

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



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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

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P.S. Res. No. 734

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

RESOLUTION
URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE FLOODING INCIDENCE
IN BULACAN DUE TO TYPHOON EGAY, HABAGAT, AND OTHER
CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

WHEREAS, the Philippines has been consistently subjected to the destructive consequences of typhoons. However, in recent times, there has been a notable increase in both the frequency and severity of these natural hazards;

WHEREAS, Typhoon Egay, exacerbated by the habagat season, has caused over Php 5.4 billion worth in damages throughout Luzon, focused on Northern and Central Luzon, not to mention ecosystem damage that may make recovery all the more difficult;

WHEREAS, the country is not entirely lacking in measures to plan and prevent such damage, with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geological and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), urban planning, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) System, flood control public works, early warning systems, hydrological studies, disaster risk reduction budgets, and scientific analysis;

WHEREAS, dams are Environmental Critical Projects (ECP) under Category A as declared through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order No. 2003-30, and the Revised Procedural Manual implementing it issued under Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Memorandum Circular 2007-002, putting these large infrastructure projects squarely within the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System;

WHEREAS, the EIA System plays a crucial role in consolidating information from various disciplines and departments to assess the collective impact and cumulative effects that multiple dams concurrently releasing water may have. However, it is the responsibility of the government to establish adequate operational protocols aimed at mitigating the vulnerability of communities, agriculture, and

ecosystems. Moreover, it is the duty of dam operators to comply with these protocols, constantly improve their responses, and keep them up-to-date;

WHEREAS, despite these measures, we have seen our agriculture sector, our settlements, and our protective ecosystems pounded again and again with little data on tracking the improvements or lack thereof in our preparation, resilience, reduction in vulnerability, and the documentation of ecosystem damage and loss of ecosystem services brought on by these disasters;

WHEREAS, to truly gauge the effectiveness of the measures implemented, it is crucial for the government to closely monitor the outcomes, and must be accompanied by a commitment to transparency and public scrutiny, as well as ways to improve preparation, response types, response times, and overall recovery capacity;

WHEREAS, responsive measures must be granular, specifying extent, characteristics, and areas of risk, disseminating local, regional, and community-specific vulnerabilities and long-term risk reduction and resilience;

WHEREAS, the situation has required and continues to require a comprehensive and integrated approach to disaster risk mitigation, including land use, flood control measures, water management, environmental impact assessment, and proper land use planning, taking into consideration land subsidence, increased population and settlements, present and anticipated sea level rise, the impact of dumping and reclamation of wetland areas and the multiple agencies involved in the governance of this multi-pronged issue;

WHEREAS, there is an extreme necessity for a scientific and interdisciplinary data cross-referencing among the EIA review outcomes, land use planning granularity of disaster risk information, and dam operational protocols as a means of achieving sustainable and resilient societies;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, urging the appropriate senate committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation into the flooding incidence in Bulacan due to typhoon Egay, habagat, and other contributing factors.

Adopted,


LOREN LEGARDA