

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'15 MAY 14 AM 11:49

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1345

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 RESOLUTION
2 DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
3 OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT METRO MANILA IS NOT READY FOR A
4 HIGH-MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE

5 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides: "The State shall protect and
6 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

7 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the "Philippine Disaster Risk
8 Reduction and Management Act of 2010," Section 2, states:

9 It shall be the policy of the State to:

10 (a) Uphold the people's constitutional rights to life and property by
11 addressing the root causes of vulnerabilities to disasters, strengthening the
12 country's institutional capacity for disaster risk reduction and management and
13 building the resilience of local communities to disasters including climate change
14 impacts;

15 (b) Adhere to and adopt the universal norms, principles and standards of
16 humanitarian assistance and the global effort on risk reduction as concrete
17 expression of the country's commitment to overcome human sufferings due to
18 recurring disasters;

19 (c) Incorporate internationally accepted principles of disaster risk
20 management in the creation and implementation of national, regional and local
21 sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies, policies, plans and
22 budgets;

23 (d) Adopt a disaster risk reduction and management approach that is
24 holistic, comprehensive, integrated, and proactive in lessening the socioeconomic
25 and environmental impacts of disasters including climate change, and promote the
26 involvement and participation of all sectors and all stakeholders concerned, at all
27 levels, especially the local community;

28 WHEREAS, following the massive earthquake that killed thousands in Nepal, various
29 broadsheets in April reported that Metro Manila is not ready for an earthquake of similar
30 magnitude;

1 WHEREAS, quoted in the news, Filipino architect and urban planner Jun Palafox said
2 that in case a 7.2-magnitude quake hits the National Capital Region, an estimated 20 percent of
3 the structures would probably collapse;

4 WHEREAS, Palafox cited a 2004 study of the Japan International Cooperation Agency
5 which estimated that 50,000 people would be killed should a megaquake hit Metro Manila;

6 WHEREAS, the expert claimed that preparations should include:

- 7 (1) the identification of 10-hectare evacuation areas for Metro Manila residents and
8 workers;
9 (2) the determination and retrofitting of structures that may collapse; and
10 (3) the transfer of structures above faultlines;


11 WHEREAS, Palafox reportedly added that the bridges and structures that have the
12 tendency to collapse should already be marked and identified;

13 WHEREAS, the urban planner was further quoted as saying that addressing earthquake
14 hazards is 90 percent cheaper than rehabilitation;

15 WHEREAS, Congress must consider drafting legislation that will spur government
16 agencies to urgently implement measures aimed at mitigating the impact of a high-magnitude
17 earthquake

18 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
19 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that Metro
20 Manila is not ready for a high-magnitude earthquake.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
79

/rjd