

SENATE

13 NOV 13 P5:11

P.S.R. No. 359

RECEIVED

Introduced by SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING ALL PHILIPPINE FLAGS TO BE FLOWN AT HALF-MAST TO SIGNIFY NATIONAL MOURNING IN LIGHT OF THE TREMENDOUS LOSS OF LIVES AND OVERWHELMING DEVASTATION BROUGHT ABOUT BY SUPER TYPHOON "YOLANDA"

WHEREAS, super typhoon "Yolanda" (international name Haiyan) is the strongest storm ever to make landfall in recorded history;¹

WHEREAS, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), super typhoon "Yolanda" had maximum sustained winds of 195 km/h near the center and gustiness of up to 230 km/h;²

WHEREAS, super typhoon "Yolanda" made a total of 6 landfalls in the Philippines on November 08, 2013: the first in Guiuan, Samar at 4:40 AM, the second in Tolosa, Leyte at 7:00 AM, the third in Daang Bantayan, Cebu at 10:00 AM, the fourth in Bantayan Island, Cebu at 10:40 AM, the fifth in Concepcion, Iloilo at 12:00 PM, and the sixth in Busuanga, Palawan around 8:00 PM, wreaking havoc and resulting to innumerable deaths and injuries in its path;³

WHEREAS, the final number of deaths and the amount of damages resulting from super typhoon "Yolanda" are still to be determined, but news reports have arisen that the effect of "Yolanda" on the Philippine economy could be as much as P604 billion or five percent of the country's gross domestic product⁴ and that with regard to the death toll, 10,000 are feared dead in Tacloban alone;⁵

WHEREAS, the staggering death toll, the immense damage to property and livelihood, and the continuous trauma and hardships being experienced by the survivors brought about by "Yolanda" have caused so much grief, desolation, and torment not only to Filipinos, but also to the international community, which has made Filipinos feel that they are not alone in this tragic calamity through its much needed support, donations, and pledges;

- 1 T. Dimacali, *Super typhoon "Yolanda" is strongest storm ever to make landfall in recorded history*, <<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/334571/scitech/science/super-typhoon-yolanda-is-strongest-storm-ever-to-make-landfall-in-recorded-history>>, last accessed November 13, 2013.
- 2 PAGASA's readings differ from foreign agencies. According to the US Navy and Air Force's Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC), Yolanda was expected to reach its peak strength of 268 km/h sustained winds and 324 km/h. J. Malig, *'Yolanda' a Category 5 super typhoon: US experts*, <<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/regions/11/06/13/yolanda-category-5-super-typhoon-us-experts>>, last accessed November 13, 2013.
- 3 C. Fonbuena, *Yolanda goes 'island hopping,' makes 6 landfalls*, <<http://www.rappler.com/nation/43215-yolanda-landfalls-pagasa>>, last accessed November 13, 2013.
- 4 G. Cabacungan, Jr., *Economist estimates 'Yolanda' impact on PH economy at P604 B*, <<http://business.inquirer.net/151941/economist-estimates-yolanda-impact-on-ph-economy-at-p604-b>>, last accessed November 13, 2013.
- 5 Manila Bulletin, *Philippine typhoon death toll could reach 10,000*, <<http://www.mb.com.ph/at-least-10000-dead-from-yolanda-official-says/>>, last accessed November 13, 2013.

WHEREAS, the symbolic act of placing in half-mast all flags in the Philippines not only aims to show that Filipinos are mourning the death of the victims of "Yolanda", but that we are also united in this time of national mourning;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate of the Philippines urges all Philippine flags to be flown at half-mast to signify national mourning in light of the tremendous loss of lives and tremendous damage brought about by super typhoon "Yolanda".

ADOPTED,


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR