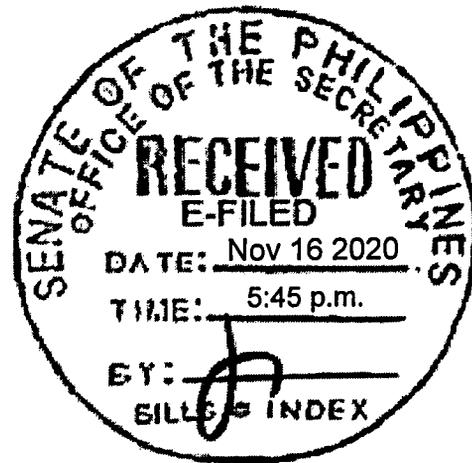


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE

P.S.R. No. 571

Introduced by **Senator Risa Hontiveros**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMMEDIATE, PROXIMATE AND ULTIMATE MAN-MADE CAUSES OF THE SEVERE FLOODINGS IN THE AFTERMATH OF TYPHOON ULYSSES (INTERNATIONAL NAME: VAMCO), PARTICULARLY IN THE CAGAYAN VALLEY REGION, THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL, AND THE CITY OF MARIKINA, IN ORDER TO INSTITUTIONALIZE DURABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND INTER-GENERATIONAL MEASURES AGAINST FLOODING AND TYPHOON-RELATED DAMAGE

WHEREAS, in the evening of November 11, 2020, typhoon Ulysses (international name: Vamco) made landfall in the Philippines, unleashing its wrath in the island of Luzon with sustained winds of 150 kilometers per hour and peak intensity winds equivalent to a category 2 hurricane;

WHEREAS, typhoon Ulysses battered Luzon while it was still reeling from the havoc wrought by typhoon Rolly (international name: Goni) – leaving a running death toll of 67 people, displacing hundreds of thousands of families, and causing billions of pesos in agricultural and infrastructure damage;

WHEREAS, in the early morning of November 12, 2020, news reports showed the severe impact of the typhoon on the province of Rizal, with individuals making entreaties on social media for the rescue of their families, particularly those with senior citizens and very young children;

WHEREAS, according to conservation experts from the Masungi Georeserve, logging and land-grabbing in the Upper Marikina Watershed could have caused the severe flooding in the area, because despite the protection granted to the watershed under Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, illegal activities have continued unabated;

WHEREAS, similar logging activities in the Sierra Madre mountain range have massively diminished its forest cover, and therefore its capacity to buffer the Capital and its adjacent province, Rizal, from the ravages of strong typhoons;

WHEREAS, two days later, in the evening of November 14, 2020, social media posts started trickling in from the provinces of Isabela and Cagayan in the Cagayan Valley region, revealing shocking images and sounds of residents frantically calling for rescue amidst intense flooding after the Magat dam was opened;

WHEREAS, the intersections of climate disasters and pandemics create unique problems for communities, as already-inadequate evacuation centers now have to contend with the protocols of COVID-19 management;

WHEREAS, considering the vulnerability of the Philippines to climate-related disasters, it is of the highest urgency to investigate once and for all the complex and interrelated man-made causes of floodings in the country, identify the culpability of public officials, improve calamity response and preparedness including inter-local government early warning and coordination systems, and most importantly, address gaps in policy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, THAT THE SENATE DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMMEDIATE, PROXIMATE AND ULTIMATE MAN-MADE CAUSES OF THE SEVERE FLOODINGS IN THE AFTERMATH OF TYPHOON ULYSSES, PARTICULARLY IN THE CAGAYAN VALLEY REGION, THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL, AND THE CITY OF MARIKINA, IN ORDER TO INSTITUTIONALIZE DURABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND INTER-GENERATIONAL MEASURES AGAINST FLOODING AND TYPHOON-RELATED DAMAGE.

Adopted,


RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator