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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
THIRD REGULAR SESSION)

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SENATE

PS Res. No. 1742

INTRODUCED BY **SENATOR SONNY ANGARA**

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF DIWATA-1, THE FIRST FILIPINO-BUILT MICRO-SATELLITE

WHEREAS, recognizing the advantages of using satellite-based remote sensing, the government invested in the construction and launching of the country's very own satellites under the Philippine Scientific Earth Observation Micro-Satellite (PHL-MICROSAT) Program in 2014;

WHEREAS, the program envisioned sending two micro-satellites into space beginning this year to help the government 1) improve disaster risk management, weather detection and forecasts; 2) monitor agricultural growth patterns, forest cover and mining; 3) protect cultural and historical sites, and the territorial borders of the Philippines[1];

WHEREAS, the first micro-satellite, nicknamed Diwata, was launched into space on March 23, 2016, while the second one will be launched in 2017;

WHEREAS, Diwata-1, a low earth orbit (LEO) satellite set to fly 400 kilometers above the earth, was officially turned over to the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) on January 13, 2016 and after being housed in the Japanese Experiment Module in the International Space Station (ISS), DIWATA-1 was released into orbit on April 27, 2016 and has successfully sent its first satellite communication in the early morning of April 28, 2016[2];

WHEREAS, seven engineering students from the University of the Philippines and two science researchers from the Department of Science and Technology's Advanced Science and Technology Institute (DOST-ASTI) were sent to Tohoku and Hokkaido universities in Japan as part of the PHL-MICROSAT program to work on the microsatellite bus system and payload design while pursuing advanced degrees[3];

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1 http://pcieerd.dost.gov.ph/news/187-philippines-diwata-microsatellite-rising

2 http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/564302/scitech/science/diwata-1-phones-home-maayos-ang-lahat

3 Ibid.

WHEREAS, among the nine engineers and scientists based in Japan's Tohoku University and Hokkaido University who assembled Diwata-1 were Julian Marvick Oliveros, Ariston N. Gonzales, Brian Paler, John Leur Labrador, Gerwin Guba, Juan Paolo Espiritu, Kaye Kristine Vergel, Delburg Mitchao and Benjamin Magallon;

WHEREAS, the successful launch of DIWATA-1 is a huge milestone for the country and is regarded a "giant leap for Philippine science and technology." The launch is also a strong indication of the country's progress in space innovation and commitment in having a fully developed space exploration program;

WHEREAS, this huge step in Philippine space innovation, however, should not discount or ignore the claims of lack of compensation and poor treatment of some of the students and engineers who tirelessly developed and assembled Diwata-1;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVE, as it is hereby resolved, by the Senate of the Philippines, to commend the engineers and scientists from the Department of Science and Technology and the University of the Philippines who participated in the successful launch of Diwata-1, the first Filipino-built micro-satellite.

Adopted.

SONNY ANGARA