

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



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S E N A T E
Senate Resolution No. 630

RECEIVED BY: ji

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO LOOK INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES IN LIGHT OF THE REPORTED ONSET OF EL NIÑO THIS YEAR WITH THE END VIEW OF INSTITUTING LONG-TERM MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE COUNTRY'S RESILIENCE TO THE WORSENING IMPACT OF A CHANGING CLIMATE

WHEREAS, climate change presents significant challenges for developing countries in their pursuit of inclusive and sustainable economic development;

WHEREAS, the 5th assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that the rural poor found in Southeast Asian nations like the Philippines will be highly vulnerable to the worst impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS, changes in temperature, rainfall and sealevel would be disastrous to the agricultural sector. Crop yield potential in Asia is expected to decline by 19% towards the end of the century with rice yield in the Philippines also decreasing by 75%;

WHEREAS, it has been estimated by the International Rice Research Institute that every 1 degree Celcius increase in the global temperature would lead to a 10% to 15% drop in agricultural production for the country;

WHEREAS, a warming climate will lead to further ocean acidification and coral bleaching with maximum catch potential of Philippine seas dropping by 50% for the period 2051 to 2060 compared to the years 2001 to 2010;

WHEREAS, these projected impacts of climate change on the country will be worsened by the onset of the El Niño weather phenomenon which is expected to last from June 2014 till the first quarter of 2015;

WHEREAS, apart from drier weather conditions and erratic rainfall pattern, the likely impact of El Nino shall also include more intense tropical cyclones;

WHEREAS, prolonged dry spells disproportionately affect the country's agricultural sector which accounted for 81% of total water consumption back in 2007;

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that the country recorded more than US\$ 370 million in agricultural damages from 1990 to 2003 due to El Niño;

WHEREAS, based on the latest Labor Force Survey of the Philippine Statistics Authority, the livelihood of almost 11 million Filipinos will be imperiled unless sufficient mitigation strategies are put in place to address this problem;

WHEREAS, robust adaptation programs must be implemented to protect the livelihood of the rural poor and ensure food security for the country;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon Congress to ensure that longer term policy solutions will be adopted address the impact of climate change and to safeguard the country's gains in poverty reduction;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee On Climate Change to look into the government's adaptation and mitigation strategies in light of the reported onset of El Niño this year with the end view of instituting long-term measures to improve the country's resilience to the worsening impact of a changing climate;

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA
Senator