



**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)**

23 FEB 15 P5:42

**SENATE
P.S. RES. NO. 486**

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by SENATOR FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PRESENT STATE OF OUR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILDINGS AND OTHER STRUCTURES BOTH VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REVIEWING, REVISING, AND UPDATING OUR PRESENT BUILDING CODE TO MAKE IT MORE ATTUNED TO AND COMPLIANT WITH INTERNATIONAL SAFETY STANDARDS

Whereas, on 6 February 2023, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck southeastern Turkey and northwestern Syria, followed by a 7.5 magnitude tremor that caused numerous aftershocks¹ which directly affected 26 million² people and resulted to 40,000³ deaths to date within both countries;

Whereas, upon the investigation of Turkish authorities, it appeared that one of the causes of the large number of casualties in the said occurrence was the failure of some Turkish contractors to enforce their building regulations as recent structures failed to withstand an earthquake of such magnitude⁴;

Whereas, in 2022, the World Risk Report by Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) of Ruhr University Bochum showed that the Philippines is the highest disaster risk country in the world with a World Risk Index of 46.82;

¹<https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20230207-live-death-toll-from-turkey-syria-earthquakes-surpasses-4-000>

² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/02/13/turkey-syria-earthquake-updates-deaths/>

³ <https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/liveblog/2023/2/14/turkey-syria-earthquake-live-news-death-toll-tops-36000>

⁴ <https://www.bbc.com/news/64568826>

Whereas, there is a big probability, if not an absolute possibility, that an event of similar magnitude might happen to the Philippines on account of the country being located in the Pacific Ring of Fire together with Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, United States of America, Canada, Russia, Japan, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, New Zealand and Antarctica;

Whereas, based on the study conducted by MMDA and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 2004, many structures in the greater Manila Area would not be able to withstand the possible catastrophic destructions that can be brought by 'The Big One';

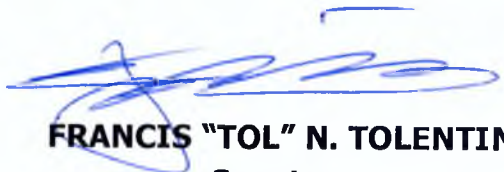
Whereas, the current 50-year-old Building Code needs to be updated to help ensure the structural resiliency of establishments should a destructive earthquake - similar to the one in Turkey and Syria - hit Metro Manila and other provinces in the country;

Whereas, in addition thereto, more evacuation areas are needed as the population and infrastructures within the National Capital Region (NCR) have multiplied in the past years, which would mean more casualties and greater extent of damage if a strong earthquake were to rock the nation's capital;

Whereas, there should also be a constant review of the electrical, structural, and foundational aspect of buildings and other structures both horizontal and vertical even after construction, especially in dense areas to further ensure the security and safety of each and every Filipinos if such a tragedy were to happen in the future;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it hereby resolved, for the appropriate Senate committee to conduct a thorough review of the present state of all our public and private buildings and other structures with the end in view of reviewing, revising and updating the antiquated National Building Code of the Philippines and other laws for the purpose of strengthening our building safety standards and ensuring that all our buildings and structures are all disaster resilient to meet any eventuality in the future.

Adopted,


FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO
Senator