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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 175

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced By Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE VULNERABILITY OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES SECTOR TO THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INSTITUTING ROBUST ADAPTATION STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY AND ALLEVIATE RURAL POVERTY

Whereas, climate change presents severe problems for a country that is highly reliant on agriculture for livelihood and sustenance;

Whereas, changes in temperature, rainfall and sea level would be disastrous to the agricultural sector. Crop yield potential is estimated to decline by 19% in Asia toward the end of the century and rice yield in the Philippines would decline by 75%;

Whereas, an increase of more than 2°C in temperature from the period 1960-1990 would cause a significant decrease in rice yields in major rice growing areas of the Philippines and every unit increase in night time temperature would cause a 10% decrease in rice production;

Whereas, climate change enhances more extreme weather events such as drought spells, more frequent typhoons, and flooding; and new, high-yielding, climate change-resistant rice plants are needed to continuously feed our growing population;

Whereas, the agriculture sector, accounting for 81% of total water consumption in 2007, is most affected in the event of a water shortage during prolonged dry spells;

Whereas, from 1990 to 2003, the damage to agriculture due to El Niño-related drought was estimated to be more than US\$ 370 million;

Whereas, from 1970 to 1990, typhoons, floods and droughts resulted in an 82.4% loss to total Philippine rice production;

Whereas, another major impact of warm temperatures in the country is a decrease in fisheries yield;

Whereas, with coral bleaching (whitening due to death of temperature-sensitive polyps of coral species), as much as 8,000 to 24,000 metric tons of fish per year is estimated to be lost;

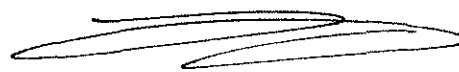
Whereas, with the absence of robust adaptation strategies, climate change will further imperil food security;

Whereas, considering that the rural poor, highly dependent on farm and fishery sectors, increasingly feel the pressure of climate change, policies on adaptation are crucial and urgent;

Whereas, the country's agricultural adaptation program must ensure more investments in agricultural research and infrastructure, improved water governance and land use policies, better forecasting tools and early warning systems, a strengthened extension system that will assist farmers to achieve economic diversification and access to credit to make significant improvements in our food security goals;

Whereas, it is incumbent upon Congress to institute policy solutions to enable the agriculture sector to adapt rapidly to the impact of climate change and to safeguard poverty reduction gains in the rural areas.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Committee on Climate Change to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the government's policies and programs to address the vulnerability of the agriculture and fisheries sector to the impact of climate change with the end in view of instituting robust adaptation strategies to enhance food security and alleviate rural poverty.



LOREN LEGARDA

Senator