

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)




Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 17

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE TO LOOK INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITY IN DISASTERS AND CALAMITIES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO INSTITUTIONALIZE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE FORCES, PROVIDE A MAGNA CARTA FOR RESCUE WORKERS AND ENHANCE THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10121

WHEREAS, it is a policy of the State to uphold every Filipino's right to life and property by addressing the causes of vulnerabilities to disasters and calamities, both natural and man-made;

WHEREAS, undeniably, the Philippines is known for various natural disasters that strike every year, where lives are taken and properties are damaged;

WHEREAS, however, due to lack of defined policies and valuable resources, the National Government and Local Government Units are deprived of the required search and rescue equipment and expertise to respond to such calamities and disasters;

WHEREAS, for instance, increasing fire incidents have stretched the response capabilities of fire-rescue units, causing delayed responses to alarms; estimated damages wrought by fires have increased to 19% nationwide comparing April 2010 with April 2011 - the month with the highest incidence of fires;

WHEREAS, recently, typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng left almost a thousand deaths with 84 still missing, all due to non-existent search and rescue response, and which together damaged 212,918 houses - again stretching the capacities of government to the limit;

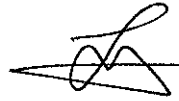
WHEREAS, more recently, with the intent of sending help to Japan and New Zealand, and at the same time rescue our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) distressed in said countries, an urban search and rescue task force had been sent only to find a hard time acquiring a permit to be admitted and rescue response, and which together damaged 212,918 houses - again stretching the capacities of government to the limit;

WHEREAS, more recently, with the intent of sending help to Japan and New Zealand, and at the same time rescue our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) distressed in said countries, an urban search and rescue task force had been sent only to find a hard time acquiring a permit to be admitted and deployed since the said task force was not accredited by the United Nations International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (UN-INSARAG);

WHEREAS, it is but high time that Congress looks into the government's search and rescue capability and define the policy for it if only to enhance and strengthen disaster preparedness capability in terms of human, technical and equipment capacity and resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the appropriate Committee/s of the Senate look into the government's search and rescue capability in disasters and calamities with the end in view of enacting legislative measures to institutionalize urban search and rescue forces, provide a magna carta for rescue workers and enhance the provisions of Republic Act No. 10121

Adopted,



FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO