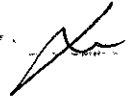


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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1412

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT 70 PERCENT OF THE
EXISTING INTERNAL DRAINAGE SYSTEMS ARE CLOGGED

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "The 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, various media reported that according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), they did not expect Storm Ondoy (international code name: Ketsana) to be a strong storm; however, Ondoy brought with it, not strong winds, but heavy rains that caused heavy flooding in several parts of Metro Manila, particularly Rizal;

WHEREAS, PAGASA reportedly said that the amount of rainfall caused by Ondoy was unusually large; the 24-hour rainfall of 455mm is equivalent to a return period of more than 100 years;

WHEREAS, the ANC cable channel, in an interview with Major Flood Control and Drainage Project Director Gatan of the Department of Public Works and Highways last 2 October 2009, reported that despite the abnormal amount of rainfall, man-made causes were also to blame for the unexpected flooding;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that notwithstanding the 18 inches of record rainfall that day, areas on the east side of the Manggahan Floodway continued to be inundated while the rest of Metro Manila was already dry; hence, while PAGASA reported that the rainfall last 26 September 2009 was one month's equivalent, the intensity of rainfall is not the only variable;

WHEREAS, one of the man-made causes identified by Director Gatan is the uncollected and carelessly thrown solid wastes, specifically non-biodegradable packaging materials, which have accumulated and blocked waterways; according to the DPWH's study, up to 70 percent of the existing internal drainage systems are clogged;

WHEREAS, since non-organic solid waste deposition has become a common problem, and is one of the main causes impairing drainage and river systems; the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) should coordinate with the local government units (LGUs) and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), which is tasked with flood control management, to develop sound solid waste management practices and to efficiently implement the Solid Waste Management Act;

WHEREAS, the cleaning and unclogging of Metro Manila's drainage system should be coupled with measures that will prevent the future clogging of drainages;

WHEREAS, other reasons that give rise to the clogging of drainages such as the formation of informal settlements built alongside waterway channels should be relocated or removed and prevented from recurring;

WHEREAS, stricter penalties should be imposed on establishments found violating the Solid Waste Management Act;

WHEREAS, the LGUs should ensure that trash bins are located at all areas within their jurisdiction; proper waste disposal should be strictly enforced in all school, establishments, cities, and municipalities in order to prevent the quick clogging of drainages;

WHEREAS, the unclogging of the drainage systems is of primary importance in light of the fact that flooding has been a perennial problem of many areas in Metro Manila;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the report that 70 percent of the existing internal drainage systems are clogged.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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