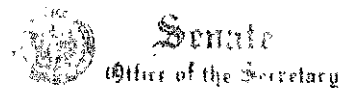


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 356

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO ESTABLISH EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS IN THE LIGHT OF THE EVENTS
SURROUNDING AND RESULTING FROM SUPER TYPHOON YOLANDA,
WHICH HIT THE PHILIPPINES ON 08 NOVEMBER 2013**

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish effective emergency communications systems, which may be used by local government units and affected citizens in the event of disasters, whether natural or otherwise;

WHEREAS, access to information and communication during times of disasters is essential for the identification of affected areas, the assessment of the public's needs, as well as the coordination of national efforts aimed at providing rescue, relief, and reinforcement;

WHEREAS, super typhoon Yolanda, internationally known as typhoon Haiyan, which initially made landfall in Guiuan town, Eastern Samar at 4:40 a.m. on November 8, 2013 and thereafter proceeded across the stretch of the Visayas islands as well as some areas of Luzon, badly affecting areas such as Eastern Samar, Leyte, Cebu, Iloilo, Aklan, Antique, Mindoro, and Palawan, resulted in a communications block out lasting several days and stretching across the expanse of the affected areas;

WHEREAS, according to reports, super typhoon Yolanda is considered one of the most powerful storms to make landfall yet there are still no confirmed reports regarding the extent of the loss of life and the gravity of damage wrought by the super typhoon;

WHEREAS, those with relatives and loved ones within the affected areas gain little comfort from the silence resonating from their hometowns, driving some to find their way to the affected localities in fear that they will not find their loved ones in safety or good health;

WHEREAS, government efforts to address the needs of those affected cannot be streamlined without a coordinated assessment of the overall damage wrought by the super typhoon;

WHEREAS, the confusion and panic resulting from the communications black out compounded by the utter devastation wreaked by the super typhoon, highlights the need for effective communication lines to local government units during times of natural disasters;

WHEREAS, steps should be undertaken to ensure that the State shall be better equipped in the future to monitor disasters as they occur, to assess the overall damage that may be wrought thereby, and to coordinate government action towards relief operations and community and infrastructure rebuilding;

WHEREAS, a necessary means to attain these goals is the establishment of modern emergency communications systems that will not only be resilient in the face of disaster situations but will precisely be outfitted and utilized for such purpose;

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 emergency communications systems in the light of the events surrounding and resulting from super typhoon Yolanda, which hit the Philippines on 08 November 2013.

Adopted,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
MLR Senator MLR