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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 363

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY WITH REGARD TO INCOMING FOREIGN AND LOCAL AID FOR THE VICTIMS OF SUPER TYPHOON YOLANDA

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 27 states, "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption";

WHEREAS, various media reported that as of 12 November 2012, 25 countries and several international organizations have already sent different types of assistance to victims of super typhoon Yolanda (international codename: Haiyan);

WHEREAS, reports claimed that the Department of Foreign Affairs has received from the international community, not just offers for humanitarian assistance but also monetary aid;

WHEREAS, reports claimed that the countries and foreign organizations that have made offers of assistance include:

- Australia - US\$10 million package
- Belgium - medical and search and rescue personnel
- Canada - C\$5 million
- Chile - humanitarian aid
- Denmark - KR 10 million
- European Union - EUR 3 million
- Germany - 23 tons of relief goods
- Hungary - search and rescue personnel and rapid response team
- Indonesia - in-kind donations
- Israel - team of medical, trauma and relief professionals
- Japan - emergency relief medical team
- Malaysia - medical and search and rescue teams
- The Netherlands - undisclosed financial aid
- New Zealand - NZ \$2.15 million via Red Cross
- Norway - KR 20 million
- Russia - rapid response team, rescue workers and an airmobile hospital
- Saudi Arabia through Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud - US\$100,000
- Singapore - \$50,000
- Spain - in-kind donations

- Sweden- emergency communications equipment
- Taiwan - \$200,000
- Turkey - medics, rapid response team, search and rescue personnel
- United Arab Emirates - Dhs 36 million
- United Kingdom - £6 million and \$9.6 million worth of emergency support package
- United Nations Children's Fund - \$1.3 million worth of supplies
- United States - initial \$100,000 for water and sanitation; Troops, emergency respondents, transportation and equipment
- Vatican - \$150,000

WHEREAS, according to reports, more than P2 billion pesos have already been donated by other nations to the Philippines;

WHEREAS, prior news reports said that aid for victims of previous typhoons were allegedly siphoned by corrupt government officials in conspiracy with disreputable nongovernment organizations;

WHEREAS, due to such previous reports and due to the outpour of support from citizens and foreign governments, there is a need for the government to account for its expenditures for the victims of Yolanda;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit, together with other proper government agencies and local government units receiving funds for the victims of the super typhoon, must release a detailed report on where, for whom, and for what the funds have been spent;

WHEREAS, the State must therefore provide harsher penalties for government officials and individuals who steal from funds intended for victims of calamity;

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 need for transparency and accountability with regard to incoming foreign and local aid for the victims of super typhoon Yolanda.

Adopted,

WILSON DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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