

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

SENATE



P. S. Res. No. 80

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Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS AND VIABILITY OF THE APPROVED FLOOD MANAGEMENT MASTER PLAN FOR METRO MANILA AND SURROUNDING AREAS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING A COMPREHENSIVE AND COST-EFFICIENT SOLUTION TO THE FLOODING PROBLEM THAT WOULD IMMEDIATELY BRING RELIEF TO THE PUBLIC

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution provides that the State shall promote a just and
2 dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation
3 and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social
4 services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved
5 quality of life for all;

6 WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 292 or the Administrative Code of 1987
7 provides that the planning, design, construction and maintenance of infrastructure
8 facilities, especially national highways, flood control and water resources
9 development systems, and other public works in accordance with national
10 development objectives, shall be the responsibility of such an engineering and
11 construction arm, which would be the Department of Public Works and Highways
12 (DPWH);

13 WHEREAS, *Habagat* affects the Philippines from July to September and
14 frequently submerges Metropolitan Manila under water as massive flooding from
15 heavy downpour inundate major roadways, clog waterways, render intersections
16 impassable and virtually paralyze public transport with thousands of commuters
17 stranded from floodwaters;

18 WHEREAS, the Philippines is one of the most disaster-hit countries in the

1 world with an average of twenty typhoons per year;

2 WHEREAS, the DPWH identified the three major causes of flooding in Metro
3 Manila: the huge volume of water coming from the Sierra Madre mountains, blocked
4 drainages in core areas, and the presence of low-lying communities around Manila
5 Bay and Laguna Lake;

6 WHEREAS, the government plans to relocate almost 232,000 informal settler
7 families (ISFs) residing along the waterways of the Manila Bay area, of which priority
8 shall be given to around 37,000 ISFs living along danger areas such as esteros and
9 waterways in Metro Manila;

10 WHEREAS, the eight priority waterways in Metro Manila identified by the
11 DPWH are: San Juan River, Pasig River, Tullahan River, Maricaban Creek,
12 Manggahan Floodway, Estero Tripa de Gallina, Estero de Maypajo, and Estero de
13 Sunog Apog;

14 WHEREAS, a Php351.78 Billion flood management master plan for Metro
15 Manila and surrounding areas, an offshoot of a World Bank-funded study to prepare
16 a comprehensive flood-risk management plan, shall serve as the roadmap of the
17 Government programmed from 2012 to 2035;

18 WHEREAS, the flood management master plan encompasses the Pasig-
19 Marikina River Basin, Malabon-Tullahan, Meycauyan, South Parañaque-Las Piñas
20 and Laguna Lake Basins, including drainage basins;

21 WHEREAS, the anti-flood master plan spearheaded by the DPWH would cover
22 the infrastructure needs of 11 flood-prone areas in Metro Manila and nearby
23 provinces, envisioned to be completed by 2035;

24 WHEREAS, of the P549.39 Billion DPWH Appropriations for 2019, only P31.44
25 Billion (or 5.7%) was allocated for the Flood Management Program in Metro Manila;

26 WHEREAS, an article written by University of the Philippines professor Carlo
27 Arcilla published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer in November 2015 claimed that the
28 P350-billion Metro Manila Flood Control Plan used a substandard flood simulation
29 model as basis for its proposed solutions to flooding in Metro Manila;

30 WHEREAS, Professor Arcilla suggested that the government should consider
31 the flood projections made by Project NOAH (Nationwide Operational Assessment of
32 Hazards), a responsive program launched by the Department of Science and

1 Technology for disaster prevention and mitigation;

2 WHEREAS, an inquiry is being sought to look into the status and viability of
3 the overall anti-flood master plan for Metro Manila and surrounding areas with the
4 DPWH and Metro Manila Development Authority at the forefront and ensure the
5 cost-effective spending of the resources allocated for such ambitious endeavor:
6 Now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, To direct the Senate
8 Committee on Public Works to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status
9 and viability of the approved Flood Management Master Plan for Metro Manila and
10 Surrounding Areas, with the end in view of ensuring a comprehensive and cost-
11 efficient solution to the flooding problem that would immediately bring relief to the
12 public.

Adopted,

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RALPH G. RECTO