

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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SENATE  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 353

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A VOLUNTEER  
CORPS SPECIFICALLY TRAINED AND EQUIPPED FOR DISASTER RESPONSE  
AND RELIEF OPERATIONS IN TIMES OF CALAMITIES

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to establish a trained and on-call volunteer corps that will not only be sufficiently manned but also equipped to respond to disaster situations, particularly those resulting from natural calamities;

**WHEREAS**, on November 8, 2013, super typhoon Yolanda, internationally known as typhoon Haiyan, which was reported internationally as one of the worst storms ever to make landfall, initially made landfall in Guiuan town, Eastern Samar and thereafter proceeded across the stretch of the Visayas islands as well as some areas of Luzon;

**WHEREAS**, the magnitude of the storm wrought disastrous effects in Eastern Samar, Leyte, Cebu, Iloilo, Aklan, Antique, Mindoro, and Palawan where, as of November 10, 2013, damage to property, infrastructure, and utilities amounted to millions of pesos while loss of life reaching roughly 1,000 as of the morning of 11 November 2013;

**WHEREAS**, super typhoon Yolanda is the third super typhoon of Category 5 to make landfall in the Philippines over the past 3 years;

**WHEREAS**, according to experts, the Philippines is located in waters that are most prone to the development of tropical cyclones, such as typhoons, hurricanes, and cyclones, and, as such, is second only to China with regard to the most number of tropical cyclones to make landfall since 1970;

**WHEREAS**, non-government organizations, private mobilizations, and individual initiatives have repeatedly partnered with and stood beside government agencies in extending assistance and delivering relief goods to victims of calamities, such as the recent super typhoon Yolanda;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to institutionalize and strengthen the volunteer initiatives organized by the public every time that a calamity strikes the country in order to ensure quicker and more effective relief efforts, particularly considering the Philippines' propensity for being hit by strong typhoons;

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of a trained volunteer corps that would be on-call when storm signals are raised or when calamities strike would provide the necessary manpower to enable government agencies to address the needs of victims of calamities faster and in a more coordinated manner;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to review existing laws and regulations, if any, that pertain to this matter and to study how to develop the same to ensure the efficient mobilization of volunteers and the effective delivery of relief services during times of disaster;

**WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that the proper Senate committees be directed to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the need to establish a volunteer corps specifically trained and equipped for disaster response and relief operations in times of calamities.

*Adopted,*

  
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID  
Senator MCR