


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'11 FEB -8 P6:37

S E N A T E

RECEIVED BY: 

P. S. Res. No. 373

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLICATION OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK'S (ADB) "MIGRATION CRISIS REPORT" AND ITS IMPACT ON THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CREATING CLEARER, WELL-COORDINATED AND CONCERTED POLICIES AND MECHANISMS TO ADDRESS THE PROJECTED POPULATION SHIFTS DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Whereas, Section 16 Article II of the 1987 Constitution states 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 most recent Asian Development Bank (ADB) report on Migration and Population cautioned that failure to make preparations for vast movements of people could lead to a "humanitarian crisis" in the coming decades¹;

Whereas, climate change is now a migration driver coupled with economic needs and armed conflicts;

Whereas, according to said report, Asia and the Pacific will be amongst the global regions most affected by the impacts of climate change;

Whereas, impact of climate change would include significant temperature increases, changing rainfall patterns, greater monsoon variability, sea-level rise, floods and more intense tropical cyclones;

Whereas, also stated in the report, Asia and the Pacific regions are particularly vulnerable because of the high degree of exposure to environmental risks and high population density which would result to population displacements of unprecedented scale in the next decades;

Whereas, according to the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), Asians accounted for 89 percent of the 207 million people affected by disasters globally in 2010;

Whereas, in that same year, millions of people in the Asia-Pacific region, including Sri Lanka and the Philippines were displaced by natural disasters;

¹ Climate Change – Asia faces migration crisis, Philippine Daily Inquirer, February 7, 2011

Whereas, wave of migrations will generate new conflicts in areas of the world where resources are most scarce²;

Whereas, those expected to suffer the most from forced migrations will be the poor as they lack the means to easily pack up and leave for safe havens;


Whereas, displaced people have no rights under international law putting them in great danger;

Whereas, there is no international cooperation mechanism established to manage climate-induced migration³;

Whereas, the State, consistent with its mandate to protect its people, should intervene and use the ADB Report as a valuable source of information in order to prevent or address large-scale migration due to climate change which could result in a humanitarian crises with great social and economic costs; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committee on Climate Change other appropriate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the implication of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) "Migration Crisis Report" and its impact on the preparedness of the Philippine Government with the end in view of creating clearer, well-coordinated and concerted policies and mechanisms to address the projected population shifts due to climate change.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator

² <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/6652573.stm>

³ Mr. Bart Edes – Director, ADB Poverty Reduction, Gender and Social Development Division