

10 JAN 21 2013

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1540

RECORDED



Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE VULNERABILITY OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES SECTOR TO THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, IN LIGHT OF THE EL NIÑO PHENOMENON, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INSTITUTING ROBUST ADAPTATION STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY AND ALLEVIATE RURAL POVERTY

Whereas, climate change presents severe problems for a country that is highly reliant on agriculture for livelihood and sustenance;

Whereas, changes in temperature, rainfall and sea level would be disastrous to the agricultural sector. Crop yield potential is estimated to decline by 19% in Asia toward the end of the century and rice yield in the Philippines would decline by 75%;

Whereas, the Philippines is periodically affected by the El Niño phenomenon that induces prolonged wet and dry seasons, leading to a dramatic drop in agricultural production. From 1990 to 2003, the damage due to El Niño-related drought was estimated to be more than US\$ 370 million;

Whereas, another major impact of warm temperatures in the country is decrease in fisheries yield;

Whereas, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration warns of a long, hot summer in 2010 due to the El Niño phenomenon being experienced by the country, with the agriculture sector projected to be severely hit by the dry spell;

Whereas, with the absence of robust adaptation strategies, climate change will further imperil food security;

Whereas, considering that the rural poor, highly dependent on farm and fishery sectors, increasingly feel the pressure of climate change, policies on adaptation are crucial and urgent;

Whereas, the country's agricultural adaptation program must ensure more investments in agricultural research and infrastructure, improved water governance and land use policies, better forecasting tools and early warning systems and a strengthened extension system that will assist farmers to achieve economic diversification and access to credit to make significant improvements in our food security goals;

Whereas, it is incumbent upon Congress to institute policy solutions to enable the agriculture sector to adapt rapidly to the impact of climate change and to safeguard poverty reduction gains in the rural areas.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the Committee on Agriculture and Food and Committee on Climate Change to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the government's policies and programs to address the vulnerability of the agriculture and fisheries sector to the impact of climate change, in light of the El Niño phenomenon, with the end in view of instituting robust adaptation strategies to enhance food security and alleviate rural poverty.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA

Senator