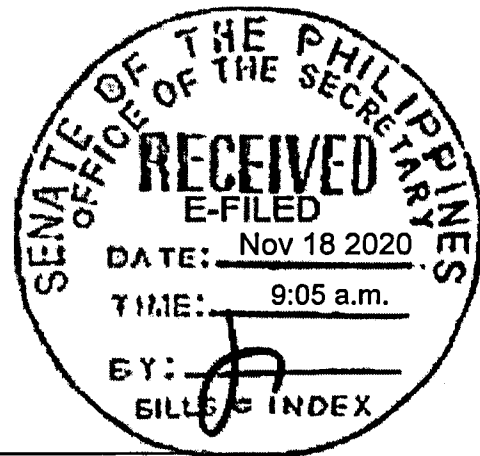


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 573



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED "MAN-MADE"
DISASTER FOLLOWING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON ULYSSES

WHEREAS, on 16 November 2020, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), in a meeting recommended to President Rodrigo Duterte placing Luzon under a state of calamity due to the impact and destruction caused by the typhoons "*Quinta*," "*Rolly*," and "*Ulysses*," impacting over 1.7 million people were directly affected;

WHEREAS, as of 15 November 2020, Typhoon Ulysses left 69 people dead, 21 injured, and 12 missing, while the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) reported over 265,000 individuals rescued in various provinces. In Cagayan Valley alone, almost 100,000 people, were forced to flee their homes as a result of the massive flooding;

WHEREAS, according to the NDRRMC, initial agricultural damage from the typhoons reached P2.14 billion in the regions of Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), Bicol and Cordillera, while damage to infrastructure was immediately tallied at P482.85 million in Ilocos, Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) and Bicol;

WHEREAS, numerous allegations from many sectors have been made blaming the National Irrigation Administration-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-MARIIS) for failing to provide notice of their releasing of water from the dam. Experts stated that according to the Magat Dam protocol, there should be a drawdown of at least 2-3 days before the expected landfall. The NIA-MARIIS, however, asserted that they warned residents of a pre-release 09 November 2020, or two days before Ulysses made landfall on 11 November;

WHEREAS, in the cities within Metro Manila, Marikina was the hardest hit since Disaster Management officials anticipated water levels at the Marikina River to reach 18 meters based on the forecast of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and

Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA); However, when NIA released the waters of Angat Dam, it reached 22 meters, higher than the 21.5 meters recorded during Typhoon Ondoy in 2009. Thus, allegations were made stating that PAGASA did not give sufficient or accurate flood warning due to the releases in nearby dams, similar to what occurred in the Cagayan Valley with Magat Dam;

WHEREAS, President Duterte hit corrupt officials of the Department of Public Works (DPWH) after knowing that local officials have appealed to the Department, to no avail, to have the Bicol River dredged to solve the problem of flooding in Camarines Sur. The same accusations have been made by Local Government Units (LGUs) alongside the clogged and silted Cagayan River;

WHEREAS, in a briefing, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Sec. Roy Cimatu said there are already talks for several projects that could help prevent massive flooding in the future such as dredging operations in the Cagayan River;

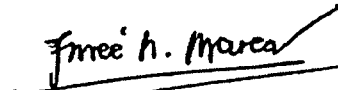
WHEREAS, DENR Secretary Cimatu said that the DENR issued a cease-and-desist order on illegal small-scale mining and illegal logging operations following the massive flooding in Cagayan and Isabela. Sec. Cimatu further stated that 10 of the casualties in the region were reported in illegal mining sites;

WHEREAS, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) stated that there may be a need to revisit disaster guidelines and compliance of LGUs following the devastation from Typhoon Ulysses while the LGUs deny the receipt of storm, flood, or such evacuation warnings;

WHEREAS, taking into consideration the abovementioned circumstances, there is a need to investigate and review projects and studies and thereafter, recommend solutions to address the issue, as well as to implement new infrastructure concepts and technologies such as the "*Sponge City*" in China and India which integrates water management strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change, pollution, and overpopulation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, directing the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the alleged "man-made" disaster following the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

Adopted


IMEE R. MARCOS