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SENATE

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE URGENCY AND NEED TO INSTITUTIONALIZE A NATIONAL DATABASE MONITORING AND TRACKING SYSTEM IN ORDER TO STUDY, MONITOR AND DOCUMENT THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING OUR POLICYMAKERS AND VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS IN THE COUNTRY THE FOUNDATION TO COME UP WITH PROACTIVE LONG-TERM INTERVENTIONS TO ADDRESS AND ABATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, the urgent need to focus on the issue of climate change has been gaining greater attention in the political agenda of most countries given that the effects of climate change are being experienced all over the world;

WHEREAS, in its Fourth Assessment Report, the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which observed changes in the earth's climate, concluded that the warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level;

WHEREAS, the IPCC added that observational evidence from all continents and most oceans show that many natural systems are being affected by regional climate changes, particularly temperature increases, and that the warming of the climate system is attributed to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations;

WHEREAS, scientists have found that global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions due to human activities have grown since pre-industrial times, with an increase of 70% between 1970 and 2004. Furthermore, the continued and unabated release of greenhouse gases from human activities at or above current rates would cause further warming and induce many changes in the global climate system during the 21st century that would very likely be larger than those observed during the 20th century;

WHEREAS, the Philippine archipelago, which has one of the longest coastlines and one of the top mega-diversity countries in the world, will not be spared of the adverse impacts of sea-level rise and extreme climate events that are expected to happen in a warmer world. Many scientists consider the Philippines as one of the climate hotspots largely due to its geographical features, low level of economic development and exposure exacerbated by poor access to resources;

WHEREAS, climate change is a real cause for concern as its effects are being experienced firsthand by Filipinos, with extreme weather bringing about floods and droughts, food and water shortages, landslides and abnormal rise in sea levels, exposure to infectious diseases and other health problems, as well as other damages to our environment;

WHEREAS, to date, climate change in our country is manifested in extreme climate events through the occurrence of severe El Niño and La Niña, deadly and damaging typhoons and other severe storms, floods, flash floods, landslides, drought, etc. These extreme events have one thing in common – persistent torrential rains, causing landslides and flash floods, killing people and destroying properties and the environment along its path;

WHEREAS, the alarming threat of the adverse effects of climate change in people's lives warrants a comprehensive strategic planning on the part of policy and decision makers. Unfortunately, environmental statistics and in particular, statistics on the climate change and its impact are generally lacking both in terms of quantity and quality, particularly in our country. Part of the reason is that national statistical agencies have not been sufficiently involved in the generation of these statistics, not only because of resource constraints but also because of lack of subject matter expertise;

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2003, the Philippine Senate ratified the international treaty to combat global warming, the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol legally binds 141 State Parties to reduce the global discharge of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and sets legally binding targets and timetables for developed countries to reduce their collective GHG emissions by 5% of their 1990 levels during the period 2008 - 2012. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1997. Its worldwide entry into force was on 16 February 2005;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to provide our policy makers and other stakeholders in the issue of climate change with an objective and validated source of information about climate change and global warming based on scientific evidence in order to proactively come up with medium-term and long-term interventions and policies that will help abate or lessen the impact of global warming and climate change in our country.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and other appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *In Aid of Legislation*, into the urgency and need to institutionalize a national database monitoring and tracking system in order to study, monitor and document the effects of climate change and global warming in the country with the end in view of providing our policymakers and various stakeholders in the country the foundation to come up with proactive long-term interventions to address and abate the effect of climate change.

Adopted,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator