

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



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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 664

RECEIVED BY: J

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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 HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL HAZARDS THAT POSES MAJOR THREAT IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin*, in its online article posted on 2 May 2014, reported that the Philippines is third in the world as the most exposed country and at risk to natural hazards after Vanuatu and Tonga;

WHEREAS, officials of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) in Mindanao said these atmospheric, hydrological, or oceanographic nature of phenomena may cause loss of lives, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihood and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage;

WHEREAS, PAGASA officials reportedly stressed that most disasters are related to hydrometeorological hazards which pose a significant threat to all areas in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the hydrometeorological hazards include tropical cyclones (also known as typhoons and hurricanes), thunderstorms, coastal storm surges, floods including flash floods and drought;

WHEREAS, hydrometeorological conditions also can be a factor in other hazards such as landslides, wild land fires, locust plagues, epidemics and in the transport and dispersal of toxic substances and volcanic eruption material;

WHEREAS, PAGASA officials reportedly underscored that hydrometeorological hazards pose a significant threat such that it creates physical disruption of infrastructure, affects human health, and causes significant economic losses and damages and loss of lives;

WHEREAS, for safety measures, PAGASA officials reportedly expressed mindfulness about the action to review and update the building codes, retrofit structures not conforming with the design standards and strict implementation of land-use zoning to restrict development in identified high risk areas;

WHEREAS, PAGASA officials reportedly asked local government unit officials to strictly apply the parameters of preparedness to assess about what hazards can affect the area and to set plans of action;

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the State to institute immediate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the hydrometeorological hazards, as well as strengthen existing legislation based on this environmental danger to prepare the country for any threat that may come in 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 vulnerability of the country to hydrometeorological hazards.

Adopted,

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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