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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1120

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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 RECENT COMMISSION ON AUDIT REPORT THAT THE
PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION HAS NO ADEQUATE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR STORM
SURGE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides: “The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy”;

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

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;
- (b) Adhere to and adopt the universal norms, principles and standards of humanitarian assistance and the global effort on risk reduction as concrete expression of the country’s commitment to overcome human sufferings due to recurring disasters;
- (c) Incorporate internationally accepted principles of disaster risk management in the creation and implementation of national, regional and local sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies, policies, plans and budgets;
- (d) Adopt a disaster risk reduction and management approach that is holistic, comprehensive, integrated, and proactive in lessening the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of disasters including climate change, and promote the involvement and participation of all sectors and all stakeholders concerned, at all levels, especially the local community;

WHEREAS, state auditors have found that the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has no adequate early warning system for storm surge;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit (COA) said that this makes the weather bureau unfit to forewarn the public on the possible severe impact of a typhoon as powerful as super typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan);

WHEREAS, the COA audit of PAGASA in 2013 also revealed that projects with programmed budget of ₱425 million funded under the Disbursement Acceleration Program remained unfinished;

WHEREAS, state auditors claimed that the stalled projects are delaying the establishment of facilities or equipment urgently needed for early warning systems and climate change adaptation;

WHEREAS, the government should ensure that measures are in place to prevent or mitigate the impact of extreme weather phenomenon on hazard-prone areas or communities;

WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must facilitate the effective use of funds appropriated for disaster risk reduction and management;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the recent Commission on Audit report that the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration has no adequate early warning system for storm surge.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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