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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. **1297**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT ARMED CONFLICT CAUSED ₱26.7  
MILLION IN AGRICULTURAL DAMAGE IN MAGUINDANAO, AGGRAVATING THE  
IMPACT OF DROUGHT IN THE AREA

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 provides: "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 *Manila Bulletin* on 16 April 2015 quoted the local authorities of Maguindanao as saying that outbreak of armed conflict in the area and the advent of drought across the country have caused damage to agriculture amounting to more than ₱124.9 million;

WHEREAS, Maguindanao provincial agricultural officer Salik Panalunsong claimed that the clash between the police commandos and Moro combatants in Mamasapano town last 25 January 2015 and the subsequent military offensive on brigand rebels affected 2,680 hectares of rice, corn, and green mongo farms;

WHEREAS, this reportedly translated to a loss of 8,622 metric tons of agricultural crops valued at ₱26.7 million;

WHEREAS, Panalunsong further claimed that the damaged farms are located in 13 towns including Mamasapano, where at least 2,860 farmers, as well as 4,385 livestock including cattle, carabaos, goats, horses, and poultry have been affected;

WHEREAS, the crops and livestock were allegedly either looted or neglected to rot when some 120,000 villagers including poor famers fled the 13 towns after the military launched offensives against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighter (BIFF) after the January 25 bloody clash;

1           WHEREAS, the *Bulletin* quoted Panlunsong as explaining that the war damages added to  
2 the ill effects of the prevailing dry spell, which has already affected 34 of the 36 towns in  
3 Maguindanao;

4           WHEREAS, as of April 6, the drought has reportedly destroyed a total of 7,816 hectares  
5 of farms planted with rice, corn, root crops, fruits, coffee, and;

6           WHEREAS, the government must launch programs to help the agricultural sector in  
7 Maguindanao recover from damage caused by recent armed conflicts and drought

8           WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
9 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that armed  
10 conflict caused ₱26.7 million in agricultural damage in Maguindanao, aggravating the impact of  
11 drought in the area.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
RP

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