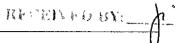


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session

15 MAY -6 P4:38

SENATE P. S. R. No. ___**1314**



	Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago
1 2 3 4	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
5	WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5, provides: "The maintenance of peace
6	and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are
7	essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";
8	WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the "Philippine Disaster Risk
9	Reduction and Management Act of 2010" states that it shall be the policy of the State to:
10	"Uphold the people's constitutional rights to life and property by addressing the root causes of
11	vulnerabilities to disasters, strengthening the country's institutional capacity for disaster risk
12	reduction and management and building the resilience of local communities to disasters
13	including climate change impacts";
14	WHEREAS, the Manila Bulletin on 23 April 2015 reported that more than 20 houses and
15	several resorts in the coastal village of Santiago Norte, La Union have been damaged or totally
16	destroyed after its shores started sinking due to the sudden rise of seawater in recent weeks;
17	WHEREAS, residents are reportedly asking for immediate assistance from the
18	government to prevent further damages after the unexpected erosion;
19	WHEREAS, according to Rudy Gatchalian, barangay councilor, the destruction was
20	caused by the breakwater project that was built along the shoreline of the neighboring barangay
21	of San Carlos;
22	WHEREAS, Anthony Maglaya, municipal engineer of Caba, La Union, claimed that the
23	shore protection project in San Carlos was not the cause of the rise of seawater in Santiago Norte
24	but perhaps triggered by climate change, which causes rising sea levels globally;

WHEREAS, Frank Gonzales, a resort owner, allegedly said that the sudden rise of seawater and the erosion have affected the beachgoers because it destroyed the swimming area along the coastal area; WHEREAS, according to Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), severe erosion has happened in coastal areas in many provinces; WHEREAS, on 22 June 2013, a severe coastal erosion reportedly occurred in Zambales where around 100 meters of the shoreline in Barangay Uacon, Candelaria collapsed to a depth of two meters and caused the sea to move 10 meters inland; WHEREAS, authorities should immediately address the situation in Santiago Norte in order to protect the welfare of the residents living in the coastal village, as well as to protect the beaches that help promote tourism in La Union; WHEREAS, the government should continue to create awareness about climate change and ways on how to lessen its effects; WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, should ensure that local communities are prepared for the impact of climate change; 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 report that a coastal village in La Union is sinking due to the sudden rise of seawater. Adopted, MIRIAM DEFINSOR SANTIAGO

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