SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session



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SENATE P.S. Res. No. 449 RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND FINANCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CLIMATE-RELATED RISKS AND CAPACITY CHALLENGES THAT IMPACT THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES' ABILITY TO RESPOND TO NON-TRADITIONAL FORMS OF THREATS AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO BRING ABOUT A RESILIENT AFP WITH BETTER CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CAPACITY, PRACTICE, AND GOVERNANCE THAT CONTRIBUTES TO BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has a constitutionally mandated duty of upholding our sovereignty and preserving the patrimony of our nation;

WHEREAS, climate change is an urgent and growing threat to national and global security, given its wide-ranging implications to poverty, food and water security, environmental degradation, social tensions, and other climate induced stresses;

WHEREAS, the AFP's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response operations, its civil works particularly through its Engineering Civic Action Program, and environmental protection and preservation efforts are part of a more comprehensive approach to national security and building resilient communities;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7898 or the AFP Modernization Act, as amended by Republic Act 10349, aims to enhance the AFP's capability to fulfill its mandate of protecting "the Filipino people not only from armed threats but from the ill effects of life-threatening and destructive consequences of natural and man-made disasters and calamities and from all forms of ecological damage;"

WHEREAS, the AFP Transformation Roadmap 2028, a 15-year strategic approach in pursuing reforms, is anchored on the recognition that while the AFP's mandate has "evolved and expanded to non-traditional roles such as peace support operations, humanitarian assistance, and disaster response," its level of capabilities did not improve along with the expansion of its roles and functions;

WHEREAS, climate-related risks, more frequent and extreme weather events, sea level rise and temperature changes, persistent recurring conditions of flooding and drought also impact on the AFP, its facilities and its ability to address new forms of threats and the way it executes its missions;

WHEREAS, in his second State of the Nation Address, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte highlighted the climate impacts affecting Mindanao, the need for an immediate action to ensure disaster resiliency in our communities, and the urgency of strengthening the defense capability of the AFP against all forms of threats facing our country;

WHERAS, AFP's disaster resilience as an institution needs to be guaranteed in order that it may effectively discharge its expanded roles in the face of climate impacts and increasing disaster risks;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Committees on Climate Change and Finance to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the climate-related risks and capacity challenges that impact the Armed Forces of the Philippines' ability to respond to non-traditional forms of threats and to recommend measures to bring about a resilient AFP with better climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction capacity, practice, and governance that contributes to building resilient communities.

Adopted,

LOREN LEGARDA

Senator