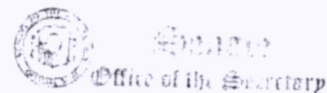


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 896

'18 SEP 17 P3:31

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RECEIVED

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE STATUS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES IN BAGUIO CITY, THE CORDILLERAS, CAGAYAN VALLEY AND NORTHERN LUZON AFTER THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON OMPONG, WITH THE END GOALS OF ENSURING THE AVAILABILITY AND STABILITY OF PRICES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, TRANSPORTATION COSTS, ELECTRICITY, POTABLE WATER, AND THE MUCH-NEEDED IMPROVEMENT OF SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS TO AVOID CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES

1 **WHEREAS**, it is a constitutional and prime duty of the government to serve
2 and protect the people¹;

3 **WHEREAS**, the government is also tasked to be on top of "the maintenance
4 of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of
5 the general welfare"²;

6 **WHEREAS**, the State is also constitutionally-mandated to "promote a just
7 and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the
8 nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate
9 social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an
10 improved quality of life for all"³;

11 **WHEREAS**, last 12 September 2018, at around 3:00 p.m., Typhoon Ompong
12 (internationally named Mangkhut), entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility
13 (PAR), with its maximum sustained winds of 205 kilometers per hour (kph) and with

¹ Section 4, Article 2, 1987 Constitution.

² Section 5, Article 2, 1987 Constitution.

³ Section 9, Article 2, 1987 Constitution.

1 gustiness up to 255 kph, and wreaked havoc, particularly in Northern Luzon, until it
2 finally left the PAR at around 9:00 p.m. on 15 September 2018;

3 **WHEREAS**, along its trails, Ompong has been reported to have affected
4 more than 70,000 families or over 270,000 people according to the National Disaster
5 Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC);

6 **WHEREAS**, based on reports, Baguio City and the Cordillera Administrative
7 Region (CAR) seemed to be the ones that suffered the most in Northern Luzon. As of
8 12:13 p.m. of 17 September 2018, the death toll left by Ompong has reached 65 –
9 54 of which came from CAR, 7 from Cagayan Valley, 1 from Ilocos Region, 2 from
10 Central Luzon and 1 from Metro Manila;

11 **WHEREAS**, it is a harrowing experience to look at the pictures and videos of
12 destroyed houses, floods and individuals, and even babies, buried alive due to
13 landslides, obliterated electric posts and roads. Huge swaths of farm and agricultural
14 lands across Northern Luzon, which produce a huge chunk of the country's rice and
15 corn supply, were submerged under floodwater or ravaged by violent winds, ruining
16 crops that are one month shy from being harvested and sold, thereby leaving behind
17 distraught and pitiful Filipino farmers;

18 **WHEREAS**, given the foregoing, the restoration of much-needed public
19 utilities and public services in Baguio City, the Cordilleras, Cagayan Valley and
20 Northern Luzon is certainly of paramount importance. In addition, the prices and
21 availability of basic commodities, petroleum products, potable water, electricity and
22 transportation costs should be monitored and kept at bay, considering the already
23 upward trend of the country's inflation rate and considering the fact that Baguio
24 City, the Cordilleras, Cagayan Valley and Northern Luzon are some of the country's
25 major hubs in terms of tourism, education, culture and agricultural products;

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the
27 Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committee on Public Services to
28 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the status of public utilities and public
29 services in Baguio City, the Cordilleras, Cagayan Valley and Northern Luzon after the
30 onslaught of Typhoon Ompong, with the end goals of ensuring the availability and
31 stability of prices of petroleum products, transportation costs, electricity, potable

- 1 water, and the much-needed improvement of sewerage and drainage systems to
- 2 avoid catastrophic consequences;

Adopted.


GRACE POE