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SENATE
P. S. R. No. **313**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY
IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF USELESS DAMS IN BOHOL

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 3601, as amended by Presidential Decree Nos. 552 and 1702, provides that the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has the following powers and functions; to investigate and study all available and possible water resources in the Philippines, primarily for irrigation purposes, to plan, design, construct, and/or improve all types of irrigation projects and appurtenant structures; to operate, maintain, and administer all national irrigation systems, which are improved and/or repaired wholly or partially with government funds; and to delegate the partial or full management of national irrigation systems to duly organized cooperatives or associations,

WHEREAS, according to a 24 April 2005 article published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Vice Governor Julius Caesar Herrera was seeking to evaluate the multi-million peso dams constructed by the NIA in Bohol;

WHEREAS, the objective of the construction of big dams is to ensure available water supply for rice fields even during the dry season,

WHEREAS, despite the construction of the dams, Gov. Erico Aumentado declared Bohol as a calamity area due to the prevailing drought that dried up rice lands in at least 22 towns;

WHEREAS, one such dam is the Malinao dam project in Pilar, Bohol; the construction of this dam was funded by a P1 4-billion loan from the Official Development Assistance of Japan (ODA-Japan); the dam has been operational since 1997;


WHEREAS, the Malinao dam has failed to serve the farmers in Pilar and in neighboring towns even when there is sufficient rainfall; the dam is supposed to serve 4,960 hectares of rice lands, but it irrigates only 3,060 hectares;

WHEREAS, local farmers are complaining that due to the substandard quality of Malinao dam, it allegedly destroyed at least 1,500 hectares of productive farmlands,

WHEREAS, the failure of the Malinao dam project to alleviate the lives of poor farmers should be an eye-opener to planners of the NIA and other government agencies to ensure that their construction projects sufficiently meet the needs of the people in their service areas.

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Senate Committee on Agriculture to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the construction of useless dams in Bohol.

Approved,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO