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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. Res. No. 116

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

RESOLUTION

URGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO IMMEDIATELY DISBURSE FUNDS FROM THE PHILIPPINE'S 4TH DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT POLICY LOAN WITH THE WORLD BANK FOR THE AID, RELIEF, RESETTLEMENT, REHABILITATION, LIVELIHOOD, AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITIES ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE RECENT 7.0-MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE IN NORTHERN LUZON, AND DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO IMMEDIATELY CALL THE NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NDRRMC) FOR A SENATE BRIEFING TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND DETERMINE THE NEEDS OF THE AFFECTED LOCALITIES AND THE TOTAL BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS TO ADDRESS THE CALAMITY

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2022, a 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit northern Luzon, with its epicenter located in Dolores, Abra and its impact felt in Metro Manila, more than 400 kilometers away;

WHEREAS, an estimated 314,161 Filipinos or 82,336 families have been affected by the quake, with at least ten (10) dead and another 375 injured, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC);

WHEREAS, a total of 48,477 people are currently displaced across the Cordillera and Ilocos Regions, with 44,889 camping out in open spaces or are hosted by relatives or friends and 3,588 in 38 different evacuation centers;

WHEREAS, NDRRMC also reported about US\$687 million of infrastructure damage, including more than 24,547 houses, 177 health facilities, 263 schools, classrooms, bridges, and several churches, some of which are recognized by the National Museum of the Philippines as national cultural treasures, including the destruction of centuries-old Vigan Cathedral, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site;

WHEREAS, damages to agricultural infrastructures, such as irrigation systems, farm-to-market roads, and farm structures, also pose a threat to our country's food security, seeing that tons of vegetables from the Cordillera region are sold daily to Metro Manila and other parts of the country;

WHEREAS, a total of 1,459 aftershocks ranging from magnitude 1.4 to 5.0 have been recorded by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) following the quake, triggering landslides and rockslides and causing even more damage to lives and properties across northern Luzon;

WHEREAS, the said damages to life and property may still increase, especially considering PHIVOLCS' warnings against aftershocks, which may occur days or even months after the 7.0-magnitude earthquake;

WHEREAS, in the wake of a natural disaster, the time gap between the occurrence of a natural disaster and access to funding can be costly, exacerbating poverty through impacts on health, mobility, and access to education. Thus, countries need to immediately access funds to rebuild damaged infrastructure and re-establish critical government services;

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2021, the World Bank approved the 4th Disaster Risk Management Development Policy Loan with a Catastrophe-Deferred Drawdown Option of US\$500 million for the Government of the Philippines, a new standby line of credit that aims to strengthen the Philippines' institutional and financial capacity to manage risks from climate change, natural disasters, and disease outbreaks;

WHEREAS, the past policy loans have all been successfully disbursed to propel the Philippines towards recovery in the aftermath of disasters, such as Typhoon Sendong in 2011 and Typhoon Ompong in 2018, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, US\$200 million from the latest Disaster Risk Management Development Policy Loan has also been disbursed to support the National Government's disaster relief and rehabilitation efforts in provinces devastated by Typhoon Odette, which battered the country in December 2021, leaving US\$300 million in the standby credit line;

WHEREAS, even as the threats and uncertainties following the quake continue, the National Government should hasten the release of funds intended for development and social programs and services to assist the affected individuals or families and the localities in returning to normalcy;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, to urge the National Government to immediately disburse funds from the Philippines' 4th Disaster Risk Management Development Policy Loan with the World Bank for the aid, relief, resettlement, rehabilitation, livelihood, and development of communities adversely affected by the recent 7.0-magnitude earthquake in northern Luzon;

RESOLVED FINALLY, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to immediately call the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council for a Senate briefing to assess the situation and determine the needs of the affected localities and the total budget requirements in addressing the calamity.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA