

EIGHTEENTH (18TH) CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third (3^d) Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. **977**



Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

RESOLUTION

TO INITIATE IMMEDIATELY THE EARLY RECOVERY OF ALL AREAS AFFECTED BY TYPHOON ODETTE SUCH AS BOHOL, CEBU, THE DINAGAT ISLANDS, AND SIARGAO, TO HELP MSMEs AND DISLOCATED BUSINESSES AND PROVIDE SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF LOANS FROM GOCC AND OTHER BANKS, AND LEADERSHIP BY ALL APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, IN ORDER TO REKINDLE TOURISM, ESPECIALLY GRASSROOTS, BACK-TO-NATURE TOURISM, TO CREATE LIVELIHOOD, FOSTER SELF-HELP, SELF-RELIANCE, AND COOPERATION AMONG THE PEOPLE, AND TO JUMPSTART TOURISM ACTIVITIES, LOCAL ECONOMIES THEREIN, AND THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution commands that the Philippine National Government's prime duty is to serve and protect the Sovereign Filipino people¹;

WHEREAS, "the State recognizes the vital role of banks in providing an environment conducive to the sustained development of the national economy"²;

WHEREAS, tourism is an indispensable element of the national economy, harnessed as an engine of socioeconomic growth, to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment, and to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos³;

WHEREAS, from 14 to 18 December 2021, Typhoon "Odette"⁴ caused catastrophic damage to life and livelihood⁵ amounting to at least fifty billion pesos (P50 billion) in the agriculture, infrastructure, and tourism sectors, and tragic loss of hundreds of lives⁶;

¹ Const., Art. II (Declaration of Principles and State Policies), Section 4.

² An Act Providing for the Regulation of the Organization and Operations of Banks, Quasi-Banks, Trust Entities and for Other Purposes, Republic Act No. 8791 [The General Banking Law of 2000], Section 2.

³ *Id.* at Section 2.

⁴ PAGASA, Tropical Cyclone Bulletin No. 1, Severe Tropical Storm "ODETTE", issued at 11 PM on 14 December 2021, available at https://multimedia.papasa.dost.gov.ph/tamsa/weather/bulletin/TCBP%201_0detete.pdf, <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutshvs.php> (last accessed 14 January 2022).

⁵ <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/12/23/2199719/odette-damage-agriculture-tourism-be-felt-until-2022.jsp> (last accessed 14 January 2022).

⁶ <https://monitoring-dashboard.nidmrc.gov.ph/pages/situation/situation-report-for-tc-odette-2021> (last accessed 14 January 2022).

WHEREAS, the Philippine finance sector including banks must offer financial services, such as special, borrower-friendly, and sustainable loans and microfinancing, to increase the money supply for the people to have cash in their hands for the purchase of basic necessities and aid our honest, hard-working people to pursue honest work;

WHEREAS, all appropriate government agencies including the Department of Tourism must immediately implement an Early Recovery Plan to repair and open airports, land, and seaports, revitalize grassroots tourism and MSMEs, bolster back-to-nature, muscular tourism in the form of businesses such as "ihawans", surfing, mangrove tending, and other outdoor entrepreneurial activities, in coordination with local government units that could provide clean facilities and other support, foster protection of the natural wonders across the Visayas and Mindanao including those in Siargao, the Dinagat Islands, and Cebu, and promote strengthening of cooperatives for tourism;

WHEREAS, Section 56 of the Tourism Act of 2009⁷ provides a Special Contingency Fund, which must be used in this emergency to undertake marketing and promotions activities that will encourage sustained, grassroots, and muscular tourism; **AND**

WHEREAS, the national government, local government units, and the private sector through, *inter alia*, Public Private Partnership Center projects can pursue imaginative initiatives, break the cycle of disasters and poverty, incubate and sustain hope, honest work, and economic opportunities, sustainably capitalizing on the natural heritage of the Philippine Islands and the brilliance, ingenuity, and strength of the Filipino people.

NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate to initiate immediately the early recovery of all areas affected by Typhoon Odette such as Bohol, Cebu, the Dinagat Islands, Siargao, to help micro-, small, and medium enterprises ("MSMEs") and dislocated businesses and provide support in the form of loans from GOCC and other banks, and leadership by all appropriate government agencies in order to rekindle tourism, especially grassroots, back-to-nature tourism, to create livelihood, foster self-help, self-reliance, and cooperation among the people, and jumpstart tourism activities, local economies therein, and the national economy.

Adopted,


RICHARD J. GORDON
Senator

⁷ The Tourism Act of 2009, Section 56: "[a]t the beginning of each year, ten percent (10%) of the allocation for promotions and marketing shall be set aside as a Special Contingency Fund of the TPB. This shall be used in the event of emergencies to provide the TPB with sufficient resources to undertake marketing and promotions activities that will encourage sustained tourism interest in the Philippines and that will address the adverse effects of these emergencies."