

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1314

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT A COASTAL VILLAGE IN LA UNION IS
SINKING DUE TO THE SUDDEN RISE OF SEAWATER

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5, provides: "The maintenance of peace
and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are
essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the "Philippine Disaster Risk
Reduction and Management Act of 2010" states that it shall be the policy of the State to:
"Uphold the people's constitutional rights to life and property by addressing the root causes of
vulnerabilities to disasters, strengthening the country's institutional capacity for disaster risk
reduction and management and building the resilience of local communities to disasters
including climate change impacts";

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* on 23 April 2015 reported that more than 20 houses and
several resorts in the coastal village of Santiago Norte, La Union have been damaged or totally
destroyed after its shores started sinking due to the sudden rise of seawater in recent weeks;

WHEREAS, residents are reportedly asking for immediate assistance from the
government to prevent further damages after the unexpected erosion;

WHEREAS, according to Rudy Gatchalian, barangay councilor, the destruction was
caused by the breakwater project that was built along the shoreline of the neighboring barangay
of San Carlos;

WHEREAS, Anthony Maglaya, municipal engineer of Caba, La Union, claimed that the
shore protection project in San Carlos was not the cause of the rise of seawater in Santiago Norte
but perhaps triggered by climate change, which causes rising sea levels globally;

1 WHEREAS, Frank Gonzales, a resort owner, allegedly said that the sudden rise of
2 seawater and the erosion have affected the beachgoers because it destroyed the swimming area
3 along the coastal area;

4 WHEREAS, according to Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of
5 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), severe erosion has happened in coastal areas in
6 many provinces;

7 WHEREAS, on 22 June 2013, a severe coastal erosion reportedly occurred in Zambales
8 where around 100 meters of the shoreline in Barangay Uacon, Candelaria collapsed to a depth of
9 two meters and caused the sea to move 10 meters inland;

10 WHEREAS, authorities should immediately address the situation in Santiago Norte in
11 order to protect the welfare of the residents living in the coastal village, as well as to protect the
12 beaches that help promote tourism in La Union;

13 WHEREAS, the government should continue to create awareness about climate change
14 and ways on how to lessen its effects;

15 WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, should ensure that local communities
16 are prepared for the impact of climate change;

17 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
18 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that a
19 coastal village in La Union is sinking due to the sudden rise of seawater.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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