

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



14 MAR 27 P2:46

SENATE  
P.S.R. No. 588

RECEIVED BY. *ji*

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED DISTRIBUTION OF WORM-INFESTED, SPOILED, AND ROTTEN FOOD AID TO SURVIVORS TYPHOON YOLANDA IN TACLOBAN CITY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article II, Section 27 provides: "the State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, according to a Manila Standard news article published on 20 March 2014, there were reports of the distribution of rotten food to refugees of Typhoon Yolanda in Tacloban City, following two other incidents in the province in which food aid that had gone bad was reported buried;

WHEREAS, according to Barangay Chairman Panchito Cortez, it was reported that the residents were converging in the barangay hall waiting for food packs, but when they opened the boxes, worms as big as grains of rice crawled out of tetra packs and cup noodles, biscuits were expired, and even the bottled mineral water looked murky;

WHEREAS, the barangay official reportedly said the goods were allegedly received by Councilwoman Maria Anna Docena, and included 50 boxes of instant coffee, 5 sacks of assorted biscuits, cup noodles, instant viand in tetra packs and five boxes of mineral water;

WHEREAS, municipal social welfare and development officer Rosalina Balderas allegedly admitted that the goods came from their office but she did not know the food was already spoiled and infested with worms;


WHEREAS, Palo, Leyte Mayor Remedios Petilla, in an interview with another newspaper, reportedly admitted that four sacks of rice, four sacks of assorted biscuits, one-fourth sack of canned goods, three sacks and two boxes of used clothing, three sacks of used shoes and 10 pieces of instant noodles were indeed buried in the dump but not truckloads as was reported;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the State to manage the efficient distribution of relief goods to the victims typhoon Yolanda so that the resources donated by both local and foreign donors would not be wasted due to mismanagement or neglect;

WHEREAS, Congress should formulate relevant legislation or amend existing laws that would ensure the prompt and speedy delivery of relief to disaster victims, and punish those that impede relief operations because of mismanagement or neglect;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct and inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported distribution of worm-infested, spoiled, and rotten food aid to the survivors of Typhoon Yolanda in Tacloban City.

Adopted,

*acc.*   
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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