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SENATE
P.S.R No. 309

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION VIS-À-VIS THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG TERM STRATEGY IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

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, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in an article published on 9 October 2013, reported that farmers are coping with the effects of climate change as changing weather patterns have affected agricultural production;

WHEREAS, interviewed in the news article, Abono partylist president Ponciano Onia said that farmers, prior to climate change's effects on weather, have been accustomed to the weather cycle and worked in the fields accordingly, planting in June or July during the rainy season, and harvest by November to December;

WHEREAS, Onia said that things are different now, as rain only comes during typhoons, the habagat (southwest monsoon) brings too much rain and floods the lands, and agricultural lands become parched after the habagat or typhoon leaves;

WHEREAS, according to Onia, farmers have to resort to shallow wells to water their crops until the next heavy rain, and that they need more pipes to reach underground water;

WHEREAS, Onia reportedly said that farmers' planting activities have become a gamble because of the changes in weather patterns as they opt to start planting whenever the rains come;

WHEREAS, Onia reportedly said that said most farmers know that the erratic weather is caused by climate change;

WHEREAS, the *Inquirer* news article reported that this phenomenon is experienced in the Southeast Asian region, where agricultural sectors report bad harvests because of changes in planting and harvesting seasons;

WHEREAS, the news article quoted environmentalists saying the environmental phenomenon, largely attributed to pollution and carbon emission from developed countries, is severely affecting farmers in poor countries where governments do not have resources to address the problem;

WHEAREAS, according to the news report, environmentalists called for Asean countries to close ranks addressing the issue of climate change, as the region is seen to be one of the most vulnerable to the environmental phenomena as evidenced by severe weather conditions like monsoon rains and stronger, more frequent typhoons and tropical storms;

WHEREAS, environmentalists reportedly identify the Philippines, most of Cambodia, Vietnam's Mekong River Delta, north and east of Laos, Bangkok in Thailand, South and West Sumatra and West and East Java in Indonesia as high risk areas affected by climate change;

WHEREAS, according to the news report, environmentalist groups called for Asean countries to improve its renewable energy targets and initiate transboundary environmental and climate change negotiations to advance the interest of the region;

WHEREAS, seeing that climate change has a direct effect on agricultural production, legislation should be formulated to help agricultural workers cope with the changing weather patterns while eliciting long term measures in addressing climate change;

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 effects of climate change on agricultural production vis-à-vis the government's long term strategy in addressing climate change.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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