



SENATE

20 JAN 27 P 3:40

P.S. Res. No. 298

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY ON THE TOTAL DAMAGE OF THE TAAL VOLCANO ERUPTION IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE TOTAL FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AID, RELIEF, RESETTLEMENT, REHABILITATION, RECONSTRUCTION, AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE NATURAL CATASTROPHE.

1 WHEREAS, the Taal Volcano went into phreatic eruption in the afternoon of
2 January 12, 2020.

3 WHEREAS, the eruption has been a detriment to the health and a cause of
4 significant damage to the livelihoods of the people in Southern Tagalog Region.

5 WHEREAS, as of 21 January 2020, the Department of Agriculture (DA)
6 reported that more than 15,000 hectares of agriculture lands have been affected
7 and the financial cost of damage and losses to agriculture and fisheries is estimated
8 at ₱3.17 billion (US\$ 62 million), with the fisheries sector accounting for about half
9 of the losses. Also, the Department of Education (DepEd) reported that more than
10 300 schools are being used as evacuation centers, affecting more than 9,700
11 students.

12 WHEREAS, on 25 January 2020, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and
13 Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that a total of 103,443 families or
14 394,094 individuals were affected in CALABARZON. Of this number, 38,377 families
15 or 137,447 individuals are taking temporary shelter in 532 evacuation centers.

16 WHEREAS, the NDRRMC has yet to estimate the total cost of damage as the
17 concerned agencies were not allowed to enter the premises to map the extent of

1 the damage because the affected communities were placed under lockdown by the
2 authorities.

3 WHEREAS, on 25 January 2020, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and
4 Seismology (PHIVOLCS) lowered the Taal Volcano's alert status from Level 4 to
5 Level 3, cautioning that there could still be "sudden steam-driven and even weak
6 phreatomagmatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, ashfall and lethal volcanic gas
7 expulsions".

8 WHEREAS, while the government has allotted budget for Calamity Fund and
9 Quick Response Fund for Fiscal Year 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte still asked
10 the Congress to pass a P30 billion supplemental budget to respond to the needs of
11 the affected residents.

12 WHEREAS, several bills and resolutions have been filed in the Senate and the
13 House of Representatives, which seek to appropriate supplemental budget to help
14 families and communities affected by the eruption, and urge the immediate release
15 of funds to finance the aid, relief, resettlement, rehabilitation, reconstruction,
16 livelihood, development and social programs and services of the government for the
17 affected areas.

18 WHEREAS, officials of the House of Representatives filed House Resolution
19 No. 662 expressing the support and commitment of the House of Representatives
20 to work with all the concerned agencies to pass the proposed supplemental budget
21 to expedite effective and responsive assistance to the victims.

22 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, for the Senate of the Philippines to
23 direct the appropriate committees to conduct an inquiry on the total damage of the
24 Taal Volcano eruption in order to assess the total financial requirements for the aid,
25 relief, resettlement, rehabilitation, and livelihood support to communities adversely
26 affected by the natural catastrophe.

Adopted,



SONNY ANGARA