

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

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**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A
INTEGRATED RECONSTRUCTION PLAN FOR THE AREAS FREQUENTLY
AFFECTED BY TYPHOONS**

Whereas, the provinces of the country are plagued year after year by the devastations of Pacific typhoons, averaging twenty in a year;

Whereas, recently the region of Bicol, and the provinces of Romblon, Capiz, Aklan, Mindoro Occidental, Leyte, Samar were struck by Typhoons Reming and Seniang, partially damaging 200,994 homes, totally damaging 120,818 homes, affecting 347,151 families, injuring 1,489 persons and taking the lives of 487 people, while 397 people remain missing;

Whereas, the survivors of this disaster are in evacuation centers where there is inadequate potable water for drinking, water for bathing and sanitation needs, food, clothes, medical supplies and facilities; while many more are in damaged houses;

Whereas, these same evacuation centers have themselves been damaged by the strong typhoons, and as they are often the schools of their communities, their continued use as evacuation centers interrupts the education of the youth, and thus interferes with the long-term well being of the people in these regions;

Whereas, the typhoons also toppled power and communication lines, destroyed government buildings and public infrastructure, isolating whole communities, rendering impossible the delivery of public services, and undermining the development and integration of these regions with the national economy;

Whereas, even the Philippine tourism industry was affected due to the damage to forty percent of the resorts in Boracay, as well as the continued power outage due to toppled power lines;

Whereas, every year disasters come to the country, taking lives and property, yet despite the disturbing regularity of these tragedies, our nation merely struggles to cope, and the steps taken are merely palliative of the suffering and hardship of our people, rather than providing genuine mechanisms by which peoples and communities can triumph over the ravages of nature;

Whereas, this nation must confront the grave and urgent need to have a vision by which our people can reclaim control of their lives, and in the future avoid unnecessary loss of lives and properties, by mapping out a strategy for rehabilitation, empowerment and development, and our nation's leaders must seize this opportunity to lead their citizens toward a better life;

Whereas, Government must seize this opportunity to craft an integrated reconstruction plan, with the Legislature allocating funds and providing policy directions to be fully and properly implemented by the Executive, for all areas affected and for those frequently visited by the typhoons, involving not merely the reconstruction of buildings, roads, bridges, power lines and transmission lines but hazard-mapping, community disaster preparedness programs and emergency planning, thus entailing the development of not merely physical infrastructure, but human and moral infrastructure as well;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the executive and legislative branches of government seize this opportunity to triumph over adversity, to demonstrate genuine leadership, by working together to create an integrated reconstruction plan for the areas affected, and those frequently visited, by typhoons, to truly empower our people to not merely survive, but triumph, over the ravages of nature.

Adopted,


RICHARD J. GORDON