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

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SENATE  
PSR No. 157

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Introduced by Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND URBAN PLANNING, HOUSING AND RESETTLEMENT, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CALL FOR A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON A NATIONAL SCALE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF PREVENTING OR MINIMIZING THE ILL-EFFECTS, PARTICULARLY HUMAN CASUALTIES, BROUGHT ABOUT BY NATURAL DISASTERS SUCH AS TYPHOONS, EARTHQUAKES AND *TSUNAMIS*, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

*Whereas*, in late November, 2004, hundreds of people died in the municipalities of Infanta, Real and Nakar, located in the province of Quezon, as a result of landslides and flashfloods as a consequence of typhoons Yoyong and Winnie;

*Whereas*, scientists led by Mr. Ray Punongbayan issued statements which substantially claim that the primary cause of the landslides and flashfloods in the affected areas of Infanta, Real and Nakar was such that their topography, the steep slopes and thick topsoil, the shape of the mountainside, make these localities vulnerable to landslides thereby posing permanent and enduring threats on their inhabitants' lives and limbs;

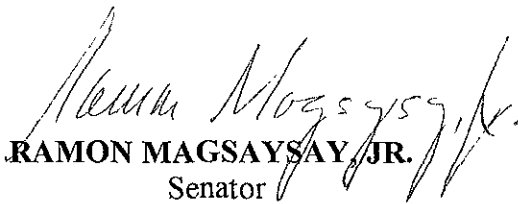
*Whereas*, on December 26, 2004, hundreds of thousands of our Asian brothers who live in different coastal areas within the Indian Ocean perished as a result of the *tsunami* disaster;

*Whereas*, the Philippines, being an archipelagic state composed of numerous coastal communities, is likewise vulnerable to the ill-effects suffered by the unfortunate victims of the unprecedented December 26 *tsunami* disaster;

*Whereas*, while we cannot prevent natural disasters, there is a need to conduct scientific studies and research on a nationwide scale, such as the one cited by Mr. Punongbayan on the Quezon landslides substantially stating the topographic defects of the area, and on the possibility of detecting their occurrence or implementing early warning systems, or such other measures so as to prevent or minimize human casualties as well as property damage in such eventualities;

*Whereas*, in consonance with these scientific researches, there is likewise a need to have a national inventory of specific settlement of local communities that are prone to suffer as a consequence of these natural disasters, and possibly find ways, including but not limited to the remedy of relocation, to prevent or minimize human fatalities.

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED*, to direct the Senate Committees on Science and Technology, Environment and Natural Resources, and Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the need for the government to call for a scientific research on a national scale on the possibility of preventing or minimizing the ill-effects, particularly human casualties, brought about by natural disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes and *tsunamis*, and for other purposes .

  
**RAMON MAGSAYSAY, JR.**  
Senator