


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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. **1035**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THE PHILIPPINES SHOULD BRACE FOR
DROUGHT IN 2015

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, El Niño is an ocean phenomenon that may cause drought in some areas and rain in others, while causing tropical cyclones to behave erratically;

WHEREAS, GMA News.TV, in an article posted on 29 October 2014, said that whether or not the Philippines is hit by El Niño, the country should still prepare for drought in 2015;

WHEREAS, according to averaged data from multiple weather forecast models, rainfall levels in the country could suffer a significant decline early next year and bottom out in April;

WHEREAS, Wendy Clavano, an expert at the Environmental Science for Social Change, Inc., reportedly said El Niño may exacerbate pre-existing drought conditions in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Clavano further claimed that, in Mindanao alone, there is a 50 percent chance that precipitation will fall as much as 50 percent below normal levels between December 2014 and February 2015, ahead of the upcoming El Niño;


WHEREAS, Project NOAH head Mahar Lagmay, for his part, reportedly said there is also a 65 percent chance that El Niño will develop by the end of this year;

WHEREAS, Mahar claimed that although El Niño is expected to be weaker than the one the Philippines experienced in 1997, the strongest of the last century, it may still be comparably devastating due to the country's increased population;

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Senate to ensure that laws are in place to allow government to mitigate the impact of droughts;

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 report that the Philippines might experience drought in 2015.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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