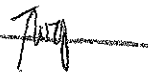


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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Third Regular Session* )

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 573

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Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

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RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES, THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA AND THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO INQUIRE INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF REQUIRING TELECOMMUNICATIONS, BROADCAST AND CABLE TELEVISION INDUSTRY PLAYERS TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FIVE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST ON A DAILY BASIS AND THEREBY ENHANCE PUBLIC PREPAREDNESS TO NATURAL DISASTERS

WHEREAS, Typhoon Milenyo (international codename Xangsane) entered the Philippine area of responsibility Wednesday, September 20, 2006;

WHEREAS, the reports from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) as of October 1, 2006 reveal that the official death toll from Typhoon Milenyo has risen to 76, with 69 others missing and 81 injured in the massive storm, said to be the worst to hit the country in a decade;

WHEREAS, the recent typhoon affected 17 provinces, 14 cities and 1,640 barangays, causing an estimated P1.3 billion to P1.4 billion in damage to infrastructure, agriculture and fisheries, including the destruction of 13,072 houses;

WHEREAS, the OCD reported that 230,875 families, 1,163,692 individuals, were affected by the typhoon, of which 20,706 families or 104,995 individuals were evacuated to 198 centers;

WHEREAS, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration's (PAGASA) issues a running 24-hour public weather forecast on its website, which is in turn reported by the media to the public;

WHEREAS, PAGASA announced last year that it had the capability to forecast weather conditions up to five days in advance in the country's key cities and regions, made possible by an upgrade of the agency's equipment and the availability of numerical models based on technological advancement;


WHEREAS, there is a need to follow-up on the status of the implementation of PAGASA's five-day weather forecasting and ensure its availability to the public on a daily basis through mass media, thereby enhancing public preparedness to natural disasters;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act 7925, Presidential Decree 576-A and Executive Order 205 series of 1987, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) exercises regulatory power over telecommunications, broadcast and cable television entities or franchisees;

WHEREAS, pursuant to their respective franchises NTC-regulated entities may be required to render public service for information dissemination; Now, therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, by the Philippine Senate, to direct  
2 the Committee on Public Services, the Committee on Public Information on Mass  
3 Media and the Committee on Science and Technology to inquire into the  
4 possibility of requiring telecommunications, broadcast and cable television  
5 industry players to make available to the public five-day weather forecast on a  
6 daily basis and thereby enhance public preparedness to natural disasters.

Adopted,

  
**SERGIO OSMEÑA III**

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