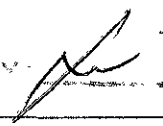


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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 38

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PROPOSAL TO MODERNIZE THE COUNTRY'S WEATHER FORECASTING AGENCY, THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA), WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THE EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF WEATHER FORECASTING SERVICES TO BETTER PROTECT THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM THE FURY OF NATURAL CALAMITIES LIKE TYPHOONS

WHEREAS, the protection of the welfare of the public and our environment are major policy concerns of our government especially as these tenets are provided for under our constitution which mandate the State to protect the health of its citizens and protect and advance the right of its people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, the lives of the general public are at stake every time a weather disturbance or typhoon hits the country and the only defense of the people lying in the path of a typhoon is accurate prediction from the weather agency of the country in order to give officials and citizens sufficient time to prepare themselves and provide a semblance of protection for their properties ahead of a typhoon;

WHEREAS, the country is often held in hostage to uncertainties over the trajectory of strong typhoons approaching our country given that the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) often does not provide an accurate trajectory and direction of typhoons approaching our country thus leaving many local government units unprepared over impending calamities;

WHEREAS, deaths and destruction due to calamities could be minimized if not prevented if the country's weather forecasting system and technology provide accurate and timely weather forecasts;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to modernize the weather forecasting agency of our government given that our country is considered a typhoon belt, aside from the fact that we are an agricultural country;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to enhance the capabilities of PAGASA in predicting the occurrence and strength of weather disturbances given that the

Philippines is located within the "Pacific Ring of Fire" which is noted for its active volcanoes and extreme weather systems;

WHEREAS, for a typhoon-prone country such as the Philippines, neglecting the cries of the weather agency for modern equipment and technologies is a serious neglect on the part of the decision makers in the country;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to modernize the physical resources and operational techniques of PAGASA through the acquisition of state-of-the-art instruments, equipment and facilities, with emphasis on weather and flood monitoring and warning system to better protect the welfare of the general public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committee on Science and Technology and other appropriate Committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, *in aid of legislation*, into the proposal to modernize the country's weather forecasting agency, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), with the end in view of ensuring the effective delivery of weather forecasting services to better protect the welfare of the people and the environment from the fury of natural calamities like typhoons.

ADOPTED,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator 