

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN RONALD SINGSON
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PRESS RELEASE

Honorable Ronald V. Singson, Representative, First District, Ilocos Sur, filed House Resolution No. 73 calling the attention of the *Department of Agriculture (DA) and other Government Agencies concerned to institute measures to abate the effects of El Nino and avert further damage on water supply and food production*. Such resolution is triggered by the declaration of “state of calamity” in La Union due to the occurrence of tremendous drought.

The El Nino or Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is an unexpected climatic change causes prolonged dry season or drought, in the Philippines, the ENSO phenomenon has brought climatic abnormalities such as delayed onset of the rainy season, early termination of the rainy season, weak monsoon activity and isolated downpour with short, and weak tropical cyclone activity.

In this regard, The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services (PAGASA) have taken precautionary move to monitor the weather from August until the month of rainfall is below normal. However, if drought persists, the water supply for irrigation in Central Luzon, water supply in the metropolis would be cut down and the power generated by hydroelectric plants will extremely deteriorate thus, eventually causing brown out. As a result, food production and delivery of basic commodities will be hampered.

The aforementioned are remedied for through the assistance of the Department of Agriculture and other concerned government agencies by initiating mitigating measures like improving irrigation systems, conserving water, managing forest and using non-conventional energy feeds for livestock, providing drought resistant seedlings, and agricultural irrigation equipment such as shallow tube wells, irrigation pumps and construction of small water impounding projects (SWIP) .

The purpose of the House Resolution No. 73 is to conduct a congressional inquiry that would provide venue of validating and assessing the efficiency of the measures employed by the agencies involved.