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SENATE
P.S. Res. 297

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Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A P10 BILLION SPECIAL FUND FOR THE IMMEDIATE REBUILD, RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF BOHOL AND CEBU AND TO HELP THE RESIDENTS OF THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THE 7.2 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE THAT JOLTED CENTRAL VISAYAS

Whereas, the provinces of Bohol and Cebu suffered the most damages during the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit the Visayas region on October 15;

Whereas, municipal buildings, roads and bridges, fish and airport terminals, public markets, schools, hospitals and residences were destroyed by the temblor, which claimed at least 99 lives and injured hundreds of people;

Whereas, according to the Heritage Conservation Society, at least 10 of the Visayas' famed churches and cultural landmarks—which included Church of San Pedro Apostol in Loboc, Church of Our Lady of Light in Loon, Santissima Trinidad Parish in Loay, Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in Baclayon, Church of Our Lady of the Assumption in Dauis, San Nicolas Church in Dimiao and Santa Cruz Parish Church in Maribojoc in Bohol and Basilica Minore del Santo Niño, Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral and St. Catherine's Church in Carcar in Cebu—were heavily damaged by the tremor, most of which form part of the national heritage and declared as National Historic Treasures;

Whereas, cognizant of the constitutional principle of separation of Church and the State, the efforts of rebuilding, reconstructing and rehabilitating should be effected under the aegis of State as *Parens Patriae* (the government protecting and promoting the welfare of the citizens);

Whereas, a total of 558,390 families or equivalent to 2.8 million people were affected in 879 barangays in 27 municipalities and seven cities in Central Visayas, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council;

Whereas, of the total affected, 2,533 families or 12,665 persons were displaced by the mega quake;

Whereas, the provinces of Bohol and Cebu were already placed under a state of calamity due to the extent of the damage in public infrastructure;

Whereas, the spirit of volunteerism should be promoted, in particular academic institutions offering Architecture, Fine Arts, Design, Engineering and Science courses, should be seconded in the rebuild, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts;

Whereas, a P10-billion special fund to be sourced from the scrapped Priority Development Assistance Fund of lawmakers in the proposed 2014 national outlay is needed for reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in provinces affected by the quake;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to set-up a P10-billion Special Fund for the reconstruction of infrastructure and historic sites and for the immediate aid to millions affected by the 7.2 magnitude quake.

Adopted,


GRACE POE