

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*



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SENATE  
P.S. Res 211

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Poe

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**RESOLUTION**  
**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED FAILURE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS TO SEND OUT FREE MOBILE ALERTS ON THE ARRIVAL OF TYPHOON LAWIN**

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 10639 or the Free Mobile Disaster Alerts Act, Section 2 provides: "The State shall, at all times, protect its citizenry in the events of natural or man-made disasters and calamities. It shall likewise exhaust all possible means to notify and inform its constituents of the impending disasters to prevent injuries, destruction and loss of lives and property";

**WHEREAS**, Section 4 of the same law provides:

*Sec. 4 Mobile Disaster Alerts.* – In the event of an impending tropical storm, typhoon, tsunami, or other calamities, mobile phone service providers are mandated to send out alerts at regular intervals as required by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) and other relevant agencies.

The alerts shall consist of up-to-date information from the relevant agencies, and shall be sent directly to the mobile phone subscribers located near and within the affected areas.

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**WHEREAS**, in a recent report by DZMM, it was alleged that telecommunications service providers failed to send out mobile alerts to those residing in areas identified to be directly affected by typhoon Lawin (International code name Haima) ;

**WHEREAS**, such failure goes against the objective of the law to ensure the immediate dissemination of useful, timely, and relevant information in order to help our people prepare for natural disasters;

**WHEREAS**, free mobile disaster alerts create a sense of urgency among our constituents, especially those who will be directly affected;

**WHEREAS**, given that the Philippines is the fourth most disaster-prone country in the world according to a report by the United Nations,<sup>1</sup> it is imperative for the legislature to ensure strict compliance with the law, review if additional penalties should be meted out or if an increase in penalties is needed;

**WHEREAS**, the adage “prevention is better than cure” also applies when responding to natural disasters, such that an informed citizenry can gauge the actions they have to take in preparation for a natural disaster;

**WHEREAS**, the Filipino people deserve to know who should be accountable for lapses in the release of mobile alerts on typhoon Lawin, which could result in a lack of preparation for our people who have no access to radio or TV but only to mobile services;

**BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Philippines, urging the Senate Committee on Public Information and Mass Media to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported failure of telecommunications service providers to send out free mobile alerts on the arrival of typhoon Lawin.

*Adopted.*



GRACE POE

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Human Cost of Weather-Related Disasters, 1995-2015, [http://www.unisdr.org/2015/docs/climatechange/COP21\\_WeatherDisastersReport\\_2015\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/2015/docs/climatechange/COP21_WeatherDisastersReport_2015_FINAL.pdf).