

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session



SENATE
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P.S. Res 866

RECEIVED BY. 

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND PUBLIC SERVICES TO LOOK INTO THE EL NIÑO PHENOMENON, TO PUT IN PLACE MEASURES TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF A PROLONGED DRY SPELL, AVERT A LOOMING WATER CRISIS AND PROTECT THE PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Whereas, El Niño Southern Oscillation phenomenon is characterized by unusually warm ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific regions, including the Philippines;

Whereas, experts said that the country is likely to experience a long dry spell as the peak of El Niño may be experienced in the last quarter of 2014 and may last until the first quarter of 2015¹, according to state weather bureau Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA);

Whereas, while the onset of El Niño has been delayed—initially predicted to hit the country in June or July this year—PAGASA said some parts of the country will feel the impact of El Niño by September², as normal rainfall patterns will be affected resulting in reduced rainfall;

Whereas, a “strong” El Niño is forecast to develop this year, according to Wenju Cai of Australia’s Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization³;

Whereas, production of agricultural commodities will be greatly impacted by El Niño. The Philippines experienced the worst El Niño in 1997 and 1998, with P3 billion in damage to the agricultural sector.

¹ <http://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/news-archive/897-el-nino-watch>

² <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/regions/06/12/14/pagasa-el-nino-impact-be-felt-september>

³ <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/05/06/1319830/dry-spell-strong-el-nino-seen-year>

Whereas, PAGASA noted vital parts of the country's agricultural regions will be affected such as Cordillera, Bicol and Western Visayas⁴. Cordillera is the primary source of upland vegetables (lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, potatoes and cabbage), Bicol produces pili nuts, abaca and coconut while Western Visayas is the largest producer of sugar and the third largest rice producer in the country;

Whereas, El Niño may drive up prices of prime agricultural commodities as production plummets;

Whereas, water levels at the Angat Dam in Bulacan—the primary source of water supply of Metro Manila and nearby provinces—continue to decline despite the rains. Experts noted that rains failed to increase water levels in major dams such as Angat, Binga and Pantabangan, among others;

Whereas, water rationing looms in 2015 if reduced amount of rainfall continue to take its toll on major water reservoirs and conservation policies are not in place;

Whereas, tourism and other industries as drivers of economic growth will be affected if water problem persists in the country and the lack of water may have a spiraling consequence on other sectors as well;

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committees to look into the El Niño phenomenon and put in place measures to mitigate the impacts of a prolonged dry spell, avert a looming water crisis and protect the Philippine agricultural sector.

Adopted,


GRACE POE

⁴ <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/regions/06/12/14/pagasa-el-nino-impact-be-felt-september>