


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

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SENATE
Resolution No. 249

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

**RESOLUTION POSTHUMOUSLY COMMENDING FORMER
PHIVOLCS DIRECTOR DR. RAYMUNDO S. PUNONGBAYAN AND
THE MEMBERS OF THE RESETTLEMENT INVESTIGATION TEAM
FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO HUMANITY**

Whereas, the provinces of Aurora and Nueva Ecija were hit by typhoons in 2004 which caused floods and landslides that ravaged entire communities and left thousands of families homeless and in need of resettlement;

Whereas, in a continuing effort to aid the members of these communities, the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) is surveying these provinces for safe areas that are not prone to disasters caused by typhoons, as possible locations to rebuild these ravaged communities, to prevent the occurrence of similar disasters;

Whereas the PNRC requested former Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) Director Raymundo S. Punongbayan, who is also a volunteer governor of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) to survey barangays in Dingalan, Aurora and Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, which needed to be relocated because of their proximity to paths of the debris flows and the probability that their communities will be overrun by huge boulders and logs;

Whereas Director Punongbayan formed a team composed of himself, and Dr. Jessie A. Daligdig, Associate Scientist of the Department of Science and Technology, Dr. Norman M. Tungol, Chief Science Research Specialist, Mr. Dindo V. Javier, Science Research Analyst, and Mr. Orlando S. Abengoza, Science Research Assistant, to scientifically determine which barangays had to be relocated and identify safe sites for relocation;

Whereas, on April 28, 2005, the contingent left Villamor Airbase aboard the Philippine Air Force Huey UH-1H chopper with tail number Stringer 324, accompanied by 1st Lt. Reynaldo Gerodias, as their pilot, 1st Lt. Jason Salazar as co-pilot, S/Sgt. Edgar Ramolete and A1C Wilbert Tacata, to conduct an aerial survey of the Municipality of Dingalan;

Whereas, on the way to Dingalan, the chopper crashed into Mt. Namat, Barangay Ligaya, Nueva Ecija, instantly killing all those on board;

Whereas, Dr. Punongbayan devoted his entire career as a scientist to protecting Filipino communities from disasters and is credited with modernizing the PHIVOLCS to achieve this objective, and despite his retirement, chose to volunteer his services and his experience as a governor for the PNRC, exhibiting his continued commitment to the welfare of the Filipino people through disaster management;

Whereas, Dr. Jessie A. Daligdig, Dr. Norman M. Tungol, Mr. Dindo V. Javier, and Mr. Orlando S. Abengoza, are all veterans in the fight against disasters, in their various capacities as a part of the PHIVOLCS;

Whereas, the entire contingent was on a humanitarian mission to ensure the safety of Filipino communities from disasters, and lost their lives in the line of duty to save the lives of their countrymen, and as such due recognition must be given to their honorable sacrifice;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to posthumously commend Dr. Raymundo S. Punongbayan, the above-named members of the PHIVOLCS team, Air Force pilots and soldiers who formed part of the contingent for the identification of resettlement areas in Aurora and Nueva Ecija, for their exemplary service to humanity through the performance of their duty to save lives.

Adopted,



RICHARD J. GORDON