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Introduced By SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND FINANCE TO LOOK INTO THE DISBURSEMENT AND USE OF ALL PUBLIC FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF THE EL NIÑO PHENOMENON IN THE COUNTRY IN LIGHT OF THE VIOLENT DISPERSAL OF FARMER PROTESTERS IN KIDAPAWAN CITY THUS HIGHLIGHTING THE INVIOLEABLE LINK BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AS A MATTER OF CLIMATE JUSTICE**

**WHEREAS**, Article II Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution provides that 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**, on 1 May 2014, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) first issued an El Niño Watch informing the public and all relevant agencies that "oceanic and atmospheric conditions in the tropical Pacific could lead to a possible development of an El Niño". More than a year later, PAGASA confirmed the occurrence of an ongoing El Nino on 11 March 2015;

**WHEREAS**, after several El Niño advisories, PAGASA followed this up with a warning on 8 October 2015 that the ongoing El Niño conditions which may last until April-May 2016 is comparable or may surpass the 1997-1998 El Niño event with 70% of the country experiencing severe drought and about 292,000 hectares of rice and corn areas completely damaged amounting to Php 3 billion;

**WHEREAS**, on 11 December 2015 President Aquino approved a PhP19 billion funding for the Roadmap to Address the Impact of El Niño which includes a cash-for-work program as additional source of income for farming communities;

**WHEREAS**, despite the existing program to mitigate the impact of El Niño in the rural areas, there have been reports of widespread crop failures in several provinces, particularly in Mindanao forcing provinces like North Cotabato and Maguindanao to declare a State of Calamity;

**WHEREAS**, on 1 April, at least two farmers were killed and 13 were injured after attempts by the local police to disperse an ongoing farmers' rally in front of the National Food Authority (NFA) office in Kidapawan City which started three days before;

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 3,000 to 6,000 farmers from North Cotabato and nearby provinces were blocking the Davao-Cotabato Highway in order to demand government assistance and address the widespread hunger affecting their farming communities arising from El Niño;

**WHEREAS**, it was reported that the Philippine National Police had to disperse the protesting crowd with the lapse of their permit to rally and the blocking of an important highway;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to determine the nature and status of assistance provided so far to affected communities since the onset of El Niño last year considering that President Aquino approved a Roadmap in late 2015 and that relevant agencies and local government units have been sufficiently warned by PAGASA through its timely advisories;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, to direct the Committees on Climate Change and Finance to look into the disbursement and use of all public funds allocated for mitigating the impact of El Niño phenomenon in the country in light of the violent dispersal of farmer protesters in Kidapawan City thus highlighting the inviolable link between climate change and human development as a matter of climate justice;

Adopted,

  
**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator