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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 752

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO LOOK INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMMITMENT TO THE HYOGO FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION IN VIEW OF ENABLING COMMUNITIES TO BUILD THEIR RESILIENCE, MITIGATE AND PREVENT DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF DISASTERS ON LIVES, PROPERTY, THE ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Whereas, the Philippines experiences the worst typhoons, volcanic eruptions, maritime disasters, landslides, mudslides, and even trash slides due to its geographic location, geophysical attributes and state of environmental degradation;

Whereas, these disasters have caused the loss of lives and limb, destruction of property, unemployment and economic dislocation, disease and perennial poverty;

Whereas, we have incurred an average of fifteen billion pesos on direct disaster damages per year from 1970-2000;

Whereas, during the January 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction, 168 governments adopted the *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* as the global blueprint for substantially reducing disaster losses by 2015-in lives, and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries;

Whereas, the HFA outlined priority actions to guide nations, organizations and other stakeholders at all levels in designing their approach to disaster risk reduction, to wit:

1. *Make disaster risk reduction a priority*: ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with strong institutional basis for implementation
2. *Know the risks and take action*: identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

3. *Build understanding and awareness*: use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
4. *Reduce the underlying risk factors*.
5. *Be prepared and be ready to act*: strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels;

Whereas, according to the July 2007 study by the Asian Development Bank entitled "*Emergency Preparedness in the Philippines: A Country Perspective*", although much remains to be done in managing disaster risks in the country, the rising awareness of the population on the need to invest more on mitigation and preparedness than on response is gaining ground;


Whereas, the same study cited the HFA , a clear framework of what countries need to focus on in reducing disaster losses, as a way forward;

Whereas, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction-organized *Manila Consultative Meeting with Parliamentarians: Making Disaster Risk Reduction a Tool for Adapting to Climate Change* held last October 17- 18, 2008 discussed strategies for implementing the HFA in regional and national levels and strongly recommended that integration of disaster risk reduction in policies and programs of government be guided by the same;

Whereas, progress on the government's implementation of and long-term commitment to the HFA should be made for effective disaster risk reduction;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the Committee on National Defense and Security to look into the government's implementation of and commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action in view of enabling communities to build their resilience, mitigate and prevent devastating effects of disasters on lives, property, the economy and the environment due to climate change impacts.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA
Senator