


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

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SENATE 311

RECEIVED BY: 

P. S. R. No. _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE WORSENING WATER CRISIS IN CENTRAL LUZON

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article II, section 16, states that: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, according to Dr Rex Victor Cruz, a professor from the College of Forestry and Natural Resources of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños, a serious water shortage is imminent in Central Luzon this year as the region's demand for water soars to twice the 12 5 million cubic meters of potential supply;

WHEREAS, signs of the impending water deficit have been apparent, such as the declining amount of rainfall in Nueva Ecija, the increase in temperature that lessens water supply, and the decreasing capacity of the Pantabangan Dam, also in Nueva Ecija, due to siltation and deforestation;

WHEREAS, the region is also prone to droughts as shown by the 1997 and 1998 droughts brought about by the El Niño phenomenon; the damage in agriculture during those years reached Php140.4 million;

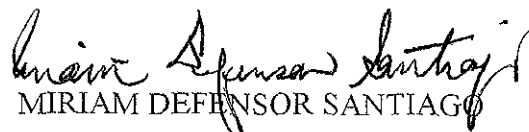
WHEREAS, the crisis has national implications as Central Luzon supplies 20% of the country's total farm production;

WHEREAS, according to Dr. Cruz, conservation and revival of the region's watersheds through reforestation is a viable proposal to avert the crisis;

WHEREAS, the government has the obligation to undertake drastic measures to address the impending water shortage to prevent damage to the country's farm production and food security.

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the worsening water crisis in Central Luzon

Approved


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO