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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 7

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced By Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

URGING THE METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO IMPLEMENT A RIVER SYSTEM REHABILITATION PROGRAM TO RECOVER THE LENGTH OF RIVERS LOST DUE TO SETTLEMENTS ALONG METRO MANILA RIVERS, IN LIGHT OF THE INCREASING VULNERABILITY OF THE CAPITAL TO FLOODING

WHEREAS, studies reveal that twenty-one (21) kilometers of rivers in Metro Manila have been lost and converted by formal and informal settlers for housing or other uses by government and private entities, resulting to a significant decrease in river channel capacities, exacerbating the flooding in Metro Manila and neighboring areas;

WHEREAS, the presence of settlements along rivers, most especially along the Pasig River, has increased the filling up of river channels by sediments and garbage, resulting to long-lasting floods within the area, and the encroachment of structures and fish ponds narrowing the channel ways;

WHEREAS, last September 2009, Tropical Storm *Ondoy* devastated most of Metro Manila with floodwaters reaching as high as 4 meters and the Laguna Lake reaching 14 meters above the lakebed due to flood diversions through the Manggahan Floodway, inundating lakeshore towns;

WHEREAS, while Republic Act No. 7297 otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992, Section 29, already provides:

"Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, the local government units, in coordination with the National Housing Authority, shall implement the relocation and resettlement of persons living in danger areas such as esteros, railroad tracks, garbage dumps, riverbanks, shorelines, waterways, and in other public places such as sidewalks, roads, parks and playgrounds. The local government unit, in coordination with the National Housing Authority, shall provide relocation or resettlement sites with basic services and facilities and access to employment and livelihood opportunities sufficient to meet the basic needs of the affected families."

its effective implementation is still wanting;

WHEREAS, though rehabilitation efforts are currently being done, like the Pasig River Rehabilitation Program of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission;

Metro Manila Development Authority's demolition of illegal structures along the Pasig and Marikina Rivers; and the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project of the Department of Public Works and Highways, the success of these efforts is threatened by continued dumping of domestic waste and building of fishponds by informal settlers living precariously along the periphery of rivers;

WHEREAS, continued negligence to the situation of Metro Manila rivers would augment the metropolis' vulnerability to flooding and other climate-related disasters, threatening thousands of lives along high-risk areas;

WHEREAS, a rehabilitation program, which should focus on the widening and deepening of channel ways by removing major constrictions, formal and informal settlements, is imperative to avoid worse scenarios in the future;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Department of Public Works and Highways to implement a river system rehabilitation program to recover the length of rivers lost due to settlements along Metro Manila rivers, in light of the increasing vulnerability of the capital to flooding.

Adopted,


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator