

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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Senate of the Philippines
Republic of the Philippines

PS Resolution No. 149

INTRODUCED BY THE HON. EDGARDO J. ANGARA

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO JOINTLY HOLD A PUBLIC INQUIRY THAT WILL LEAD TO THE PHILIPPINES’ PARTICIPATION IN AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO CREATE A TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM.”

WHEREAS, eleven countries across Asia were hit and greatly devastated by a tidal wave created by an earthquake in Indonesia.

WHEREAS, the death toll in the Asian countries hit by the tsunami has surpassed 141,000 and continues to rise, while international rescue efforts struggle to locate countless other missing persons. Damage to infrastructure and livelihood are valued at billions. Scores of victims seek shelter, and it is feared that disease and infection will only aggravate the condition of those in evacuation.

WHEREAS, a global effort at alleviating the devastation has already begun. A lesson learned from this disaster can be found in the severe detriment to the countries which were largely unprepared for such calamity.

WHEREAS, tidal waves are historically the most destructive of natural disasters. Scientists predict that the most recent tsunami will not be the last of its kind. The Philippines, being an archipelagic country, is especially vulnerable to such disturbances because its tectonic plates are constantly active. For instance, the great earthquake of 1971 in Mindanao, coupled with a killer tidal wave, caused the death of over 8,000 people.

WHEREAS, world leaders are set to develop a global tsunami warning system. Such system already exists in Japan, Hawaii and the Pacific Coast states of the United States of America. The science is not entirely novel, and has already been half a century in operation.

WHEREAS, our government and scientific community must enhance domestic capability in coping with a tsunami disaster by training our scientists this early and sending a select few to Japan, Hawaii and other centers of research and training to acquire the necessary knowledge and expertise in coping with such a disaster.

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate direct the Committees on Science and Technology, and Environment and Natural Resources to hold a joint public inquiry, in aid of legislation, into how best the Philippines can join the international effort to develop a global tsunami warning system, study the country's domestic capability, and prepare our population on how to cope with this phenomenon through training, information and education.

Adopted,


HON. EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Senator