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First Regular Session

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SENATE P.S. Res. No. 44

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Introduced By Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE FINANCING OF CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THE JUDICIOUS AND EFFECTIVE USE OF BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS AND FUNDING MECHANISMS FOR THE SAME

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16, 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, the Philippines is beset with disasters such as typhoons, floods, landslides, drought – occurrences that are continually exacerbated by the rapidly changing climate, which is scientifically proven to worsen in the years to come;

WHEREAS, the country must adapt to this changing climate to reduce the amount of destruction and human casualties that result from extreme weather conditions;

WHEREAS, numerous sources of funds are available to the Philippines in order to finance its climate change programs and projects, namely: the external grants and loans, as well as government grants and loans, budgetary appropriations and disbursements;

WHEREAS, external grants may come from: 1) multilateral agencies such as the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, the United Nations and the European Community; 2) bilateral or country donor sources; 3) the Global Environment Facility; and 4) Foreign NGOs and foreign and local private foundations;

WHEREAS, Dominique Lebastard, economic counselor of the French embassy revealed the obtainment by the government of the PhP 10.5-billion loan from the Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) in May reportedly to be used for government initiatives on climate change mitigation and adaptation, but mostly channeled to plug the country's growing budget deficit;

WHEREAS, transparency and accountability mechanisms and broad stakeholder engagement should be in place to ensure that dedicated budget lines, financing facilities and international aid, which are prone to abuse and misuse, are effective means for the country be more climate-resilient;

WHEREAS, good governance and prudent use of public funds lead to satisfactory conditions of our infrastructures -- roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, public buildings,

water systems, dams, dikes, ports and airports; and improved performance of our national and local agencies charged with implementing rules and regulations regarding waste disposal, zoning, the construction of buildings and the development and locations of residential subdivisions, commercial areas, parks and the cleaning of rivers, canals, *esteros*, lakes and coastal areas;

WHEREAS, climate change financing must be shielded from corruption risks and that poor governance must not weaken the government's efforts to fight climate change;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on Climate Change to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the financing of climate change programs and projects of the government with the end in view of ensuring the judicious and effective use of budgetary allocations and funding mechanisms for the same.

Adopted,

LOREN LEGARDA

Senator