Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress

Eighteenth Congress First Regular Session

417



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by Hon. Lucy Marie Torres Gomez

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE UTILIZATION OF ALL DISBURSED FUNDS AS WELL AS ON THE STATUS OF THE YOLANDA RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, November 2019 marks the sixth anniversary since Super Typhoon Yolanda wiped out entire communities and left millions of people homeless or displaced in central Philippines;

WHEREAS, it is time to take stock of what the government has accomplished so far, if only to serve as a guide as to how to respond to similar natural disasters in the future;

WHEREAS, the continuing failure of the global community to meet its climate change targets has rendered the occurrence of high impact, extreme weather events very likely, even in the short term;

WHEREAS, there is a compelling need to finalize the official figures as to casualties, injuries, domestic displacement and overall damages, after six (6) long years have elapsed since the calamity;

WHEREAS, there is a need to render an accounting or for the conduct of a special audit of the gargantuan amount of P 146.156 billion, reportedly released by the government as of December 31, 2017, to determine whether

such funds have been properly utilized as per the Yolanda Recovery and Reconstruction Program;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit (CoA) reported that the National Housing Authority (NHA) has completed only 117,167 of 203,471 housing units planned for Yolanda victims. Furthermore, 53% of these houses reportedly remain unoccupied due to the lack of water and power supply. There is, likewise, a need to formalize this information and provide reasonable explanation and corrective courses of action;

WHEREAS, the on-and-off allegations of use of substandard materials in the resettlement homes stand in stark contrast to the government's avowed policy of "Build Back Better;"

WHEREAS, we owe it to the international community, consisting of foreign governments and aid or relief organizations to render a comprehensive, updated and verifiable report as to the utilization of funds resulting from the outpouring of sympathies and support worldwide;

WHEREAS, disasters of this magnitude, consistently pulled down the country's economic progress, caused unnecessary human losses and set back the overall well-being of Filipinos: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, to direct the appropriate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the utilization of all disbursed funds as the well as on the status of the Yolanda Recovery and Reconstruction Program.

Adopted,

LUCY MARIÉ TØRRES GOMEZ