



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. (632) 929-66-26/28; 929-6635/929-3618/929-4028
IP Phone Trunkline No. 988-3367
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph/> E-mail: web@denrgov.ph



23 November 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO : The Regional Executive Directors
DENR Region II and III

The Directors
Environmental Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Policy and Planning Service
Legal Affairs Service

The Executive Director
National Water Resources Board

FROM : The Assistant Secretary
Field Operations-Mindanao and Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT : **INVITATION FROM THE COMMITTEE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**

This pertains to the letter dated 19 November 2020, received by this Office on 23 November 2020, from Hon. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga, Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture and Food, House of Representatives, inviting the DENR to a meeting on **24 November 2020 (Tuesday) at 9:30 am via Zoom Video conferencing with Meeting ID: 872 6872 1290 Password: 520818**, to deliberate on the following measures:

1. **House Resolution No. 1345**, entitled: "A Resolution Directing the Appropriate Committee of the House of Representatives to Conduct an Investigation, in Aid of Legislation on the Untimely and Irresponsible Opening of Floodgates of Dams and Watersheds in Luzon During the Onslaught of Typhoons Ulysses", introduced by Rep. Bernadette "BK" Herrera-Dy; and
2. **House Resolution No. 1348**, entitled: "Resolution Directing the Appropriate Committee to Conduct an Inquiry in Aid of Legislation, on the Severe and Unprecedented Flooding in the Provinces of Cagayan and Isabela During the Onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses", introduced by Reps. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Joseph Stephen "Caraps" Pasuano.

Kindly inform this Office of your attendance before the scheduled date of the meeting and submit presentation, comments and/or position paper in hard and soft copy at the Legislative Liaison Office at telephone number 8920-1761 and e-mail address denrlegislative@yahoo.com for consolidation.


JOAN A. LAGUNDA, D.M., D.P.A.



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD

3rd Flr., Ramon V. Mitra Building, Batasan Complex, Quezon City
Tel Nos : (+632) 931-5001 loc. 7139 Telefax : (+632) 951-4400
Email Address: agriculturefood@gmail.com

19 November 2020

SECRETARY ROY A. CIMATU

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Dear Secretary Cimatú:

The *Committee on Agriculture and Food*, jointly with the *Special Committee on North Luzon Growth Quadrangle*, will hold a meeting on *Tuesday, 24 November 2020, at 9:30am* to deliberate on the following measures:

1. **House Resolution No. 1345** entitled: *A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE UNTIMELY AND IRRESPONSIBLE OPENING OF FLOODGATES OF DAMS AND WATERSHEDS IN LUZON DURING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON ULYSSES*, introduced by Rep. Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy; and
2. **House Resolution No. 1348** entitled: *RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SEVERE AND UNPRECEDENTED FLOODING IN THE PROVINCES OF CAGAYAN AND ISABELA DURING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON ULYSSES*, introduced by Reps. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Joseph Stephen "Caraps" Paduano.

The meeting will be held at the *Speaker Nograles Hall, South Wing Annex of the House of Representatives*. Your Honor's physical presence is being requested by the Members, other officials and staff may join us via zoom since only a limited number of people will be allowed in the premises, in line with the Office's COVID protocols. All participants will undergo Antigen tests which will take about 20 minutes for the results to come out, hence we would like to request that you and your immediate staff come at least 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

For those who will be joining via zoom, below is the Zoom log-in details:

<https://l.messenger.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F87268721290%3Fpwd%3DU1Y2V1JLVE9vYzZnaXpFeXU3OUcxOT09&h>

Meeting ID: 872 6872 1290

Password: 520818

Your presence will be highly appreciated.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

REP. WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA
Chairperson

RAMON "Mon-Mon" V. GUICO III
Chairperson
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1348

Introduced by Representatives Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SEVERE AND UNPRECEDENTED FLOODING IN THE PROVINCES OF CAGAYAN AND ISABELA DURING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON ULYSSES

WHEREAS, beginning on November 11, 2020, various areas of the Philippines were severely affected by Typhoon Ulysses (international name: Typhoon Vamco), the 21st typhoon to hit the country this year;

WHEREAS, to date, the death toll from Typhoon Ulysses has reached sixty-seven, with over twenty people missing, and the damage to agriculture and infrastructure estimated to be at least at 1 billion pesos and half a billion pesos, respectively;

WHEREAS, Typhoon Ulysses was predicted to make landfall in Luzon, and came in the heels of recent typhoons and heavy monsoon rains that battered the country;

WHEREAS, given the circumstances and the predicted Category-4 strength of Typhoon Ulysses, the forecast should have prompted concerned government agencies and local government units to take necessary preemptive action to mitigate possible adverse effects on local communities;

WHEREAS, as Typhoon Ulysses made the expected landfall, heavy winds and torrential rains battered parts of NCR, Bicol Region, Central Luzon, CAR, and CALABARZON, causing power failures, extreme flooding, and heavy damage to infrastructure and property, and threatened the lives and livelihood of many of our countrymen;

WHEREAS, the effects of the typhoon likewise caused massive destruction in Cagayan Valley, particularly in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela, as the region experienced unprecedented flooding in the wake of Typhoon Ulysses;

WHEREAS, the damage was reportedly due to the swelling of the Cagayan River from the amount of rainwater coming in from its eighteen tributaries, with the increase in water level further exacerbated by the outflow of water from the Magat Dam;

WHEREAS, it was reported that at the height of Typhoon Ulysses, seven of Magat Dam's gates were opened, and the discharge of water from the reservoir caused rapid and widespread flooding in the surrounding areas;

WHEREAS, days after Typhoon Ulysses had exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility, many areas of Cagayan and Isabela remained submerged, with hundreds stranded in their homes and clinging to rooftops with no access to food or water;

WHEREAS, as the death toll continues to rise, and the extent of damage is slowly being revealed, there is an urgent need to examine the actions that were taken during, before, and after the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses;

WHEREAS, given the gravity and unprecedented nature of the situation, the geographic propensity of the country to natural calamities, and the need to prevent similar situations from occurring, there is a need to conduct an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the rapid inflow of water into the reservoir, any non-compliance with laws, rules, or regulations that may have had a contributory effect to the swelling of the Cagayan River, the decision of the National Irrigation Administration to open the spillway gates of the Magat Dam, and if the latter was conducted in accordance with duly established guidelines and protocols;

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 severe and unprecedented flooding in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

Adopted,


LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO


JOSEPH STEPHEN S. PADUANO


FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1345



Introduced by Rep. Bernadette Herrera

1 **A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF**
2 **REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,**
3 **ON THE UNTIMELY AND IRRESPONSIBLE OPENING OF FLOODGATES OF DAMS**
4 **AND WATERSHEDS IN LUZON DURING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON**
5 **ULYSSES**

6
7 **WHEREAS**, on November 11, 2020, the Philippines was battered by Typhoon Ulysses,
8 the 21st typhoon to hit the country this year. The storm first made a landfall in
9 Patnanungan, Quezon about 10:30 p.m. local time. Instead of weakening on its first
10 landfall, Ulysses grew stronger with a sustained wind of 150 kilometers per hour closer to
11 the center with gustiness reaching as high as 205 kilometers per hour. It moved north-
12 westward towards Metro Manila with a sluggish speed of 15 kilometers per hour.

13 **WHEREAS**, Typhoon Ulysses left Metro Manila with 40,000 houses submerged in
14 floodwater in the City of Marikina alone. Similar situations were also reported in the
15 provinces of Bulacan, Rizal, and Cavite. Cagayan was submerged in water in what local
16 authorities described as the "worst" flooding in the region since the 1980s. Out of 28 towns
17 and the City of Cagayan, 24 were flooded.

1 **WHEREAS**, Typhoon Ulyses brought rainfall ranging from 271 millimeters to 356
2 millimeters of rainfall, far below that brought by Typhoon Ondoy in 2009 of 455 millimeters
3 of rainfall.

4 **WHEREAS**, inasmuch as the Typhoon brought significant rainfall, much of the flooding
5 was further aggravated by the opening of six dams during the onslaught of Typhoons
6 Ulysses. These are the Angat, Ipo, La Mesa, Ambulao, Binga, San Roque, and Magat
7 dams. The opening of these dams intensified flashfloods in the provinces of Bulacan,
8 Pangasinan, CAMANAVA, Benguet, Isabela, and the National Capital Region.

9 **WHEREAS**, the official death toll of typhoon Ulysses climbed to 67 as of November 15,
10 2020, with dozens more injured or missing. To date, damages are estimated at PhP 1.19
11 billion worth of agricultural and PhP 469.7 worth of infrastructure.

12 **WHEREAS**, numerous reports showed that these dams released water not in a gradual
13 manner, but rather a hasty and rushed manner. For Magat dam alone, on November 12,
14 2020, the dam opened seven gates, discharging 6,244 cubic meters of water per second.
15 In a statement, Infrawatch PH indicated that two to three days prior to the arrival of
16 Typhoon Ulyses, "Magat did not make sufficient water drawdown", in violation of the
17 Magat Dam protocol.

18 **WHEREAS**, this irresponsible release of millions of cubic meters of water resulted in
19 further aggravating the flash floods, leading to loss of life and millions in property damage;

20 **WHEREAS**, it is apparent that these dam and catchbasin operators function
21 independently and without coordination with the National Disaster Risk Reduction
22 Management Council (NDRRMC);

23 **WHEREAS**, the management of these dams and catchbasins must be called to account
24 for their actions to the fullest extent of the law;

25 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to conduct an investigation to determine the accountability of
26 dam operators in the casualties that took the lives and livelihood of many Filipinos.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, to direct the appropriate committee of the
28 House of Representatives to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the untimely

1 and irresponsible opening of floodgates of dams and watersheds in Luzon during the
2 onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

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BERNADETTE HERRERA-DY