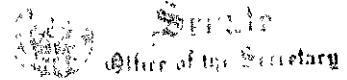


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



13 SEP 11 P5:15

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 245

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASING OCCURRENCE OF MASSIVE FLOODING IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION DURING THE TYPHOON AND MONSOON SEASON, IN ORDER TO REVIEW THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND MITIGATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, AND TO DEVISE AND IMPLEMENT LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS TO FLOODING

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides: "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy";

WHEREAS, every year, some 20 typhoons hit the country, and they have become stronger in the past decade; in recent years, the Philippines has been battered by strong typhoons and monsoon rains causing massive flooding in different parts of the country; these disasters has caused thousands of fatalities, damage to infrastructure and private property, and huge economic losses; four of the strongest typhoons that hit the country from 2008 to 2012 caused damage of some \$2.2 billion;

WHEREAS, in 2009, Typhoon Ondoy, or Typhoon Ketsana, hit Manila and neighboring cities and municipalities, dumping more than a month's worth of rain in 12 hours; floodwaters in certain areas reached almost seven meters or 23 feet; the resulting massive flooding claimed the lives of hundreds and destroyed the homes of hundreds of thousands more;

WHEREAS, in 2012, the annual monsoon unleashed nonstop rains in a week, flooding about 90 percent of Manila, and neighboring areas; the floods virtually paralyzed much of the National Capital Region (NCR), causing the suspension of classes and work stoppage in government offices and private businesses; hundreds of thousands had to be evacuated from their homes to makeshift and cramped evacuation centers;

WHEREAS, in August 2013, fierce monsoon rains again battered the NCR, dumping about the same amount of rain as Typhoon Ondoy in over 24 hours, causing massive flooding, suspension of classes and work in government and private offices, suspension of trading in the stock exchange, and affecting about a million people;

WHEREAS, in an article in *Philippine Star*, dated 23 August 2013 and entitled "What's making the floods worse in Manila?," experts agree that population growth, inadequate infrastructure, corruption, deforestation, and even trash build-up serve to exacerbate the problem

of flooding in Manila; urban architect Felino Palafox Jr. said that Manila's flood control system is outdated, incomplete, and poorly designed;

WHEREAS, excessive logging on the Sierra Madre mountains has also made things worse; the rainwater rushes down the denuded slopes of the Sierra Madre onto the Pasig River, which runs through Manila and typically overflows;

WHEREAS, Palafox said that the construction of a major spillway that would drain excess water during the typhoon season from Laguna Lake to Manila Bay is needed to prevent flooding in the nation's capital; over the years, Laguna Lake has become heavily silted, decreasing its capacity to hold water, and often overflows and floods outlying towns and cities, including Manila;

WHEREAS, there is a need to reexamine the national government's and the local governments' disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation policies and programs in order to determine whether they are responsive to the problem of the increasing incidence of massive and devastating flooding in Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, long-term and short-term solutions to the problem of major flooding in the NCR should be implemented as soon as possible in order to prevent the further loss of lives and damage to property;

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 increasing occurrence of massive flooding in the National Capital Region during the typhoon and monsoon season, in order to review the government's current disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation policies and programs, and to devise and implement long-term and short-term solutions to flooding.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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