of the devastation caused by Typhoon "Kiko" throughout the country.

Adopted,



RICHARD J. GORDON