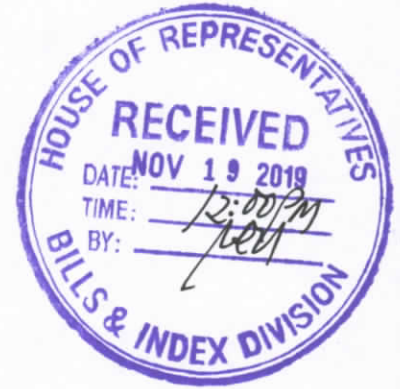


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
535
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. ____



Introduced by Representative Joey Sarte Salceda

**A RESOLUTION
DECLARING A DISASTER AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

Expressing the will of the House of Representatives that the Philippines has been suffering from a Disaster and Climate Emergency which now compels a whole-of-government, whole-of-society and whole-of nation policy response to anticipate, halt, reduce, reverse, address and adapt to its impacts, consequences and causes

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 16 of the Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement recognize that climate change adaptation that ensures global responsiveness and societal resilience for a sustainable future is a global challenge faced by all in the era of climate change;

WHEREAS, Parties of the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, including the Philippines acknowledge that the best available science should inform and guide climate change adaptation efforts, including the integration of adaptation of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessment to the people by 2030;

WHEREAS, Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 in various phases of policy formulation, development plans and investment, poverty reduction strategies and other development tools and techniques by all national and local agencies, institutions and instrumentalities of the government to enhance the country's climate change adaptive capacity;

WHEREAS, the melting of glaciers and the forest conflagrations are recent global events related to anthropogenic climate change significantly caused by the burning of fossil fuels and unabated deforestation, and pointing to an acceleration of the climate impact chain, possibly indicating worsened catastrophes for the Philippines, especially its climate-vulnerable coastal and geographically isolated cities and municipalities;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has already suffered potential, losses, damages and disruption (PLDD) due to hydrometeorological hazard impacts, such as the following:

- 1.) Typhoon Reming in 2006, which was compounded by simultaneous mudslides and rockslides due to previous eruptions by Mayon Volcano;
- 2.) Typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng in 2009, which devastated Metro Manila, and key regions of Luzon;
- 3.) Typhoon Yolanda in 2013, which affected 16 million Filipinos resulting into more than 6,000 deaths;
- 4.) Typhoons Pablo and Sendong, which devastated Mindanao, an island group previously regarded as typhoon-free;
- 5.) El Niño 2015-2016, which also devastated Mindanao, resulting into billions of agricultural damage, causing forest fires across its mountains, and even bred the Kidapawan massacre; and,
- 6.) Recent mass casualties during the Urduja, Vinta, Ompong, Naga Landslides, Rosita and Usman disasters, which happened from December 2017 to December 2018;

WHEREAS, the “Albay Declaration of 2007 and Manila Declaration of 2010 on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)” paved the way for the enactment of Republic Act 9729 (Climate Change Act of 2009) and Republic Act 10121 (Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010), such laws establishing the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) to signify that building community resilience against climate change impacts and disasters is both a national and a local priority;

WHEREAS, despite such national agencies and local government units having been established a decade ago, until today, our country is still grappling with institutional issues on climate and disaster governance;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to address this problem to ensure climate justice for current and future generations of Filipinos and ensure their survival in the face of projected adverse impacts of climate change and disasters, and also ensure that the Philippine government has learned the past decade’s mistakes, making sure not to repeat them by being proactive in changing the present practice of our current climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction (CCAM-DRR) efforts through legislation;

WHEREAS, scientists, environmentalists, practitioners, policymakers, and local legislators across the globe are raising the spectre of a disaster and climate emergency, requiring urgent policy responses, particularly to assess whether the institutional mechanisms and government agencies created by Congress are up to the task of addressing climate and disaster impacts, and whether our national and local budgets are climate and disaster responsive, especially now that the world is facing a climate emergency; Now, therefore, be it

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives:

- 1.) Declare 2020 as a Disaster and Climate Emergency awareness year,

- 2.) Conduct continuous inquiries in aid of legislation and in relation to its oversight functions, on measures being implemented by all concerned national agencies to address the impacts of disasters and climate change on the fundamental rights of Filipinos;
- 3.) Ensure the full integration and convergence of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts through the passage of the Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) bill as an urgent policy response; and
- 4.) Enjoin a whole-of-government, whole-of-nation and whole-of-society mobilization on disaster and climate emergency, in behalf of climate-vulnerable LGUs, communities, business sectors, academia, scientific research institutions, civil society, non-governmental organizations, religious group, tri-media and stakeholders;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that pursuant to its appropriation powers, for the House of Representatives to ensure that all national and local governmental budget allocations and expenditures shall be climate and disaster responsive.

Adopted,



JOEY SARTE SALCEDA