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SENATE

P. S. R. No.

1378

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

ENJOINING EVERY SENATOR TO DONATE AT LEAST P1 MILLION
FROM THE PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (PDAF) TO
AID THE VICTIMS OF "ONDOY"

WHEREAS, *The Philippine Star* in its 28 September 2009 article reported that the tropical storm "Ondoy", international code name: "Ketsana", left a trail of 95 people dead, 29 missing, and some 247,555 affected families;

WHEREAS, the figures of dead and missing people could go higher as reports from the provinces have yet to reach the National Disaster Coordinating Council;

WHEREAS, Ondoy dumped a record 455 millimeters of rain in 12 hours; various reports also stated that PAGASA weather forecaster Gener Quitlong said that the equivalent of one month's worth of rain fell on Metro Manila in less than a day;

WHEREAS, the whole of Metro Manila, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Benguet, Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur, Isabel, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Zambales, Pampanga, Bulacan, Tarlac, Bataan, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon, Mindoro Oriental and Occidental, Marinduque, Cantanduanes, Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur were placed under a state of calamity;

WHEREAS, it was reported that Metro Manila was the worst hit in terms of flooding and damage, while Rizal had the highest number of casualties;

WHEREAS, in various media channels including social networking sites, the government was admonished for lack of funds allotted for disaster preparedness; hence, there was a lack of efficiency in rescue operations and in the distribution of goods and clothing to the affected families;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in its 27 September 2009 article reported that the devastation wrought by Ondoy underscores the need to modernize the country's weather forecasting system;

WHEREAS, the equipment of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) captures data too late and is limited to wind warning; there is no flood warning or landslide warning to activate evacuation;

WHEREAS, with the late warnings, the local government units were not able to issue official advisories and evacuation orders prior to the onset of the massive flood;

WHEREAS, Ondoy brought about the biggest flooding calamity to hit the Philippines; it had a magnitude double that of Hurricane Katrina in terms of total amount of rainfall;

WHEREAS, public interest demands an accounting of the funds and a full public disclosure of the disbursement of the funds donated for the benefit of the victims of the storm Ondoy;

WHEREAS, each barangay should have a disaster response procedure and should be equipped with the necessary equipment and facilities that will aid its residents during times of national disasters;

WHEREAS, it was reported in the 11 December 2004 issue of the Manila Bulletin that 19 senators allocated P7,050,000 from their PDAF to finance relief operations and reconstruction programs in Aurora and Quezon provinces devastated by a series of storms to hit the country that year;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine senate, to enjoin all senators to donate at least P1 million from their Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) to aid the victims of Ondoy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives is urged to quickly pass the Disaster Risk Reduction Bill, which is directed at modernizing the equipment of the PAGASA, and was already approved in the Senate.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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