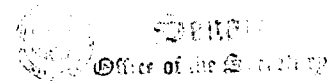


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



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SENATE

RECEIVED BY

P.S. Res. No. 772

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Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT MASSIVE FLOODING CAUSED BY SUPER TYPHOON EGAY, IN RELATION TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION, AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT LAWS BY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN LIGHT OF THE ESCALATING CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTER RISKS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING STRONGER POLICY MEASURES THAT WILL HELP AVERT FUTURE LOSS AND DAMAGE AND ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY**

**WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 16 of the Philippine Constitution provides 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**, in pursuit of the Constitutional provision, various laws on environmental and climate action, such as the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System, Marine Pollution Control law, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Renewable Energy Act, Environmental Awareness and Education Act, Climate Change Act and its amendatory law creating the People's Survival Fund, Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act, Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act, Green Jobs Act, Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act, have been passed, the effective implementation of which is vital to the country's sustainable growth and development;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9729 or the Climate Change Act, as amended, declares that the State shall "adopt the principle of protecting the climate system for the benefit of humankind, on the basis of climate justice," in view of the country's vulnerability to the "dangerous consequences of climate change such as

rising seas, changing landscapes, increasing frequency and/or severity of droughts, fires, floods and storms, climate-related illnesses and diseases, damage to ecosystems, biodiversity loss that affect the country's environment, culture, and economy";

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act declares the State policy to "uphold the people's constitutional rights to life and property by addressing the root causes of vulnerabilities to disasters, strengthening the country's institutional capacity for disaster risk reduction and management and building the resilience of local communities to disasters including climate change impacts;"

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10121 further provides that the State shall "adopt a disaster risk reduction and management approach that is holistic, comprehensive, integrated, and proactive in lessening the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of disasters including climate change, and promote the involvement and participation of all sectors and all stakeholders concerned, at all levels, especially the local community;"

**WHEREAS**, Section 26 of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code emphasizes the significant role played by local government units (LGUs) in the maintenance of ecological balance in their respective communities by requiring national agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations to ensure sufficient consultations have been undertaken and appropriate clearances have been secured in relation to the planning and implementation of any project or program that may cause pollution, climatic change, depletion of non-renewable resources, loss of cropland, rangeland, or forest cover, and extinction of animal or plant species;

**WHEREAS**, Section 43 of the General Provisions of the General Appropriations Act states that "As part of the disaster risk reduction program of the government, agencies and GOCCs that have control or supervision over the major dams shall ensure that said dams are properly maintained, managed and operated with updated and promulgated protocols. The agencies and GOCCs concerned shall take into account climate change and extreme weather events and ensure coordination with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration on precipitation forecasts. They shall also establish and maintain an efficient and effective early flood warning system and functional water level monitoring system that is periodically tested together with the LGUs and communities are risk of flooding from dam water releases;

**WHEREAS**, the latest scientific consensus on climate change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded its sixth assessment report (AR6) cycle citing with "high confidence" that drastic reductions made today will still cause some irreversible changes are already set in motion, demanding adaptation measures to cope with the consequences;

**WHEREAS**, the report found that sea level continues to rise at an increasing rate. Extreme sea levels and coastal hazards will be exacerbated by projected increases in tropical cyclone intensity and precipitation;

**WHEREAS**, various dam water release protocols dictate that once the water level in a certain dam reaches its threshold, the excess water should be discharged to ensure the integrity of the dam's structure and avert catastrophe associated with dam failure, and such information shall be coordinated and communicated with concerned agencies and stakeholders, especially affected local government units (LGUs);

**WHEREAS**, over 10,000 residents had to be evacuated from nine towns and two cities in Bulacan province and over 6000 residents in Pampanga as the Ipo and Bustos dams discharged waters after heavy rains spawned by super typhoon "Egay" (international name: Doksuri), floodwaters reaching as high as 1.2 meters (4 feet) and submerged low-lying areas;

**WHEREAS**, it is crucial for the Department of Public Works and Highways and LGUs to regularly declog canals, roadside ditches, and drains, as well as address recessed or deepened areas during road construction, in order to prevent constant flooding;

**WHEREAS**, while traditional flood mitigation projects like river dredging, dike construction, and tree planting upstream are important, there is a need to supplement them with natural flood intervention programs such as river and floodplain restoration;

**WHEREAS**, it is essential for all national government agencies (NGAs) and LGUs to practice landscape and ecosystem-based comprehensive development and land use planning that is guided by geohazard maps, climate, and disaster risk assessments;

**WHEREAS**, despite the implementation of significant policies on the environment, climate change, and disaster risk reduction and management, the state of the environment continues to deteriorate due to challenges arising from poor urban governance, vulnerable rural livelihoods, and declining ecosystems. These factors amplify disaster risks and poverty within the context of climate change, causing immense loss and suffering for millions of Filipinos;

**WHEREAS**, it is incumbent upon the legislature to determine the effective use of public funds in the implementation of the environmental, climate, and disaster risk reduction laws to promote the sustainability of natural systems and the security and welfare of the present and future generations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Senate, in the exercise of its oversight functions, conduct an audit of relevant national government agencies and

local government units in relation to their compliance with existing environmental, climate, disaster risk reduction and management and appropriation laws, in light of the escalating climate-related disaster risks, with the end in view of ensuring an enhanced national monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of these laws and warranting the accountability of government officials, private entities and other involved stakeholders;

**RESOLVED, FURTHER**, that the Senate conduct a review on protocols followed by dam operators to ensure that measures for improved management of dams are adjusted to climate risk scenarios, including pre-emptive safe discharge of water, and linked to effective early warning systems for communities at risk of floods, to prevent loss of lives and destruction of properties and livelihood in the event that massive water discharge are resorted to;

**RESOLVED, FURTHERMORE**, that the Senate directs PAGASA to enhance its capability and system agility for climate observation and projection, weather forecasting, and real-time climate information dissemination to dam operators, national government agencies, local government units, academe, and research institutions. PAGASA should also focus on translating scientific climate information into easily understandable messages about potential impacts to facilitate more effective risk communication;

**RESOLVED, FURTHERMORE**, that the Senate emphasizes the importance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), specifically its Mines and Geosciences Bureau, to ensure that geohazard maps are detailed, regularly updated to account for current and anticipated climate hazards, realistic, and easily comprehensible to local government units and communities. These maps should serve as the basis for considering appropriate measures, such as "protect, retreat, accommodate," based on risk assessments;

**RESOLVED, FURTHERMORE**, that the Senate urges local government units to prioritize the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in their development, investment, and land use planning. They should ensure the implementation of early warning systems, clear communication channels, and efficient evacuation procedures. Additionally, building design approvals should consider the potential occurrence of floods in these areas;

**RESOLVED FINALLY**, to express the sense of the Senate, in pursuit of climate justice for the Philippines and vulnerable developing nations, that developed countries shall deliver on their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement to lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to keep temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels; and to provide support to developing countries

to adapt to the impacts of climate change, avert unprecedented loss and damages, and achieve inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development.

Adopted,



**LOREN LEGARDA**