

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 322

Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PREPAREDNESS OF
THE GREATER METRO MANILA AND OTHER EARTHQUAKE PRONE
AREAS FOR THE “BIG ONE”

Whereas, Article II, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “[t]he maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy”;

Whereas, Article II, Section 15 of the same provides that “[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them”;

Whereas, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the “Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010”, provides, in part, that “[i]t shall be the policy of the State to: (a) [u]phold the people’s constitutional rights to life and property by addressing the root causes of vulnerabilities to disasters, strengthening the country’s institutional capacity for disaster risk reduction and management and building the resilience of local communities to disasters including climate change impacts...”;

Whereas, the Philippines is situated along the “Pacific Ring of Fire”, the most active earthquake belt in the world¹;

Whereas, *ABS-CBN News* reported that, based on the 2016 World Risk Index, the Philippines is the third most vulnerable country with the highest disaster risk²;

¹ Asia Times. (2016, April 16). <http://www.atimes.com>. Retrieved from Asia Times : <http://www.atimes.com/article/japan-and-earthquake-an-in-depth-analysis/> (last accessed 08 March 2017)

² ABS-CBN News. (2016, August 25). <http://news.abs-cbn.com>. Retrieved from ABS-CBN News: <http://news.abs-cbn.com/focus/08/25/16/philippines-among-countries-with-highest-disaster-risk-study> (last accessed 08 March 2017)

Whereas, Rappler, citing a 2004 study conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) entitled "Metro Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study (MMEIRS)", reported that Metro Manila is due for the "Big One", and found that a magnitude 7.2 earthquake hitting Metro Manila could destroy 40% of the buildings in the metropolis and kill about 34,000 individuals³;

Whereas, Rappler, citing 2013 study of Swiss Re, a provider of transfer insurance, reported that Manila is considered the second riskiest city in the world next to Tokyo – not only because of floods, but also because of earthquakes⁴;

Whereas, in the same Rappler report, it was stated that, Manila, home to various historical sites, is located near two (2) major faultlines - the West Valley Fault and the Manila Trench⁵;

Whereas, the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has been holding metro-wide earthquake drills for two (2) years in preparation for the "Big One";

Whereas, on 10 February 2017, a 6.7 magnitude earthquake hit the province of Surigao, which left 8 people dead and 209 injured⁶, and also resulted in extensive damage to structures, including airports and bridges⁷;

Whereas, on 05 March 2017, another 5.9 magnitude earthquake hit Surigao which left 1 dead and 42 injured, and reportedly destroyed government buildings and residential houses⁸;

Whereas, Republic Act 6541 or the "National Building Code of the Philippines" should be revisited and amended to ensure that homeowners and building administrators will upgrade and retrofit their houses or buildings to comply with the minimum requirements provided by the Code;

Whereas, there is a need for a holistic assessment and strengthening of the respective capacities of national government agencies, local government units and other stakeholders to mitigate, respond and recover from a potential massive earthquake;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in

³ Rappler. (2016, April 19). <http://www.rappler.com>. Retrieved from Rappler : <http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/issues/disasters/129927-phivolcs-strong-earthquakes-pacific-ring-fire-unrelated> (last accessed 08 March 2017)

⁴ Rappler. (2014, November 30). <http://www.rappler.com>. Retrieved from Rappler : <http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/issues/disasters/knowledge-base/76464-how-vulnerable-manila-earthquakes> (last accessed 08 March 2017)

⁵ *Ibid.*


⁶ Rappler. (2017, February 13). <http://www.rappler.com>. Retrieved from Rappler: <http://www.rappler.com/nation/161289-surigao-earthquake-toll-rises> (last accessed 08 March 2017)

⁷ Rappler. (2017, February 12). <http://www.rappler.com>. Retrieved from Rappler: <http://www.rappler.com/nation/161200-earthquake-surigao-city-state-calamity> (last accessed 08 March 2017)

⁸ Sunstar. (2017, March 5). <http://www.sunstar.com.ph>. Retrieved from Sunstar : <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/cagayan-de-oro/local-news/2017/03/06/magnitude-59-quake-hits-surigao-city-1-dead-45-injured-529210> (last accessed 08 March 2017)

aid of legislation, on the preparedness of the Greater Metro Manila and other earthquake prone areas for the "Big One".

Adopted,


LEILA M. DE LIMA