RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE MASSIVE FLOODING IN THE PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN CAUSED BY TYPHOOON ULYSSES AND WATER RELEASED FROM THE MAGAT DAM WITH THE END GOAL OF IDENTIFYING NEEDED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION PROGRAMS TO PREVENT SIMILAR DISASTER FROM HAPPENING AGAIN

Whereas, on November 11, 2020, Typhoon Ulysses started battering provinces in Luzon bringing about heavy rains and powerful winds that left destruction in its path;

Whereas, the Province of Cagayan experienced its worst flooding in the last forty five (45) years, submerging 24 of its 29 city/municipalities;

Whereas, in addition to flooded tributaries brought about by the rains of Typhoon Ulysses, Magat Dam added into the fray and started releasing water;

Whereas, on November 12, 2020, the Magat Dam opened seven (7) spillways, releasing enough water to fill 106,223 Olympic-sized swimming pools or about 2 pools per second from 5pm until 4am the next day;

Whereas, the combination of heavy rains and release of water by the dam resulted into the catastrophic flooding of Cagayan destroying homes and livelihood, property, agricultural crops and cattle, infrastructure, leaving 22 dead, several missing and scores injured;

Whereas, days after Typhoon Ulysses left the Philippine Area of Responsibility, there are still areas under water, people have yet to come home and are in need of food, water and clothing;

Whereas, way back 1998 in the 11th Congress, the Committee on Good Government investigated the flooding in the Province of Cagayan, and the Magat Dam Management then promised to come up with measures and policies to prevent repetition of the flooding;
Whereas, nothing seems to have happened regarding the promise of the Magat Dam Management because massive and destructive flooding again occurred in 2005, 2011 and in 2020;

Whereas, there is an urgent need to examine the events before, during and after the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses that led to the massive flooding in the region and view all contributing factors to include, protocols and advisory on Magat Dam water release, disaster preparedness capability of the national, provincial and local governments concerned, denuded watersheds, illegal logging, illegal mining and lack of appropriate infrastructure to address flooding;

Whereas, given that the Province of Cagayan is the catch basin for rainwater in the Cagayan Valley and Cordilleras, making it vulnerable to floods, there is a need to conduct an inquiry into the contributing factors that lead to the fast rising waters of the Cagayan River and its tributaries, whether necessary protocols were followed by the National Irrigation Administration when they opened the spillways of Magat Dam, whether the advisories issued were sufficient and easy to understand by and ordinary layman, whether the national, provincial and local government disaster capabilities in terms of manpower and equipment are sufficient and what can be done in the future in terms of infrastructure and government intervention to prevent a similar event from occurring again;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the catastrophic flooding in the Province of Cagayan during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

Adopted,

[Signature]

JOSEPH "JOJO" L. LARA