
Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

**RESOLUTION CALLING AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION OF THE
MAJOR DAMS AND OTHER CAUSES OF THE HEAVY FLOODS IN LUZON INDUCED
BY THE TORRENTIAL RAINS**

WHEREAS, although typhoons "Marce" and "Chaba" did not directly hit the Philippines, it induced torrential rains in the fourth week of August 2004 which adversely affected provinces in Luzon, particularly the Cordillera Administrative Region, La Union, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Zambales, Bulacan, Rizal and the National Capital Region, submerging these areas in floodwaters;

WHEREAS, homes, crops, rice fields, fish pens and properties estimated at five hundred million pesos (PhP500,000,000) were destroyed, and roads in flooded areas were rendered impassable, causing the isolation of these areas, the stoppage of work and the paralysis of commerce, rendering our people incapable of living under normal conditions and earning a living for themselves and their family;

WHEREAS, the undersigned Senator from Luzon and Chairman of the Philippine National Red Cross flew over these ravaged areas on 29 August 2004 to assess the damage caused by the heavy floods and to distribute relief goods;

WHEREAS, the distribution of relief goods could not be done by land due to impassable roads and was limited by the lack of provisions for warehousing, coordination, transportation and communication;

WHEREAS, the undersigned Senator personally witnessed the plight of our people who were awaiting relief in evacuation centers and trapped in deep waters in Pangasinan, Tarlac, Pampanga and Bulacan;

WHEREAS, approximately thirty (30) people have been reported as casualties, and around one million people (1,000,000) and over one thousand (1,000) barangays have been adversely affected by the recent torrential rains and heavy floods;

WHEREAS, in spite of local efforts and relief assistance by Red Cross, our people who were devastated remain to be in urgent need of help, as local government units in these areas are reportedly running out of medicine for evacuees suffering from colds, cough, fever, flu, athlete's foot, diarrhea, gastroenteritis and pneumonia;

WHEREAS, upon conferring with local officials, it was reported that the flood in the eastern portion of Paniqui, Tarlac was partly caused by the opening of the gates of

the San Roque Dam which released two thousand (2,000) centimeters per second of water during the height of the torrential rains without prior notice to the local government and thereby devastating eighty thousand (80,000) local residents of Paniqui, Tarlac;

WHEREAS, many local communities including more than thirty (30) barangays in Dagupan City are still submerged in floodwaters due to the failure to dredge silted rivers, including Cayangan River, that runs through Dagupan City;

WHEREAS, the water levels of five major dams in Luzon, namely La Mesa, San Roque, Magat, Ambuklao and Binga Dams reached critical levels, necessitating the opening of gates to release water for those that were monitored and resulting in the spillover of water for those that were not monitored, both causing further flooding;

WHEREAS, the Culibangbang Dike in Tarlac and the Mandasig Dike in Candaba, Bulacan, which are both made of soft soil were breached and eroded, respectively;

WHEREAS, forty rivers overflowed, most notable of which were Cayangan River, Bued River which is connected to Pantal River, and Sinukalan River in Pangasinan, and Pampanga River;

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the cessation of rains, floodwaters continue to rise due to the spillover of dams, breach and erosion of dikes, and overflow of rivers;

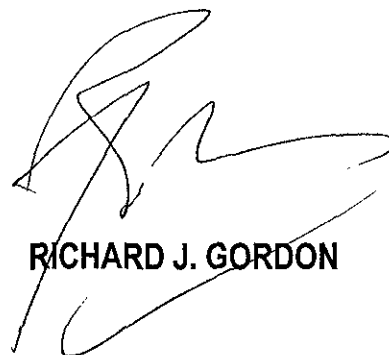
WHEREAS, the failure to undertake public works, such as the dredging of silted rivers and the establishment of flood control systems, as well as the failure to complete basic infrastructure projects, such as dams, dikes and irrigation systems, caused these areas to be heavily flooded;

WHEREAS, the failure to protect the environment, especially the mangroves and watershed trees, aggravated the accumulation of floodwaters in these areas;

WHEREAS, environmental protection, construction of relevant public works and infrastructure, early warning and crisis management systems to provide rescue, relief and rehabilitation assistance to affected areas as well as long-term remedies to prevent similar occurrences of heavy floods in Luzon need to be instituted: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved as it is hereby resolved, by the Senate of the Philippines, to call an investigation in aid of legislation of the major dams and other causes of the heavy floods in Luzon induced by the torrential rains so that environmental protection, construction of relevant infrastructure, early warning and crisis management systems and long-term remedies may be instituted.

Approved,



RICHARD J. GORDON