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SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 1025

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION CAMPAIGN OF THE GOVERNMENT ON ITS PROGRAMS AND POLICY RESPONSE TO VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL SHOCKS WITH AN END VIEW OF ADOPTING A "WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY" APPROACH

1 Whereas, with Sustainable Development Goal Target 16.10 calling on States to
2 ensure public access to information, a positive obligation on the part of States is
3 created to recognize the same and to develop user-friendly systems to ensure
4 meaningful access to information;

5 Whereas, a 2002 study by Arcenas noted that the lack of information and
6 financial capacity are the causes for our farmers' incapacity to take immediate action
7 during "environmental shocks" such as El Niño and La Niña thus impairing agricultural
8 productivity;

9 Whereas, the need for preparation cannot be stressed enough given the
10 following considerations: (a) our country's high exposure to El Niño and La Niña; (b)
11 the climate vulnerability of our rural areas; and (c) the role of the agricultural sector
12 in the economy contributing 9% in last year's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and
13 employing 25% of the 49.7 million Filipinos in the labor force;

14 Whereas, preparation through proper information dissemination and prompt
15 distribution of government aid and support could spell out success in addressing our
16 country's vulnerability to frequent environmental shocks;

1 Whereas, the Philippine Atmospheric and Geophysical Agency (PAGASA) was
2 never remiss in releasing its forecasts of upcoming El Niño and La Niña phenomena
3 giving government enough time to prepare mechanisms to minimize their impact on
4 vital sectors such as water security, food security, energy security, health, and public
5 safety, among others;

6 Whereas, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has ordered a whole-of-
7 government approach in order to consolidate measures set in place as we face the
8 challenges of El Niño and prepare for the looming threats of La Niña;

9 Whereas, a National Action Plan for El Niño that is said to be conforming with
10 the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028 and the National Disaster Risk
11 Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP) has been set in place while the National
12 La Niña Action Plan is currently underway;

13 Whereas, there is a need to review historical data on the effects and
14 corresponding government response to the El Niño and La Nina phenomena
15 encountered by the country in the past decades and identify the policy gaps therein
16 for consideration in crafting both short term and long term action plans for better
17 sectoral outcomes;

18 Whereas, Filipinos must be informed of up-to-date and necessary preparations
19 and responses of the national and local government, as the public has, over the years,
20 been taking the brunt of these environmental shocks.

21 Whereas, it cannot be denied that implementing a comprehensive public
22 information drive is necessary to apprise the affected population of the government's
23 projects, programs, and activities to help them cope with the adverse effects of this
24 crisis;

25 Whereas, a whole-of-society approach, with respect to information
26 dissemination in all crisis related concerns, must be adopted in order to facilitate
27 societal inclusivity and to ensure the active participation of all sectors to better amplify
28 government's response to ensure that information will be delivered promptly and, in
29 a language, well understood by the population directly affected: Now, therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, direct the Senate
31 Committee on Public Information and Mass Media to conduct an inquiry, in aid of
32 legislation, on the information dissemination campaign of the government on its

- 1 programs and policy response to various environmental shocks with an end in view of
- 2 adopting a "Whole-of-Society" approach.

Adopted,



ROBINHOOD PADILLA