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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1517

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

RESOLUTION:

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, AND CLIMATE CHANGE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MECHANISMS AND PLANS ADOPTED TO PREPARE OUR FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK FOR THE ONSET OF EL NIÑO, WITH THE GOAL OF MITIGATING ITS EFFECTS AND CRAFTING INTERVENTION POLICIES TO PROTECT OUR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES SECTORS AND ENSURE THE COUNTRY'S FOOD SUPPLY

WHEREAS, El Niño is the large-scale warming of surface waters of the Pacific Ocean every 3-6 years, which usually lasts for 9-12 months, but may continue for up to 18 months, and dramatically affects the weather worldwide;

WHEREAS, it creates an abnormal weather pattern which results to a deficit in rainfall causing adverse impacts on agriculture, water resources, hydropower generation, health and sanitation, and other sectors;

WHEREAS, El Niño usually means lack of rainfall and lesser tropical cyclones for the Philippines, causing droughts which destroy crops;

WHEREAS, from 1997 to 1998, El Niño caused a dry spell and drought affected 68 percent of the country, lack of rain affected water reservoirs dependent on surface water sources which resulted in a shortage of water supply and a total of 9,400 hectares of second growth and/or logged over forest burned in 1997-98 with an estimated cost of damage at 150 million pesos;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Atmospheric and Geophysical Administration (PAGASA) has warned that the country will be hit by El Niño because the conditions for the phenomena are continuing in the equatorial Pacific Ocean;

WHEREAS, PAGASA announced that El Niño had already started its course, with the dry spell expected to run until the first quarter of 2010, basing its prediction on the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) discussion;

WHEREAS, PAGASA added that the impact of El Niño will be felt during November 2009 to January 2010, with heavy rains over the central tropical Pacific Ocean and a

WHEREAS, El Niño may significantly diminish ocean productivity by changing weather patterns that cause nutrient circulation in the ocean, which could affect fishes, birds and marine mammals;

WHEREAS, the adverse effects of El Niño may be reduced if proper safeguards and advance preparations are taken: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Food, and Climate Change to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the mechanisms and plans adopted to prepare our farmers and fisherfolk for the onset of El Niño, with the goal of mitigating its effects and crafting intervention policies to protect our agriculture and fisheries sectors and ensure the country's food supply.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR