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SENATE
P.S. R. No. 966



Introduced by **Senator FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**

RESOLUTION
URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO CREATE THE SIARGAO
TOURISM REHABILITATION COMMISSION

1 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution, the
2 President is granted the full control of the Executive Department and is mandated to
3 ensure that all laws are faithfully executed;

4 **WHEREAS**, Section 19, Chapter 7, Title I, Book III of Executive Order (E.O.)
5 No. 292, instituting the Administrative Code of 1987, as amended, provides that the
6 President shall exercise such other powers as are provided for in the Constitution;

7 **WHEREAS**, Section 20, Chapter 7, Title I, Book III of E.O. No. 292, as
8 amended, further vests in the President residual powers to exercise such other powers
9 and functions which are provided for under the laws and which are not specifically
10 enumerated in the same law, or which are not delegated by the President in
11 accordance with law;

12 **WHEREAS**, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of E.O. No. 292, as
13 amended, provides that the President shall have continuing authority to reorganize
14 the administrative structure of the Office of the President;

15 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 4, Chapter 2, Title I, Book III of E.O. No. 292,
16 as amended, the President is authorized to promulgate proclamations, which shall fix
17 a date or declare a status or condition of public interest and upon existence of which
18 the operation of a specific law or regulation is made to depend. Issued in the exercise

of the President's ordinance power, proclamations shall have the force of an executive power;¹

WHEREAS, on 21 December 2021, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No. 1267, declaring a state of calamity in Regions IVB (Mimaropa), VI (Western Visayas Region), VII (Central Visayas Region), VIII (Eastern Visayas Region), X (Northern Mindanao), and XIII (Caraga). Pursuant to the said Proclamation, the foregoing regions were placed under a state of calamity to hasten the rescue, relief, and rehabilitation efforts initiated by various sectors. It will remain in force and effect for one (1) year, unless sooner lifted in accordance with law;²

WHEREAS, a day prior or on 20 December 2021, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council's (NDRRMC) issued a Resolution, recommending the declaration of a state of calamity in areas devastated by Typhoon Odette pursuant to Republic Act No. 10121 or the "Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010";³

WHEREAS, the island of Siargao in the province of Surigao del Norte, Caraga Region is known as the surfing capital of the Philippines. Hailed as the world's most beautiful island in 2018 by the premium travel magazine Conde Nast Traveler,⁴ Siargao attracts tourists from all over the globe because of its waves and pristine white beaches;

WHEREAS, the popular tourist destination sustained extensive damage when Typhoon Odette (also known by its international name "Rai"), a Category 5 storm, made landfall in the Philippines last 16 December 2021. Typhoon Odette is the 15th typhoon and the strongest storm to hit the Philippines this year.⁵ It is also one of the strongest typhoons recorded internationally in 2021 and the sixth to reach Category 5;⁶

WHEREAS, local officials in Surigao del Norte estimate the damages in the province to have reached around Php20 Billion.⁷ However, they have yet to determine

¹ Section 4, Chapter 2, Title I, Book III of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the "Administrative Code of 1987," as amended.

² Proclamation No. 1267, series of 2021 and dated 21 December 2021

³ NDRRMC Resolution No. 11, series of 2021 and dated 20 December 2021.

⁴ <https://philippines.travel/destinations/siargao-island>

⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-asia-pacific-typhoon-rai-odette-emergency-appeal-n-mdrph045>

⁶ <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/149228/super-typhoon-rai>

⁷ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1529010/look-typhoon-odette-leaves-siargao-island-ravaged>

1 the full impact of the typhoon given the lack of mobile phone and internet signal,
2 power outages, and limited access to many parts of the province. In addition to the
3 immediate critical needs of the affected residents such as food, water, shelter, and
4 health care, the long-term rehabilitation and rebuilding of the affected homes,
5 businesses, and other infrastructures in Siargao Island must also be addressed;

6 **WHEREAS**, given the massive destruction caused by Typhoon Odette in
7 Siargao and the importance of the island's ecotourism to the country's economy, there
8 is an urgent need to create the Siargao Tourism Rehabilitation Commission that will
9 streamline and oversee relief, recovery, and rehabilitation operations within the island;

10 **WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court, in *Biraogo v. Philippine Truth Commission of*
11 *2010*,⁸ affirmed the authority of the President to create *ad hoc* committees pursuant
12 to his constitutionally-mandated duty of ensuring that laws are faithfully executed
13 under Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution;

14 **Resolved, as it is hereby resolved**, To urge the President of the Philippines
15 to create the Siargao Tourism Rehabilitation Commission that shall serve as the overall
16 and central coordinating body of all government agencies, non-government
17 organizations, and affected communities in relation to the various aspects of the
18 implementation and monitoring of the rehabilitation and recovery programs in Siargao
19 Island;

20 **Resolved, further**, That the Commission shall likewise draft the masterplan
21 for the rehabilitation and recovery of tourism in Siargao, taking into consideration the
22 environmental protection, eco-tourism, resiliency, and sustainable growth within the
23 area;

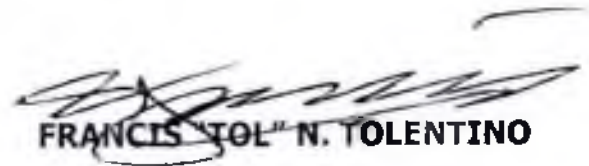
24 **Resolved, further**, That the Commission shall be composed of the following:
25 the Secretary of Tourism; the Chief Operating Officer of the Tourism Infrastructure
26 and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA); the Chairperson of the Regional Development
27 Council for Caraga Region; an urban planner from the private sector; and a
28 representative from the Philippine Hotel Owners Association, Inc. as Members; the
29 Governor of Surigao del Norte shall also serve as a Member in an *ex officio* capacity;
30 *provided*, that the Chairperson of the Commission shall be appointed by the President;

⁸ G.R. Nos. 192935 & 193036, [7 December 2010], 651 PHIL 374-773).

1 and *provided further*, that the Commission shall serve for a term of two (2) years,
2 unless further extended by the President;

3 ***Resolved, finally,*** That appropriations for the operationalization of the
4 Commission shall be funded under the budget of the Office of the President and
5 incorporated in the latter's budget proposals for succeeding years.

Adopted,



FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO