



Introduced By Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE THREAT OF DWINDLING WATER SUPPLY WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INTRODUCING REMEDIAL MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN ADAPTATION IN THE WATER SECTOR

WHEREAS, water elevation in San Roque Dam and Angat Dam, the two major dams in Northern and Central Luzon have continued to drop to critical levels despite rains;

WHEREAS, the San Roque Dam's water level on 9 July 2010 dropped to 227 meters above sea level (masl), lower than the normal operating level of 240-280 masl, reportedly leaving no water for irrigation in farmlands in Pangasinan and inadequate water for power generation;

WHEREAS, water level at the Angat Dam also dipped to critical level, at 158.64 masl, lower than the normal operating level of 210 to 212 masl and a maximum capacity of 215 masl;

WHEREAS, the significant drop in the Angat Dam's water level causes alarm as it supplies ninety-seven percent of domestic water needs in Metro Manila and is also the source of irrigation for 27,000 hectares of agricultural land in Bulacan and Pampanga;

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has issued a statement that there is no water crisis yet in Metro Manila. Water supply from the Angat Dam is still manageable and can meet the domestic requirements of the capital;

WHEREAS, due to the effects of the El Niño phenomenon, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration had predicted below normal rainfall for July and near normal to normal rainfall for August, which may restore normal water levels in Angat dam;

WHEREAS, experts agree that the looming water crisis is the result of the combination of rapid population growth, the pollution and destruction of freshwater resources, and climate change that affects the hydrological cycle and consequently water availability;

WHEREAS, water stress, aggravated by climate change, creates a growing security challenge. The changing climate will adversely affect the country's watersheds, the forests and their biodiversity, also affecting agricultural lands dependent on these areas for irrigation water;

WHEREAS, adaptation in the water sector must be pursued, developed and prioritized. This entails comprehensive watershed management, enhancement of irrigation efficiency, introduction of low water use crops and efficient farming practices, recycling of water and improvement of monitoring and forecasting systems for floods and droughts, among other strategies;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 9729, otherwise known as the "*Climate Change Act of 2009*" mandates the Commission on Climate Change to recommend key development investments in climate- sensitive sectors such as water resources, agriculture, forestry, coastal and marine resources, health, and infrastructure to ensure the achievement of national sustainable development goals.;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon Congress to ensure the implementation of said legal framework that supports the objective of climate-proofing the water sector;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct Committee on Climate Change to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the threat of dwindling water supply with the end in view of introducing remedial measures to strengthen adaptation in the water sector.

Adopted,


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator