

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

5 MAR 14 93 52

SENATE
P.S. No. 213

RECEIVED BY: _____ *A*

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay, Jr.

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEW THREAT OF "EL NIÑO PHENOMENON" INCLUDING ITS EFFECTS TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND TO THE PROBLEM OF WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN URBAN CENTERS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE AND EFFICIENT USE OF WATER RESOURCES

Whereas, the start of an extremely hot summer season pose a new and more serious threat of "El Niño phenomenon," which gloomily anticipates low agricultural yield and affect the supply of water in the metropolis;

Whereas, potable water supply is a finite resource that is becoming more scarce and costly in developing countries in Asia that are facing high population pressure and environmental degradation;

Whereas, it has been predicted that water demand for domestic and industrial uses in Asia in 2020 will increase 4 to 6-fold compared to that in 1990;

Whereas, Metro Manila was one the nine major cities listed as "water-critical areas" in a study by the Japan International Cooperation Agency;

Whereas, the biggest user of water is agriculture with 86% of the total used, followed by industry with 8% and only 6% for domestic use and Filipinos consume 310 to 507 million cubic meter of water everyday; however, only 63% of the total population has access to potable water;

Whereas, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reported that 90 percent of the 99 watershed areas in the country were "hydrologically critical" due to physical condition;

Whereas, the weak regulation of industrial effluents have caused water pollution problems to intensify sharply, thereby lowering the value of water bodies for fishery recreation, transportation and water purposes in major urban centers;

Whereas, studies show that there are four major sources of failure in water resource management, which include : a) failure to adopt an integrated approach in addressing water supply planning operation, demand management, pollution control and watershed and ground water protection; b) inadequate administrative and legal mechanisms in allocating scarce water resources and controlling water pollution; c) dominance of the public sector in water supply operations; and d) urban water pricing policy has not recognized water as a scare resource nor accounted for the pervasive externalities involved in the production and consumption of water;

M.A.


Whereas, government water pricing policy undervalues water because it does not reflect its full economic cost, which includes the direct supply cost of production and distribution, the opportunity cost of water and its cost of externalities;

Whereas, bulk of the raw water from the Angat Dam, which accounts 97% of MWSS water is supplied free to the concessionaires despite competing uses of water among urban, irrigation and hydroelectric purposes;

Whereas, a comprehensive and in-depth check and monitor on the levels of water resources in the country including the impending threat of "El Nino phenomenon" and similar occurrences must be addressed: **NOW THEREFORE**

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, To urge the Senate committees on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the new threat of "El Nino phenomenon" including its effects to agricultural productivity and to the problem of water resource management in urban centers with the end in view of recommending appropriate measures to ensure sustainable and efficient use of water resources.

Adopted,


RAMON B. MAGSAYSAY, JR.