

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

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 460

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT
PROGRAMS TO PREPARE FOR AND MITIGATE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS
OF AN IMMINENT LA NIÑA PHENOMENON

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 states that: "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, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), increases in the incidence of typhoons, floods and frequent heavy rains since November last year may be explained by the development of a La Niña phenomenon;

WHEREAS, La Niña features unusually cool surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean resulting in storm surges and storm winds;

WHEREAS, the weather bureau observed that from October to November 2005, the Philippines experienced below normal rainfall, and in December there has been a cooling effect of the sea surface temperature;

WHEREAS, from January to February 12, some parts of the Philippines received 300 times more than the average rainfall, triggering flash floods and mudslides in the Visayas and Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the Office of Civil Defense has reported 14 fatalities, one injured person and six persons missing due to rains this year; around 280,000 people or 57,000 families in 24 municipalities and seven provinces have been affected;

WHEREAS, for an Official La Niña event to be declared, the difference between actual and normal sea surface temperatures must be at least -0.5 points for a period of five months or until May; Pagasa recorded -0.1 points from January to February 12;


WHEREAS, the persistence of present oceanic and atmospheric patterns in the next two months will confirm the onset of La Niña;

WHEREAS, the eastern seaboard of the Philippines would be the hardest hit by the La Niña phenomenon; this includes Cagayan Valley, Isabela, Southern Leyte, Leyte, Agusan del Sur and Norte, Davao Oriental, Samar, Aurora and the Bicol provinces;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the government to undertake the necessary measures to prepare for the onslaught of heavy rains and to minimize the damage to life and property;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the institutionalization of appropriate government programs to prepare for and mitigate the adverse effects of a La Niña phenomenon.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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