

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'14 APR 24 P 3:32

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 612

RECEIVED BY: JW

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED DROUGHT
EXPERIENCED IN THE PROVINCES OF KALINGA, IFUGAO, AND
MOUNTAIN PROVINCE THAT HAS DAMAGED HALF A BILLION PESOS
WORTH OF CROPS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16, provides: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin*, in its online article posted on 18 April 2014, reported that more than half a billion pesos worth of farms, mostly corn fields, have been reported damaged, so far, by the drought being experienced in some lowland areas of the provinces of Kalinga, Ifugao, and Mountain Province;

WHEREAS, corn farmers have informed the Department of Agriculture (DA) that they started to notice the damage caused by extremely hot temperatures since November 2013;

WHEREAS, Fancy Piluden, DA-Cordillera corn coordinator, cited a report showing that out of the P588,074,172.25 in total crop damage, P447,915,646.25 accounted for hybrid corn and the yellow corn varieties;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the computed damage until March this year covers the drought-hit corn farms in the towns of Rizal, Tanudan and Pinukpuk and part of the city of Tabuk in Kalinga; Paracelis town in Mountain Province; and Alfonso Lista town in Ifugao;

WHEREAS, Piluden reportedly said Paracelis, adjacent to Alfonso Lista, recorded the biggest amount in crop damage;

WHEREAS, in the partial damage report submitted by Paracelis Municipal Agriculturist Eusebia Balocnit, 5,500 hectares out of the 9,810 hectares of corn plantation in the area were affected by the dry spell recorded from December 2013

to 15 January 2014; the total amount of damage was reportedly pegged at P298.320 million;

WHEREAS, Alfonso Lista reported a ₱90.860-million damage of its corn plantations and ₱139,258,526-damage in other vegetable crops;

WHEREAS, in the same period, the towns of Rizal, Tanudan, Pinukpuk, and Tabuk City also reported a loss of ₱59,735,646.25 in corn crop damage;

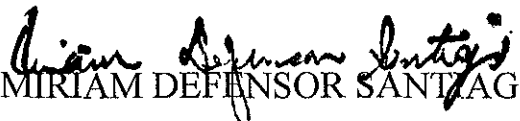
WHEREAS, a total of 1,181 farmers incurred losses due to the phenomenon that covered a total of 3,545.74 hectares of plantation;

WHEREAS, in 1998, a drought affected almost 74,000 hectares of agricultural land in 18 provinces based on a report released by the Department of Agriculture in which the country's rice and corn production during the first half of 1998 went down 27% and 44% respectively;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the State to institute immediate measures to mitigate harmful effects of the drought being experienced in Kalinga, Ifugao and Mountain Province, as well as strengthen existing legislation based on this experience to prepare the country for droughts that may come our way;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported drought experienced in the provinces of Kalinga, Ifugao, and Mountain Province that has damaged half a billion pesos worth of crops.

Adopted,

acc

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/fmf