


14 MAY 13 P2:12

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 645

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

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**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EL NIÑO-SOUTHERN OSCILLATION PHENOMENON AND DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION, WITH THE INTENT OF STRENGTHENING THE MANDATES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND ENSURING THE ADEQUATE, SAFE AND AFFORDABLE WATER SUPPLY**

WHEREAS, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Service Administration (PAGASA) announced the possible development of an El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Phenomenon in June 2014 that could last until the first quarter of 2015<sup>i</sup>;

WHEREAS, El Niño is a climatic aberration that occurs in the Pacific basin every two (2) to nine (9) years, characterized by unusually warm ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific, which in turn affect the normal wind, rainfall, and tropical cyclone patterns in the country<sup>ii</sup>;

WHEREAS, past El Niño occurrences in the Philippines have caused alarming economic and agricultural losses amounting to several billions of pesos<sup>iii</sup>;

WHEREAS, El Niño threatens food security as it could adversely affect the productivity of millions of hectares of farmlands and millions of hectares of fishing grounds, thereby decreasing food supply, increasing food prices and raising the number of Filipinos experiencing involuntary hunger;

WHEREAS, prolonged drought brought by El Niño could also reduce the power production of the 3,521-megawatt installed generating capacity<sup>iv</sup> of hydroelectric power plants in the country, leaving hydropower-dependent provinces particularly those in Mindanao at the mercy of severe and protracted blackouts;

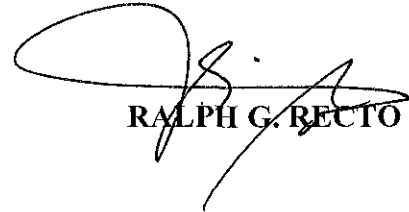
WHEREAS, an intensified dry spell could instigate further cutbacks to the water supply from two Greater Metro Manila water concessionaires and almost 900 water districts<sup>v</sup> all over the country, drastically reducing water available for household consumption, agricultural utilization and commercial-industrial use;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Government and its instrumentalities must be prepared to mitigate the impact of the El Niño on the country's food, water, energy, and economic security;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to assess the capability of government agencies concerned and determine the planned response to address the aforementioned threats;

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, by the Philippine Senate, to direct the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the El Niño-Southern Oscillation Phenomenon, and determine the appropriate Philippine Government intervention, with the intent of strengthening the mandates of government agencies and ensuring the adequate, safe and affordable water supply.

Adopted,



RALPH G. RECTO

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<sup>i</sup> Geronimo, Jee Y. *El Niño may start June, says PAGASA*. May 1, 2014. <http://www.rappler.com/science-nature/environment/56934-el-nino-june-pagasa> (accessed May 10, 2014).

<sup>ii</sup> Montejo, Mario G. *Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Service Administration*. May 01, 2014. <http://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/news-archive/897-el-nino-watch> (accessed MAY 10, 2014).

<sup>iii</sup> de Guzman, Rosalina G. "Impacts of Drought in the Philippines." *Workshop on Drought and Extreme Temperatures. Preparedness and Management for Sustainable Agriculture, Rangelands, Forestry, and Fisheries* Beijing: World Meteorological Organization, 2009.

<sup>iv</sup> Department of Energy. *Philippine Power Statistics*. [https://www.doc.gov.ph/doe\\_files/pdf/02\\_Energy\\_Statistics/Power-Statistics-2012.pdf](https://www.doc.gov.ph/doe_files/pdf/02_Energy_Statistics/Power-Statistics-2012.pdf) (accessed May 12, 2010).

<sup>v</sup> Philippine Association of Water Districts. *Philippine Water District Directory*. <http://122.54.214.222/waterrates/WDDirectory.asp> (accessed May 10, 2014).