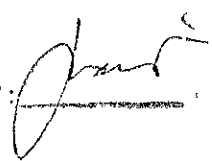


13TH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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SENATE

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Introduced by Senator Edgardo J. Angara

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**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT  
THROUGH H. E. PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO AND ALL REBEL  
FORCES IN THE COUNTRY TO IMMEDIATELY DECLARE AN AUTOMATIC  
CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN CALAMITY-STRUCK AREAS, TO FACILITATE  
AND ENSURE THE SAFE AND EFFICIENT CONDUCT OF RELIEF AND  
REBUILDING EFFORTS TO THESE PLACES.**

**WHEREAS,** Last 26 December 2004, a tsunami triggered by a magnitude of 8.9 undersea earthquake off the Indonesian island of Sumatra hurled giant waves across the Indian Ocean;

**WHEREAS,** The islands of Banda Aceh, Indonesia and northern Sri Lanka, two (2) of the Asian countries which bore the brunt of the deadly earthquake and subsequent tsunamis, are rebel strongholds.

**WHEREAS,** These countries have moved quickly into the relief phase, helped by an unprecedented outpouring of aid for humanitarian relief. But the absence of an automatic ceasefire accord between the Indonesian government and GAM rebels (Free Aceh Movement) in Banda Aceh and the Sri Lankan government and Tamil forces (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) has tremendously slowed-down relief efforts to these places;

**WHEREAS,** Similarly, the Philippines is intensifying its rebuilding efforts brought forth by the onslaught of four (4) typhoons, Unding, Violeta, Winnie and Yoyong, from 20 November to 2 December 2004. These typhoons have left a trail of devastation, notably the hard-hit areas of Aurora, Quezon, Nueva Ecija, Mindoro, Catanduanes and Camarines Sur;

**WHEREAS,** Drawing from the sorry experience in the tsunami-hit areas, it is imperative that there be an automatic ceasefire among our calamity-struck areas to halt hostilities. This will facilitate the access, assistance, support and protection to both the government and private sectors conducting relief and rebuilding efforts and will ensure the streamlining of aid flows and the safe, efficient and comprehensive post-typhoon reconstruction and rehabilitation, unhampered by either religious or political violence;

**WHEREAS,** Calamities have a unifying effect on people and the typhoons that struck our country should bind us into a common, though temporary cause of relief, rebuild and rehabilitation;

**WHEREAS,** Through this act, the Philippines and the rebel forces can show a revolutionary initiative to assist in the rehabilitation and economic development of the country once they commit themselves to the declaration of an automatic ceasefire.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, To call on the national government through Her Excellency President Gloria Arroyo and all the rebel forces in the country to expedite efforts to suspend hostilities and declare a ceasefire in all calamity-struck areas to ensure unhampered relief and rebuilding efforts to these places.

*Adopted,*

  
EDGARDO J. ANGARA