

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 1080

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED UNDERUTILIZATION OF THE BUDGET ALLOTTED FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM AND RELATED PROJECTS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING A COMPREHENSIVE AND COST-EFFICIENT SOLUTION TO THE PERENNIAL AND DEVASTATING FLOODING PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY THAT WOULD IMMEDIATELY BRING RELIEF TO THE PUBLIC AFTER THE ONSLAUGHT OF SUPER TYPHOON CARINA

1 WHEREAS, Super Typhoon Carina, internationally known as Typhoon Gaemi,
2 brought heavy rainfall and strong winds to the Philippines starting on 22 July 2024,
3 resulting in widespread flooding in various regions of the country, including Central
4 and Northern Luzon, Cagayan Valley, Ilocos Region, Eastern Visayas, and the
5 northern regions of Mindanao, and compelling the government to place Metro Manila
6 under a state of calamity;

7 WHEREAS, according to initial aggregate data, Super Typhoon Carina caused
8 Php315.8 million worth of damage to public infrastructure, including public school
9 buildings and irrigation systems, as reported by the National Disaster Risk Reduction
10 and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Department of Education;

11 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture reported that Super Typhoon Carina
12 caused an estimated Php203.38 million worth of agricultural losses, impacting
13 provinces such as Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, Aklan, Capiz,
14 Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Sur,
15 Agusan del Sur, and North Cotabato;

1 WHEREAS, despite not making landfall in the Philippines, Super Typhoon Carina
2 brought steady rain, strong winds, and flash floods to the country, reminiscent of the
3 disaster caused by Tropical Storm Ondoy in 2009 and Typhoon Ulysses in 2020,
4 resulting in the loss of 34 lives, injuries to 15 individuals, and the displacement of
5 211,000 Filipinos, with these numbers continuing to rise;

6 WHEREAS, it behooves the Senate to demand an explanation from the
7 Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the government agency
8 responsible for implementing the administration's Flood Management Program, as to
9 why such a devastating incident still occurred despite the program's budget steadily
10 increasing over the past five years, from over Php90 billion in 2020, to over Php101
11 billion in 2021, to over Php128 billion in 2022, to over Php182 billion in 2023, and
12 finally to over Php244 billion this year;

13 WHEREAS, over the past five years, the funds allotted to the Flood Management
14 Program have comprised about 20% of the entire budget allocated to the DPWH
15 annually, with the percentage increasing to nearly 25% of the DPWH's budget in
16 2024;

17 WHEREAS, in stark contrast to the progressive increase in the DPWH budget for
18 the Flood Management Program, the program's actual budget utilization rate has
19 been on an alarming downward trend, with the agency disbursing only 68.26% in
20 2021, 73% in 2022, and 58% in 2023, as submitted by DPWH to Congress;

21 WHEREAS, during last year's Senate committee hearing on the DPWH budget for
22 the fiscal year 2024, it was highlighted that DPWH's budget to address the flooding
23 problem in the country would amount to at least one billion pesos per day, a
24 projection that the DPWH leadership did not dispute;

25 WHEREAS, on 22 July 2024, during his latest State of the Nation Address,
26 President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. touted the completion of over 5,500 flood control
27 projects across the country, further claiming that the construction of similar projects
28 is still underway;

29 WHEREAS, since President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. assumed office in 2022, his
30 administration has been allocated over Php556 billion to fund its flood control
31 programs, which figure representing nearly half of the total funding designated for
32 flood control programs over the past decade;

1 WHEREAS, PhP556 billion is too substantial a sum of money to permit anything
2 less than optimal efficiency and effectiveness in our government programs, yet the
3 current state of flood management in the country clearly demonstrates a dire need
4 for a meticulous reassessment of where our hard-earned taxpayers' money go;

5 WHEREAS, there is no acceptable excuse for the Philippine government's failure
6 to effectively prepare for typhoons, considering that historical data reveals that the
7 country is struck by an average of about 20 typhoons each year, with at least five of
8 them being categorized as destructive, causing economic losses ranging from 15 to
9 50 billion pesos and further worsening the state of our public health and safety
10 conditions;

11 WHEREAS, the recent widespread devastation underscores an urgent need to
12 rigorously evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the DPWH's Flood
13 Management Program and other pertinent projects related to the government's flood
14 control efforts, including a comprehensive assessment of its operations against
15 critical key performance indicators such as but not limited to flood reduction metrics,
16 response times, infrastructure resilience, and other relevant benchmarks;

17 WHEREAS, the extensive damage wrought by Super Typhoon Carina highlights
18 an urgent need for a thorough inquiry into the utilization of the DPWH's Flood
19 Management Program and other pertinent projects related to the government's flood
20 control efforts, to ensure the cost-effective allocation of resources, and to
21 investigate why, despite our significant investment in flood control projects and
22 mechanisms, the country remains profoundly ill-prepared to face and withstand such
23 disasters;

24 WHEREAS, the Senate shall require comprehensive and up-to-date data on the
25 status of the DPWH's Flood Management Program, including but not limited to
26 financial expenditures, project timelines, budget utilization rates, and environmental
27 impact assessments, to ensure that such programs remain effective and responsive
28 to the evolving needs of the country, particularly the vulnerable communities most
29 affected by the recent devastation, and to guide in the determination of future
30 budgets for the Program.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved,
32 to urge the appropriate Senate committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in aid of

1 legislation, on the reported underutilization of the budget allotted for the
2 government's flood control program and related projects, with the end in view of
3 ensuring a comprehensive and cost-efficient solution to the perennial and
4 devastating flooding problem in the country that would immediately bring relief to
5 the public after the onslaught of Super Typhoon Carina.

Adopted,



GRACE POE