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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 6

RECEIVED BY: *jin*

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VIABILITY OF THE APPROVED OVER-ALL MASTER PLAN ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING A COMPREHENSIVE AND COST-EFFICIENT SOLUTION TO THE FLOODING PROBLEM AND WOULD IMMEDIATELY BRING RELIEF TO THE PUBLIC

WHEREAS, the Constitution provides that the State should promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all;

WHEREAS, Executive Order 297 or the Administrative Code of 1987 provides that the planning, design, construction and maintenance of infrastructure facilities, especially national highways, flood control and water resources development systems, and other public works in accordance with national development objectives, shall be the responsibility of such an engineering and construction arm, which would be the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);

WHEREAS, in the month of June 2013 alone, specifically during the 13th, 17th and the 21st days of said month, Metropolitan Manila was practically under water as flash floods from heavy downpour inundated major roadways, clogged waterways, rendered intersections impassable and virtually paralyzed public transport with thousands of commuters stranded from floodwaters;

WHEREAS, the flash floods of June have resulted to cancellation of classes, offices and shutting down of other workplaces, which has impacted negatively on productivity;

WHEREAS, a University of Illinois study conducted by Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo showed that overpumping of groundwater has caused Metro Manila and other highly populated areas to sink 20 mm to as much as 90 mm a year particularly in Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan and CAMANAVA (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela) area;

WHEREAS, a separate local study bared that 41.02% of the 273 esteros, creeks, and tributaries in the National Capital Region (NCR) are now virtually "ghosts" or missing as many of these are actually buried under road networks or with establishments built on top of them decades ago;

WHEREAS, authorities like the DPWH and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) have singled out the clogged waterways and blocked drainages as the main culprits of the crippling flash floods;

WHEREAS, the presence of garbage-dumping informal settlers living near these waterways and drainages has aggravated the flooding problem;

WHEREAS, Malacanang has said that it was determined to relocate some 20,000 informal settlers living near waterways, and to file appropriate charges against those who will hinder this project;

WHEREAS, of the 100,000 informal settlers in Metro Manila, 60,000 live near waterways and of this number, 20,000 are located near the government's priority waterways whose mere presence put at risk the well-being of 2.2 million Metro Manila residents;

WHEREAS, these eight priority waterways identified by the DPWH are San Juan River, Pasig River, Tullahan River, Maricaban Creek, Manggahan Floodway, Estero Tripa de Gallina, Estero de Maypajo, and Estero de Sunog Apog;

WHEREAS, the government is mulling on-site and off-site relocation of the informal settlers with an offer of cash incentive;

WHEREAS, the Aquino administration approved last year a P351-billion long-term flood management master plan to address the flooding problem in the NCR;

WHEREAS, more than nine months after the approval of the plan that took 22 years to make, floodwaters continue to inundate Metropolitan Manila;

WHEREAS, the master plan on flood management – the most expensive and ambitious at P351 billion -- is considered the most urgent that an initial amount of P5 billion has been approved to jumpstart it;

WHEREAS, the anti-flood master plan to be spearheaded by the DPWH that would cover the infrastructure needs of 11 flood-prone areas in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, would be completed by 2035;

WHEREAS, the initial seed money of P5 billion will bankroll the most urgent needs in terms of spending for the improvement of floodways and drainage systems and river capacities in Metro Manila, Central Luzon (Region III), and CALABARZON (Region IV-A);

WHEREAS, the MMDA said that unless the DPWH completes its 70 ongoing drainage projects in Metro Manila such as a flood interceptor in the Espana-Blumentritt area, the metropolis should brace for more floods;

WHEREAS, the Aquino government is also taking steps to minimize the amount of water that flows down from the Sierra Madre to Metro Manila;

WHEREAS; the government also plans to construct a dam in the mountain range to further lessen the flow of water downstream to residential areas in the NCR;

WHEREAS, an inquiry is being sought to look into the viability of the overall anti-flood master plan for NCR with the DPWH and MMDA at the forefront and ensure the cost-effective spending of the resources allocated for such ambitious endeavor;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Works to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the viability of the approved over-all master plan on flood management in the National Capital Region, with the end in view of ensuring a comprehensive and cost-efficient solution to the flooding problem and would immediately bring relief to the public.

Adopted,



RALPH G. RECTO