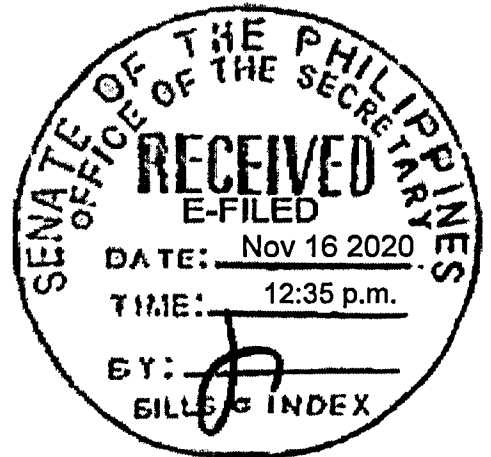


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Second Regular Session

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 570

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE MASSIVE FLOODING CAUSED BY WATER RELEASES FROM DAMS TRIGGERED BY THE SUCCESSIVE TYPHOONS AND CONTINUOUS RAINS IN THE LUZON ISLAND WITH THE END VIEW OF IDENTIFYING NEEDED GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS, ENVIRONMENT REHABILITATION, AND POSSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS TO PREVENT SIMILAR DISASTERS IN THE FUTURE

1 Whereas, typhoon "Ulysses" (international name Vamco) entered the Philippine
2 area of responsibility on November 8, 2020, made its first landfall in Patnanungan,
3 Quezon Province on November 11, and traversed the Luzon Island until it exited the
4 PAR on November 13;

5 Whereas, in a span of three weeks, five severe weather disturbances entered
6 the Philippine area of responsibility namely typhoon "Quinta" (I.N. Molave), super
7 typhoon "Rolly" (I.N. Goni), tropical storm "Siony" (I.N. Atsani), tropical storm "Tonyo"
8 (I.N. Etau), and typhoon "Ulysses" which affected various parts of the country,
9 particularly the eastern section of the Philippines;

10 Whereas, according to Sitrep No. 5 regarding Preparedness and Effects for
11 Typhoon "Ulysses" dated November 15, 2020 issued by the National Disaster Risk
12 Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), a total of 428,657 families or
13 1,755,224 persons in 4,543 barangays in Regions I, II, III, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA,
14 V, NCR and CAR were affected;

15 Whereas, in the same report, NDRRMC reported a total of 67 dead, 21 injured,
16 and 13 missing persons in Regions II, CALABARZON, V and CAR;

1 Whereas, the NDRRMC report also showed that of the 262 incidents that were
2 monitored, 173 were flooding incidents;

3 Whereas, out of these 173 flood incidents, 62 happened in Region II. One city
4 and 21 municipalities in Cagayan were submerged in floodwaters, three cities and 22
5 municipalities in Isabela were flooded, 57 barangays in Nueva Vizcaya and 25
6 barangays in Quirino were also inundated;

7 Whereas, Flood Forecasting and Warning Section of the Philippine Atmospheric,
8 Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) advised that spillway
9 gates of four dams, namely Ipo, Ambuklao, Binga, and Magat, were opened to
10 discharge water after breaching spilling levels, and warned the residents of the low-
11 lying areas near these dams on possible flooding¹;

12 Whereas, flood alerts were also issued by PAGASA to warn residents of low-
13 lying areas of possible flooding as La Mesa Dam in Quezon City reached its capacity
14 of 80.15 meters, and as Angat Dam in Bulacan breached its of 210-meter capacity²;

15 Whereas, the discharge of water from these dams exacerbated the heavy and
16 continuous rainfall brought by successive typhoons and caused tremendous suffering
17 to the public and extensive damage to both public and private properties;

18 Whereas, Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba said that the recent flooding in
19 their province was "unprecedented." In a *Laging Handa* public briefing, Gov. Mamba
20 said, "*Nakapaghanda kami, no question about that, we anticipated ito dahil nasanay*
21 *na kami sa ganito, nagkaron kami ng preemptive evacuation, nagkaroon kami ng*
22 *forced evacuation. We anticipated this but we did not anticipate how enormous yung*
23 *tubig na dadating... But this is worse than what we prepared, the last time that we*
24 *had this was 1975, dati hanggang 11 meters lang umaabot, pero this time it went as*
25 *high as 13.1 meters. This is unprecedented dito sa Cagayan. First time na nangyari*
26 *ulit itong ganito kaya na surprise yung iba.*³";

¹ "Residents near Ipo, Ambuklao, Binga, and Magat dams warned of flooding as reservoirs continue to release water. November 13, 2020. <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/13/residents-near-ipo-ambuklao-binga-and-magat-dams-warned-of-flooding-as-reservoirs-continue-to-release-water/>

² "Flood alerts as major Luzon dams spill over due to Ulysses." November 12, 2020. <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/12/20/pagasa-warns-of-flooding-as-ulysses-rains-cause-water-level-rise-in-luzon-dams>

³ "Cagayan prepared but surprised by 'unprecedented' floods." November 15, 2020. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1121833>

1 Whereas, pleas for help and dreadful photos and stories of families, children
2 and elderly being trapped on their rooftops for hours, even days, without food supply
3 or clean water, hoping to be rescued and in dire need of immediate assistance also
4 flooded the social media platforms;

5 Whereas, Gov. Mamba also attributed the province’s “worst flooding in 40
6 years” to denuded forests and watersheds in the area, the abuse of forests in the
7 Cordillera and Sierra Madre mountain ranges, and the heavy siltation of the riverbeds⁴;

8 Whereas, Marikina City was placed under a State of Calamity after parts of the
9 city were submerged in floodwaters after the Marikina River swelled because of heavy
10 rains brought by typhoon “Ulysses” and the release of water from Angat Dam;

11 Whereas, Marikina City Mayor Marcy Teodoro and the local disaster
12 management officials said that large part of the city experienced floods due to the
13 release of water from Angat Dam which caused the Marikina River to swell from an
14 initial forecast of only 18 meters to 22 meters, which is higher than the 21.5 meters
15 recorded during the typhoon Ondoy in 2009⁵;

16 Whereas, Mayor Teodoro said that the management of Angat Dam should have
17 notified them that of the water discharge, since the Marikina River is connected to the
18 Angat Dam;

19 Whereas, some parts of Montalban, Rizal also experienced three- to six-foot
20 deep floodwaters due to over-spilling of Wawa Dam, as some parts of the municipality
21 were submerged in 15-foot deep flood;

22 Whereas, there is an immediate need to identify the root causes of this massive
23 flooding in order to start the necessary and comprehensive government interventions
24 at the soonest possible time and to prevent similar disasters from happening in the
25 future;

26 Whereas, it is the policy of the State to uphold the people’s constitutional right
27 to life and property by addressing the vulnerabilities to disasters, strengthening the
28 institutional capacities for disaster risk reduction and management, and building the
29 resilience of communities to disasters;

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ “Marikina to sue Angat Dam for floods higher than what Ondoy caused.” November 13, 2020.
<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/764033/marikina-to-sue-angat-dam-for-floods-higher-than-what-ondoy-caused/story/>

1 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to
2 urge the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into
3 the massive flooding caused by water releases from dams triggered by the successive
4 typhoons and continuous rains over the Luzon island with the end view of identifying
5 needed government interventions, environment rehabilitation, and possible
6 infrastructure works to prevent similar disasters in the future.

Adopted,


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.