

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



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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 818

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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 PROPOSED REVIEW OF EVACUATION POLICIES AND
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES DURING TYPHOONS, IN LIGHT OF
THE RECENT TYPHOONS THAT HIT THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the “Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010,” provides that:

“Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It shall be the policy of the State to:

(a) Uphold the people's constitutional rights to life and property by addressing the root causes of vulnerabilities to disasters, strengthening the country's institutional capacity for disaster risk reduction and management and building the resilience of local communities to disasters including climate change impacts;

(l) Recognize and strengthen the capacities of LGUs and communities in mitigating and preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the impact of disasters;”

WHEREAS, Typhoon Glenda (International codename: Rammasun) which entered the country in July 2014 and went through Luzon with wind gusts of about 250 kilometers per hour, the storm forced massive evacuations, toppled trees and power lines causing electrocutions and widespread blackouts; it reportedly left an official death toll of 100 with 94 listed dead and six still missing, mostly in the Southern Tagalog and Calabarzon regions;

WHEREAS, in an article posted at *Inquirer.net* on 21 July 2014 entitled “‘Glenda’ deaths inching toward 100,” it was reported that most of the fatalities during the Typhoon Glenda were caused by falling trees and debris;

WHEREAS, officials of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reportedly said the reports of fatalities continued to come in as repair men struggled to restore electricity to hundreds of thousands of households still without power;

WHEREAS, according to the NDRRMC, the majority of the Filipino fatalities were killed by falling debris and trees while many of the missing were on boats that went out to sea despite the storm;

WHEREAS, Calabarzon's disaster management agency reportedly asked NDRRMC officials to include people who live near big trees and big structures in the preemptive evacuation plan the next time a typhoon strikes;

WHEREAS, at present, it was said that only those who live in coastal and low-lying communities are ordered to evacuate during extreme weather;

WHEREAS, it was reported that most of the 67 people who were killed and 107 who were hurt in Calabarzon perished or were injured after being hit by uprooted trees, collapsed walls, falling roofs, and debris;

WHEREAS, others reportedly died from either drowning, landslides or heart attacks;

WHEREAS, according to the Calabarzon Regional Risk Reduction and Management Council, those living near large structures like billboards, walls, electric and communication posts, as well as trees, should also be warned and encouraged to evacuate;

WHEREAS, the Calabarzon disaster agency also asked the national government to come up with an "emergency communications strategy" during typhoons, and added that the storm crippled telecommunications facilities and disrupted emergency services;

WHEREAS, with the experts warning of stronger typhoons to come, it is imperative that the State formulate more comprehensive evacuation guidelines primarily aimed at saving human lives during natural disasters and calamities;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the proposed review of evacuation policies and emergency communication strategies during typhoons, in light of the recent typhoons that hit the country.

Approved,

/lml


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO