


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SENATE  
P.S. Res. 977

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Poe

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT A STUDY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE AFFECTED AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY EXTREME WEATHER OCCURRENCES AND THE EXTENT OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION EFFORTS GIVEN TO THESE AREAS AND THE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON THE MATTER**

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides in Article II, Section 16, "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

Whereas, on average, more than 20 storms/typhoons visit the Philippines yearly, added to the heavy rainfall of *habagat* (southwest monsoon)<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas, in the most contemporary report of the United Nations<sup>2</sup>, it was declared, that the world "can no longer ignore the impacts of climate change on the country's poorest people" and the other following conclusions:

- the warming of the planet will hit the poor the hardest, particularly those who depend on agriculture and fisheries for income and subsistence;
- Climate change will create new poor between now and 2100, in low-, medium-, and high-income countries and jeopardize sustainable development;
- It singles out rural regions in Southeast Asia as facing "very significant" impacts to economies and livelihoods.
- The poor will be hit in two major ways: rice and corn farmers will experience significant decreases in crop yields while the same reduced crop yields, together with growing population, will drive up food prices, making food less affordable for those in poverty.
- Global warming's toll on the world's aquatic resources are also harming fishermen everywhere. The change in ocean temperature and ocean acidification will only exacerbate massive coral bleaching leading to reduced catch of marine resources.

Whereas, in the Philippines, it was reported that there will be a 10 to 15% drop in agricultural production for every 1°C of warming<sup>3</sup>;

Whereas, the following are the effects of climate change in the Philippines, as reported<sup>4</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> Manila Bulletin, September 23, 2014, "Conserving God's Rainwater for All", by Atty. Romeo Pefianco

<sup>2</sup> Report of the United Nations on Climate Change, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2014), as cited in [www.rappler.com](http://www.rappler.com), April 2, 2014

<sup>3</sup> [www.rappler.com](http://www.rappler.com), citing the statement of PMCI national coordinator Gerry Arances on a report of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and state weather bureau PAGASA, April 2, 2014

<sup>4</sup> Arances, Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, *ibid*.

- Climate change threatens agriculture in many ways. Many crops are sensitive to changes in temperature and cannot survive in severe heat or cold. Climate change can cause extreme fluctuations in temperature, affecting the crop yield. The droughts and heat waves also linked to the phenomenon can dry up water resources necessary for keeping crops alive and healthy.
- The intense rainfall, aggravated flooding and storms can also damage crops and destroy farmers' homes and equipment, further endangering the already vulnerable sector.
- That climate change will give rise to a new demographic of poor Filipinos. Those who are right now still able to keep above the poverty line by subsisting on their crops will be driven below the poverty level.

Whereas, one of the private sector efforts of recent on Climate Change, is the so-called Climate Walk:

- Climate walk is a part of the global mobilization being done to raise awareness on climate change, mobilize people in demanding leaders and governments to take climate action<sup>5</sup>;
- In the Philippines, the climate walk is symbolic, given the country's precarious situation located just above the equator, where the eastern seaboard serves as a welcome mat for most of the tropical cyclones that devastate the Asia-Pacific every year. There is no denying the fact that the Philippines is the most exposed country in the world to tropical storms. With more than 7,000 islands, the coastline is vulnerable to storm surges.
- Founded on the principles of commitment, optimism, solidarity, spirituality and non-violence, On October 2, 2014, the International Day of Non-Violence, climate activists will set out from kilometer Zero of the Philippines (Rizal Park, Luneta Manila) embarking on a 40-day, 1000 kilometer journey that will bring them to Haiyan/ Yolanda's Ground Zero in Tacloban City on 8 November 2014. There are plans that the journey will go on trace the path of ST Yolanda, through Ormoc City (Leyte) and Camotes Islands (Cebu) for a full 40-day journey.
- Despite having an insignificant carbon footprint, the Philippines is disproportionately vulnerable to hazards such as extreme weather events. In the Asia-Pacific region, the Philippines already ranks as the second-highest in terms of the number of people exposed to storms and floods (12.1 million) and the fourth-highest in terms of GDP value losses (\$24.3 billion), according to 1998-2009 statistics compiled in the IPCC report.

Whereas, beyond beliefs and principles, advocacy and thinking, Filipinos should be tasked to mind the issue fully and should be encouraged to support the activities geared towards awareness of the climate change issue: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, to urge the Senate Committee on Climate Change and Environment and Natural Resources to conduct a study, in aid of legislation, on affected and vulnerable communities that have been impacted by extreme weather occurrences and the extent of government and private sector mitigation and adaptation efforts given to these areas and the awareness campaign on the matter.

Adopted,

  
GRACE POE

<sup>5</sup> Climate Walk is a universal project supported by universities and colleges, various private sector stakeholders and public/government agencies including the Climate Change Commission and Greenpeace Philippines, among others.