

SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 1309

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS BEING UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF SAFE AND POTABLE WATER AMIDST THE DRY SPELL BEING EXPERIENCED IN THE COUNTRY**

*WHEREAS*, as early as the fourth quarter of 2014, the government weather bureau, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomic Services Administration or PAGASA, has warned the public of the El Niño weather phenomenon which is predicted to prolong the drought experienced in most of the country;

*WHEREAS*, since the onset of the dry spell, the country bore witness of the ill effects of El Niño such as fish kills, agricultural losses and forest fires;

*WHEREAS*, as the drought intensifies, the country's water reservoirs begin to fall to critical levels raising issues of water sufficiency;

*WHEREAS*, the Angat Dam, which supplies the bulk of Metro Manila's water supply, has a normal water level of 212 meters above sea level (MASL), a minimum operating level of 180 MASL, and is recently reported to have dropped at 188.08 MASL;

*WHEREAS*, water levels in Nueva Ecija's Pantabangan Dam, which has a critical level of 172 MASL, is reported to have dropped from 190.88 to 190.60 MASL in just two days and is expected to recede further to 181.19 MASL by the end of April;

*WHEREAS*, there is a need to look into this matter to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to address this water security concern;

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, as it is hereby resolved, that the Philippine Senate directs the Senate Committees on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food and other appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the water management programs being undertaken to ensure sufficient supply of safe and potable water amidst the dry spell being experienced in the country.

*Adopted,*

  
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID