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SENATE
P.S. Res 362

RECEIVED BY. *JNV*

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PRESENT DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT EFFORTS AND CAPABILITIES OF BOTH NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF RECOMMENDING A MORE EFFICIENT COORDINATION GOVERNMENT PLAN ADDRESSING CALAMITIES, CATASTROPHES AND EMERGENCIES AND SUBMITTING POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LAWS

WHEREAS, on 15 October 2013, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake hit Central Visayas, which resulted in a casualty count of 222 individuals dead, 976 injured and 8 missing.¹ Infrastructure damages to various provinces affected due to the earthquake was calculated to above 2.2-Billion Pesos.²

WHEREAS, on 08 November 2013, exactly 24 days after the devastating earthquake in Central Visayas, Typhoon Yolanda, a tropical storm said to be one of the most powerful in history, battered Eastern Visayas, particularly the provinces of Leyte and Samar. It is feared that thousands of Filipinos perished in Tacloban, Leyte alone and losses are estimated to be about 15 billion dollars.³

WHEREAS, on 12 November 2013, another typhoon, Zoraida, made landfall in the Northern Mindanao Region and is predicted to affect the provinces of Negros, Cebu and Bohol. Although not as powerful as Typhoon Yolanda, it cannot be discounted that Typhoon Zoraida may aggravate relief efforts made on the two above-mentioned disasters and the well-being of the Filipino people.

WHEREAS, it is not only during times of major disasters such as those mentioned above where the government extends assistance to the nation – floods caused by rains and volcanic activity that pose risk to the lives of the Filipino people are some, to name a few.

WHEREAS, it is the NDRRMC, an agency of the Philippine government under the Department of National Defense (DND), that is tasked to ensure the protection and welfare of the nation during disasters and emergencies.

¹ NDRRMC, SitRep No. 35 re Effects of Magnitude 7.2 Sagbayan, Bohol Earthquake. November 3, 2013 (<http://www.ndrrmc.gov.ph/attachments/article/1108/NDRRMC%20Update%20SitRep%20no.%2035%20re%20Effects%20of%20M7.2%20Bohol%20EQ.%203Nov2013.%206AM.pdf>) Accessed on November 12, 2013.

² *Ibid.*

³ Rappler. Yolanda losses may reach \$15B - report. November 12, 2013. (<http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/issues/disasters/typhoon-yolanda/43553-yolanda-economic-losses-15-b>) Accessed on November 13, 2013.

WHEREAS, to effectively serve the nation, the Philippine government and the NDRRMC need not primarily burden itself on reactive relief efforts, but proactive efforts to ease the same should be focused upon.

WHEREAS, for more efficient relief efforts during disasters and emergencies, it is proposed that NDRRMC be re-established as a separate and independent agency from the DND.

WHEREAS, inasmuch as the NDRRMC may feasibly be considered as a separate and regular department, it is also proposed that its Chief Officer be accorded cabinet rank or level.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security is urged to review, in aid of legislation, on the present disaster risk management efforts and capabilities of both national and local government with the objective of recommending a more efficient coordination government plan addressing calamities, catastrophes and emergencies and submitting possible amendments to existing laws.

Adopted,


GRACE POE