



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

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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 911

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT COA AUDIT REPORT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT HAS FAILED TO DELIVER MILLIONS OF PESOS WORTH OF RELIEF GOODS AND UTILIZE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF PESOS OF MONETARY DONATIONS FOR THE VICTIMS OF SUPER TYPHOON YOLANDA

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

WHEREAS, Section 28 of the Constitution also states: "Subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the State adopts and implements a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest";

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin*, in its 9 September 2014 issue, reported that the Commission on Audit (COA), in its "Report on the Audit of Typhoon Yolanda Relief Operations," disclosed that the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) failed to deliver 128,000 tins of sardines and ₱69.2 million worth of bottled water for super typhoon "Yolanda" victims; and has unused monetary donations and disaster response funds amounting to ₱782,012,090.71, which still remain deposited in DSWD bank accounts;

WHEREAS, the COA noted that there was delay and a lack of coordination in the distribution of goods, noting that the shipment of 14 container vans of donated goods were distributed only to the local government units over 30 days after receipt;

WHEREAS, the COA reportedly said that with the volume of goods procured that remained unpacked, the movement/transfer to and from different areas and the eventual shipment of these unpacked items to calamity areas resulted in unaccounted items at the Manila International Cargo Terminal and the spoilage and losses of supplies shipped through the barges as reported by the recipient DSWD field offices;

WHEREAS, the COA also noted that the repacking of goods has also caused the delay and spoilage of immediate food aid;

WHEREAS, audit examiners also reportedly stated that the ₱69.2 million worth of water procured in Metro Manila was not shipped to Tacloban due to the alleged lack of transport facilities;

WHEREAS, furthermore, the COA disclosed that supplies worth ₱58 million were not properly stored and were exposed to the elements at the National Resource Operations Center (NROC) grounds and that the actual physical count of unpacked supplies showed that 135,540 items, including 1,000 sacks of rice, were unaccounted.

WHEREAS, according to the *Manila Bulletin*, the COA report also found that damaged goods and dented canned goods in a DSWD field office were excluded from repacking and were

just set aside without a report made to account for the same; disposal was likewise not documented;

WHEREAS, in a separate report by *Business World*, published on 7 September 2014, at least ₱408 million was also left unused from the DSWD's ₱5.4-billion disaster management fund;

WHEREAS, the COA reportedly slammed the DSWD and other government agencies for inadequate planning and their poor readiness for disaster response, adding that all government agencies were only twenty three percent prepared for the Yolanda disaster;

WHEREAS, the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery (OPARR) proposed a ₱170.9 billion Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan for areas hit by typhoon Yolanda; however, this was only released in August 2014;

WHEREAS, in a previous report by the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, published on 17 May 2014, a group of Yolanda victims criticized OPARR Secretary Panfilo Lacson for being "useless";

WHEREAS, the report also said that Lacson has been in the limelight lately, not for his job as Yolanda rehabilitation czar but for meddling in the pork barrel mess and providing an unsigned list of 11 senators and 66 congressmen who allegedly benefited from pork barrel scam mastermind Janet Lim-Napoles;

WHEREAS, Congress should conduct an investigation in order to hold these erring and inefficient public officials responsible for the delay in the delivery of goods to Yolanda victims and for incompetence in the rehabilitation of areas devastated by the super typhoon;

WHEREAS, Congress should also conduct an investigation to ensure that future calamities are met with preparedness, decisiveness, and efficiency;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the recent COA audit report that the Department of Social Welfare and Development has failed to deliver millions of pesos worth of relief goods and utilize hundreds of millions of pesos of monetary donations for the victims of super typhoon Yolanda.

Adopted,

*act*   
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO