

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



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SENATE

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P. S. R. No. 399

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO CREATE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WILL SERVE AS EVACUATION CENTERS CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING NATURAL CALAMITIES, SUCH AS MASSIVE TYPHOONS

WHEREAS, *The Philippine Star* in its 18 November 2013 issue reported that according to the Department of Education (DepEd) at least 3,200 public schools in areas battered by super typhoon Yolanda (international codename: Haiyan) have been destroyed by the calamity;

WHEREAS, Education Secretary Armin Luistro reportedly said that the figure is based on estimates made by school principals and teachers in the provinces of Leyte and Samar;

WHEREAS, Luistro also allegedly called on DepEd personnel in the Yolanda-devastated areas to hold classes even in evacuation centers just to have an accounting or headcount of the students;

WHEREAS, it is known that public schools serve as evacuation centers during calamities when evacuation is required of residents in disaster-struck areas;

WHEREAS, the prevailing system of utilizing public school buildings as evacuation centers disrupt the holding of classes in areas where school buildings are occupied by evacuees and result in accelerated deterioration of said school buildings since such are exposed to uses to which they are not intended;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the government to create evacuation centers separate and distinct from schools;

WHEREAS, in line with this, it is imperative for the State to create a comprehensive system of evacuation in the Philippines in response to the fact that the country faces devastation due to typhoons all year-round;

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 reported need to create infrastructure that will serve as evacuation centers capable of withstanding natural calamities, such as massive typhoons.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO