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SENATE  
P.S. RES. NO. 1324

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Introduced by Senator Manny B. Villar

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VIABILITY OF AN ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM WITH THE END-IN-VIEW OF REDUCING ITS NEGATIVE EFFECTS AND INTRODUCING RELEVANT REGULATIONS INDICATING THE COUNTRY'S RESILIENCE TO FUTURE IMPACTS THEREOF**

**Whereas**, Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution states that “[t]he State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;”

**Whereas**, climate change increases land and sea temperatures and alters precipitation quantity and patterns, resulting in the increase of global average sea level, risks of coastal erosion and an expected increase in the severity of weather-related natural disasters;

**Whereas**, changing water levels, temperatures and flow will in turn affect food supply, health, industry, and transport and ecosystem integrity thus leading to significant economic and social impacts;

**Whereas**, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC) average global temperature increased by 0.74°Celsius from 1906 to 2005;

**Whereas**, due to increased in carbon dioxide emissions, global average temperature is expected to increase by 1.4 to 5.8°Celsius;

**Whereas**, according to IPCC an increase in temperature of 2-4°C can result to biodiversity loss, and agricultural productivity production reduction while increases above 4°C can lead to increase in vulnerability, exceeding the capacity of many physical and human systems to adapt;

**Whereas**, according to IPCC, there were only 3 La Nina and 2 El Nino episodes from 1950 to 1970 while there were already 5 La Nina and 7 El Nino episodes from 1970 to 2000;

**Whereas**, from 1990s to 2004 alone, the country has already suffered extreme tropical typhoons like the Ormoc Catastrophe (1991), Cherry Hill tragedy (1999), Payatas-Garbage slide (2000), Baguio-La Trinidad landslides(2001), Camiguin flashfloods (2001), Southern-Leyte Surigao disaster (2003) and the Aurora floods (2004);

**Whereas**, these extreme weather events associated with climate change, and the disasters these have wrought, have caused losses amounting to billions of pesos to the Philippines, particularly, from 1975 to 2002, tropical cyclones have resulted to losses of 4.578 billion pesos due to damage to property, including damage to agriculture worth 3.047 billion pesos;

**Whereas**, the increased in global temperature causes the continued melting of Artic Ice caps which caused the global average sea level to rise by 0.1-0.2 meters during 1861-2000 and with the sustained global warming, the mean sea level is projected to rise by 0.09 to 0.88 meters between 1990 to 2100;


**Whereas**, the increase in sea level can affect many human settlements due to the increased risk of coastal flooding and erosion, saltwater intrusion into freshwater resources, and possible displacement of small islands;

**Whereas**, the increase in sea temperature and increase in carbon dioxide levels can negatively affect the coral reefs as there is high chances of coral reef bleaching and reduced calcification rates, thus reducing the number of coral reefs that will ultimately affect the sea flora and fauna and likewise the fish catch of subsistence fishermen;

**Whereas**, it is imperative for the government to follow an adaptation program to mitigate these unavoidable impacts; Now therefore be it

**RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and other appropriate committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the viability of an adaptation to climate change program with the end-in-view of reducing its negative effects and introducing relevant regulations indicating the country's resilience to future impacts thereof.

**Adopted,**

  
MANNY VILLAR