

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )**

23 JUL 19 A8:49

RECEIVED BY: 

**SENATE**  
**P.S. RES. No. 691**

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**Introduced by Senator WIN GATCHALIAN**

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**A RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE READINESS OF GOVERNMENT**  
**AGENCIES IN MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF THE EL NIÑO PHENOMENON**  
**AND TO DETERMINE PROPER GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS WITH THE**  
**END GOAL OF ENSURING FOOD, ENERGY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY OF**  
**THE FILIPINO PEOPLE**

1 WHEREAS, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Service  
2 Administration (PAGASA) alerted the public and concerned government agencies as  
3 early as May this year that the El Niño weather phenomenon may emerge in the  
4 country starting June and will likely persist until first quarter of next year;<sup>1</sup>

5 WHEREAS, on 04 July 2023, the PAGASA upgraded its alert and warning system  
6 into an El Niño Advisory informing the public of the increasing likelihood of below-  
7 normal rainfall conditions that may adversely impact climate-sensitive sectors. It also  
8 suggested that the aggregate impacts of El Niño will be felt towards the last quarter  
9 of 2023 and first half of 2024;<sup>2</sup>

10 WHEREAS, the El Niño Phenomenon is characterized by the abnormal warming  
11 of sea surface temperature in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean that

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<sup>1</sup> PAG-ASA Press Release dated 02 May 2023. Available at <https://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/press-release/137>. Last Accessed on 17 July 2023.

<sup>2</sup> PAG-ASA Press Release dated 04 July 2023. Available at <https://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/press-release/140>. Last Accessed on 17 July 2023.

1 causes prolonged episodes of drought and lower than average rainfall in some areas  
2 and occurring anywhere between every 2 to 7 years and may last up to 18 months;<sup>4</sup>

3 WHEREAS, previous El Niño occurrences brought drought nationwide and water  
4 supply shortages due to lower than average rainfall in the country. It greatly affected  
5 those persons who heavily rely on rainfall for their livelihood and caused deaths  
6 amongst the most vulnerable, especially those living in most remote areas;

7 WHEREAS, the El Niño occurrences could further diminish the contribution of  
8 the agriculture sector in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to a 2019 World  
9 Bank report,<sup>5</sup> recurring El Niño occurrences in the Philippines are estimated to cause  
10 national GDP losses between -0.29% to -1.57% and agricultural GDP losses between  
11 -1.73% and -6.97%. Had El Niño emerged in 2022, it could have translated to  
12 estimated losses between Php57.84 billion and Php313.11 billion in national GDP and  
13 between Php30.85 billion and Php124.31 billion in the agricultural sector's GDP;<sup>6</sup>

14 WHEREAS, the presence of El Niño could also increase the level of poverty  
15 considering its impact on inflation due to lower food production and possibly higher  
16 electricity prices. According to a 2018 UP School of Economics discussion paper by  
17 Arcenas,<sup>7</sup> the presence of El Niño can lead to a 0.026% increase in the general price  
18 levels;

19 WHEREAS, the PAGASA advised the concerned government agencies to take  
20 precautionary measures to mitigate the adverse impact of the El Niño phenomenon  
21 on water resources, agriculture, energy, health and public safety;

22 WHEREAS, the entire Philippine government should be prepared to cushion the  
23 detrimental effects of the El Niño phenomenon on the country's food, energy and  
24 economic security;

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<sup>4</sup> El Niño. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (n.d.) Available at <https://www.fao.org/el-nino/en/>. Last Accessed on 17 July 2023.

<sup>5</sup> Sutton, W.R., Srivastava, J.P., Rosegrant, M., Valmonte-Santor, R., and Ashwill, M. (2019). Striking a Balance: Managing El Niño and La Niña in Philippines' Agriculture. RepNo 132067. World Bank, Washington, DC. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO.

<sup>6</sup> Used the Philippines 2022 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Php19.94 trillion and the Philippine agricultural sector's GDP at Php1.78 trillion.

<sup>7</sup> Arcenas, A.L. (2018). Determining the Inflationary Effects of El Niño and La Niña in the Philippines. Discussion Paper No. 2018-02. UP School of Economics.

1           WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to assess the capability of concerned  
2 government agencies and determine the planned interventions to mitigate the impact  
3 of the El Niño phenomenon;

4           NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the  
5 appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the  
6 readiness of concerned government agencies in mitigating the impact of the El Niño  
7 phenomenon and determine the proper government interventions with the end goal  
8 of ensuring food, energy and economic security of the Filipino people.

Adopted,



**WIN GATCHALIAN**