

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



SENATE

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 976

Introduced by Senators FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN, FRANKLIN M. DRILON,
RISA HONTIVEROS, and LEILA M. DE LIMA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EXTENT OF DAMAGES OF TYPHOON "ODETTE" AND THE STATUS OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE AND REHABILITATION, RECOVERY, AND RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF EVALUATING THE NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FRAMEWORK

WHEREAS, Section 5, Article 2 of the Constitution provides: "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, under Republic Act No. 10121 or the "Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010," it is the declared policy of the State to uphold the people's constitutional rights to life and property by addressing the root causes of vulnerabilities to disasters, strengthening the country's institutional capacity for disaster risk reduction and management, and building the resilience of local communities to disasters including climate change impacts;

WHEREAS, at 11:00 PM on 14 December 2021, severe tropical storm "Rai" entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) and was named "Odette." It made landfall nine times carrying Category 5 violent winds of up to 260 kph and brought torrential rains and flooding in MIMAROPA, Region V, Region VI, Region VII, Region VIII, Region IX, Region X, Region XI, Region XII, CARAGA, and BARMM. A rapid assessment report of the United Nations Office of Coordination or Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) shows that at least five regions were hardest hit by the typhoon. These are CARAGA, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, and MIMAROPA. A total of 334 cities and municipalities were declared under the State of Calamity;

WHEREAS, Typhoon Odette exited the PAR at 12:40 PM on 18 December 2021 and left catastrophic damages in the affected provinces. As of 3 January 2022, the reported deaths from the typhoon climbed to 407, with 78 persons missing, and 1,147 injured. The typhoon affected 1,242,737 families and 4,879,130 persons. A total of 339,868 persons were displaced in evacuation centers while 135,292 were displaced outside evacuation centers;

WHEREAS, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) placed the estimated cost of damage to agriculture at P7.686 billion and to

infrastructure at P16.9 billion. A total of 582,626 damaged houses were reported in 10 regions; of which, 175,347 houses were totally damaged. The typhoon also resulted in power and water supply interruptions. A total of 284 cities and municipalities experienced power outages while 18 cities and municipalities experienced water supply interruptions. As of 3 January 2022, power supply in 206 cities/municipalities and water supply in only one city/municipality have been restored.¹ According to the National Electrification Administration, the cost of damage on the facilities of electric cooperatives has reached P2.5 billion;²

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the situational reports of the NDRRMC and other agencies, the extent of damages and destruction of typhoon Odette and the scale of relief and rehabilitation efforts needed have yet to be fully measured and inventoried by government. As of 22 December 2021, the government reported a total budget of P10 billion in response funds for Typhoon Odette. Of this amount, P2 billion will come from the 2021 National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Fund (NDRRMF), P2 billion from the President's Contingency Fund, while the remaining P6 billion will be sourced from the recently signed 2022 General Appropriations Act (GAA).³ Said fund cannot even cover half of the reported P24.586 billion total damages in agriculture and infrastructure;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the State to provide the maximum care, assistance, and services to individuals and families affected by Typhoon Odette. In order to deliver on this obligation, it must conduct a full inventory of damages, conduct a thorough evaluation of government response including gaps and structural inefficiencies, and identify the needs for rehabilitation, recovery, and reconstruction, including the corresponding budgetary and policy requirements;

WHEREAS, this assessment of government response and relief efforts should be done with the end in view of protecting our people and improving our existing National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework. Congress, through relevant legislations, must establish mechanisms to improve the overall disaster management, mitigation, and response efforts of government. On average, 20 tropical cyclones enter the PAR every year, with rising frequency and intensity and within the context of climate change. These have catastrophic economic, environmental, and social impacts. Typhoon Odette and previous natural disasters have revealed the vulnerabilities and problems in the present framework, in government policies, as well as public spending for disaster response. Government must address these to be prepared for future shocks and disasters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Senate Committee on Finance to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the extent of damages of Typhoon "Odette" and the status of government response and rehabilitation, recovery, and reconstruction efforts, with the end in view of evaluating the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.

¹ NDRRMC, Sit. Rep. No. 22, 3 January 2022. Available at https://monitoring-dashboard.ndrrmc.gov.ph/assets/uploads/situations/SitRep_No__22_for_Typhoon_ODETTE_20211.pdf. Accessed on 4 January 2022.

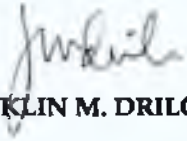
² Inquirer.net, *Odette damage to power co-ops hits P2.5 billion*. Published on 4 January 2022. Available at <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1535606/odette-damage-to-power-co-ops-hits-p-2-5b>. Accessed on 5 January 2022.

³ Inquirer.net, *P6B of Duterte's promised P10B Odette funds to come from 2022 budget - DBM*. Published on 22 December 2021. Available at <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1530857/p6b-of-dutertes-promised-p10b-odette-funds-to-come-from-2022-budget-dbm>. Accessed on 4 January 2022.

Adopted,



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