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SENATE
P.S. Res 156

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EXISTING MECHANISMS AND MEASURES ON THE PRE-POSITIONING OF NECESSARY GOVERNMENT EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES IN AREAS NEAREST TO THE REMOTEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END GOALS OF INTENSIFYING INTER-LOCAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATION TO CREATE QUICK RESPONSE TEAMS TO CATER TO NEARBY AREAS HIT BY CALAMITIES AND TO REINVIGORATE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

WHEREAS, on 14 September 2016, Typhoon “Ferdie” (internationally codenamed “Meranti”) unleashed strong winds and rains in Batanes;

WHEREAS, the Head of Batanes Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, Charles Ibanes, stated that Ferdie damaged Php225,000,000.00 worth of homes and government facilities in the Batanes Islands;¹

WHEREAS, in Batan Island alone, which is composed of the municipalities of Basco, Mahatao, Ivana and Uguyan, damages to government buildings were estimated to have reached Php83,000,000.00 and damages or destruction of roads and bridges are pegged at Php4,500,000.00;²

WHEREAS, Ferdie’s onslaught further resulted to damaged waterworks estimated to be worth Php12,400,000.00, power facilities at around Php20,000,000.00, houses at

¹ <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/816089/ferdie-damages-in-batanes-pegged-at-p225-million>

² *Ibid.*

Php40,000,000.00, Php52,000,000.00 in lost crops, over Php2,000,000.00 in livestock and Php1,500,000.00 in fisheries;³

WHEREAS, the Provincial Government of Batanes, led by Governor Marilou Cayco, had declared a “State of Calamity” in the province and likewise appealed for potable water, food packs, generator sets, water pumps, transformers and construction materials;⁴

WHEREAS, even Batanes Bishop Camilo Gregorio sought help from different Catholic institutions and appealed for financial aid from the National Secretariat for Social Action, Caritas Manila and to all bishops;⁵

WHEREAS, Batanes is one of the northernmost part of the country and could only be reached through airplane or boat/ship, thus, clearly, immediate aid of whatever form would take a while to be transported to said province especially in times of typhoons and other emergencies;

WHEREAS, for immediate aid/assistance to reach remote areas of the country like Batanes, and pursuant to the mandates of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines as to the duty of the Government to “serve and protect the people” (Section 4, Article II) and the promotion of general welfare (Section 5, Article II), the pre-positioning of relief goods and all other forms of assistance is of great importance to save lives and alleviate suffering brought about by calamities and other emergencies;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines, urging the Senate Committees on Local Government and National Defense and Security, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the existing mechanisms and measures on the pre-positioning of necessary government equipment, personnel and resources in areas nearest to the remotest local government units in the country, with the end goals of intensifying inter-local government coordination to create quick response teams to cater to nearby areas hit by calamities and to reinvigorate disaster preparedness in local government units.

Adopted,


GRACE POE

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ <http://www.manilatimes.net/batanes-under-state-of-calamity-after-ferdie/286375/>

⁵ <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/16/16/batanes-bishop-after-ferdie-we-are-safe-but-suffering>