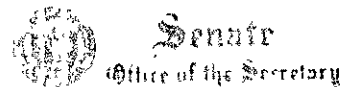


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



'14 AUG 12 P2:37

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 832

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 BUSH FIRE THAT AFFECTED 5000 FAMILIES IN ALBAY

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

WHEREAS, the GMA News online, on 4 & 5 August 2014, reportedly said that according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) a bush fire devastated at least 5,000 households on Sunday, in Rapu-Rapu town in Albay province, affecting around 6,000 hectares of land;

WHEREAS, according to the report the fire started at about 8 a.m. on Sunday, and may have stemmed from "kaingin" (slash-and-burn farming);

WHEREAS, the report claimed that affected areas were Barangays Poblacion, Morocborocan, Sitio Acal, Mananao, Guadalupe, Buenavista and Sitio Minto in San Ramon Batan Island;

WHEREAS, the report said that although no one was initially reported killed or injured in the fire, the water system, upland crops, and coconuts were affected;

WHEREAS, Albay Governor Jose Salceda reportedly said that after thorough air and ground assessment conducted by the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the BFP declared the forest/bush fire in Rapu-Rapu under control on 5 Aug 2014 at 11 a.m.;

WHEREAS, Salceda allegedly said that there could be further operations for at least two days by the BFP in Bicol, and continuous Bambi Bucket activities by the Philippine Air Force;

WHEREAS, the report said that provincial and municipal social welfare and development teams will report evacuation data while the Department of Health (DOH) will conduct psychosocial intervention and medical mission in the five affected barangays; the report likewise claimed that the DENR is already conducting a damage assessment;


WHEREAS, Salcedo reportedly requested for the residents of other barangays to converge in Morocborocan for the medical, clinical, and psychosocial intervention, while the police and military continue to monitor the situation;

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the legislature to review steps taken by concerned government agencies in increasing the awareness of the public on the ill effects of kaingin (slash-and-burn farming);

WHEREAS, it is imperative to create stricter guidelines and review existing laws with regard to the Kaingin system in order to prevent bush fires from recurring;

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 bush fire that affected 5000 families in Albay.

Adopted,

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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