


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

15 APR 23 P2:25

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1289

BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 RESOLUTION

2 DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
3 IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT SIXTEEN MAJOR
4 PHILIPPINE CITIES ARE NOT READY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

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

8 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 further provides: “The State
9 shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in
10 accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature”;

11 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 13 April 2015 reported that sixteen
12 major cities in the country are not ready for the effects of climate change according to a
13 study entitled “Business Risk Assessment and the Management of Climate Impact” done
14 by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) from 2011 to 2014;

15 WHEREAS, allegedly identified in the study were the cities of Laoag, Baguio,
16 Dagupan, Santiago, Angeles, Batangas, Naga and Puerto Princesa in Luzon; Cebu, Iloilo
17 and Tacloban in the Visayas; and Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, Davao, General Santos and
18 Zamboanga in Mindanao;

19 WHEREAS, the study claimed that disaster preparedness is reactive rather than
20 proactive among local governments, businesses, and residents, who tend to think of
21 solutions only after a disaster strikes instead of adopting preventive measures;

1 WHEREAS, the *Inquirer* quoted Jose Maria Lorenzo Tan, vice chair and chief
2 executive officer of the WWF National Advisory Council, as saying that the study
3 focused on cities because by midcentury, 60 to 70 percent of Filipinos would be living in
4 urban areas;

5 WHEREAS, Tan further claimed that trends pointing to the likelihood of
6 accelerated extreme weather events have to be taken seriously and proactively by crafting
7 effective policies both at the local and national levels;

8 WHEREAS, the report added that 11 of the 16 cities identified in the study are
9 likely to experience retreating coastline and increasing salinity of deltas due to rising sea
10 levels as a result of thermal expansion;

11 WHEREAS, in addition, allegedly none of the cities by the sea have retrofitted
12 their seaports, coastal airports, major arteries, and commercial and residential
13 developments to cope with rising sea levels;

14 WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, should mainstream climate
15 adaptation measures in all government policies, especially in local governments, which
16 are in the best position to evaluate the needs of their areas;

17 WHEREAS, there is a need for legislative measure that will to guide local
18 governments, urban planners, property developers, residents, and other stakeholders on
19 climate change adaptation;

20 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE
21 to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the
22 report that sixteen major Philippine cities are not ready for climate change.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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