

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

Senate
Office of the Secretary

FEB 10 P1 51

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1159

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED WATER CRISIS IN BUTUAN CITY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 states that: "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported on 6 January 2015 that the Butuan City Water District has been rationing its 38,000 clients with water from the Agusan River and bottled water for drinking following a water shortage;

WHEREAS, the crisis has allegedly brought the entire city into a standstill, paralyzing businesses and communities, sparking massive public outrage with irate residents threatening violent mass actions;

WHEREAS, BCWD attributed the water shortage to facility damage caused by tropical storm Seniang, adding that it was uncertain when water supply for Butuan City would be restored;

WHEREAS, water concessionaires, as public utilities, have a responsibility to provide their clients with adequate information, including measures being taken to avert crises;

WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must ensure that public utilities fulfill their mandate and coordinate with concerned government agencies in addressing problems impacting Filipinos;

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 water crisis in Butuan City.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAAGO
70