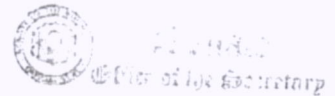


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'18 APR 16 A11 :10

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 708

RECEIVED

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON URBAN PLANNING, HOUSING AND RESETTLEMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES ON RESETTLEMENT AND RELOCATION PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR DISASTER AFFECTED AREAS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CRAFTING AN ALTERNATIVE POLICY TO ENSURE EFFICIENCY, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN POST-DISASTER REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY

WHEREAS, it is enshrined in Section 5, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, that the State shall ensure the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare, which are essential for the enjoyment of the blessings of democracy by all the people;

WHEREAS, furthermore, Section 27, Article II thereof, provides that the State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the "*Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010*", provides that the State shall provide maximum care, assistance and services to individuals and families affected by disaster, implement emergency rehabilitation projects to lessen the impact of disaster, and facilitate resumption of normal social and economic activities;

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2011, Tropical Storm *Sendong*, considered as the world's deadliest storm of 2011, ravaged Northern Mindanao, Visayas, and

Palawan. "Sendong" left 1,257 dead and 6,071 injured across thirteen (13) provinces in the country;

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2012, Typhoon *Pablo* struck Mindanao and was considered the strongest storm to hit Mindanao in two decades. *Pablo* took the lives of 1,067 people and injured 2,666 others in thirty-four (34) provinces in the country;

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2013, an armed conflict erupted in Zamboanga City between the Philippine government and rogue elements of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). The clash caused the displacement of more than 100,000 people, the occupation of several barangays by the MNLF, and the deaths of several civilians;

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2013, Super Typhoon *Yolanda*, one of the strongest tropical cyclones ever recorded in history, left massive devastation that included affecting 1,472,251 families, displacing 918,261 families and loss of 6,300 lives;

WHEREAS, several years after the occurrence of the aforementioned disasters, resettlement and relocation of affected families have not been completed. According to the report of the National Housing Authority (NHA), as of July 31, 2017, 10,444 housing units out of 12,147 target units for resettlement of Typhoon *Sendong* victims have been completed; for Typhoon *Pablo* victims, 17,479 units have been finished out of the 18,068 target units; for Typhoon *Yolanda* victims, 67,754 units were completed out of the 205,128 target units; for the victims of the Zamboanga conflict, 5,416 units were completed out of the 6,360 target units;

WHEREAS, there are reports of irregularities in the resettlement programs for these disaster areas including, but not limited to, the slow implementation of the resettlement projects, use of substandard materials for the housing units, unsuitable location of resettlement areas, and the lack of basic utilities like water and electricity in relocation sites;

WHEREAS, the national government has an obligation of transparency and accountability to ensure honest implementation of rehabilitation and recovery projects and to ensure that resources would not be wasted due to mismanagement, neglect, red tape or corruption;

WHEREAS, there is a clear and urgent need to review resettlement programs for natural and man-made disaster affected areas to restore and rebuild the lives of those affected by the disasters, in the soonest possible time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged irregularities on resettlement and relocation programs undertaken by the government for disaster affected areas, with the end in view of crafting an alternative policy to ensure efficiency, transparency and accountability in post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO', with a horizontal line extending to the left from the start of the signature.

JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO