

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
Second Regular Session }

6 FEB 20 P 1 05

SENATE

P.S. Resolution No. 453

RECEIVED BY: 

---

*Introduced by Senator M.A Madrigal*

---

**RESOLUTION  
EXPRESSING THE SENATE'S DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND  
PROFOUND GRIEF FOR THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE IN THE  
AFTERMATH OF THE DEVASTATING LANDSLIDE OF 17 FEBRUARY 2006**

**WHEREAS**, Southern Leyte is located within the so-called Philippine Rift Zone where major fault lines traverse the municipalities of Sogod, Libagon, St. Bernard and San Juan to Panaon Island;

**WHEREAS**, last 17 February 2006, incessant rains and a mild 2.6-magnitude earthquake caused the collapse of a portion of Mt. Can-abag, thereby triggering a landslide and covering with mud almost the entire village of Guinsaugon in St. Bernard town;

**WHEREAS**, the landslide practically obliterated Guinsaugon village and left at least 70 people dead and 1,000 more missing and feared dead;

**WHEREAS**, many of the unfortunate victims were women and children who were trapped inside a schoolhouse;

**WHEREAS**, another landslide that occurred earlier in the week also killed some 20 people in Sogod town of the same province;

**WHEREAS**, the landslides were highly attributed to the La Niña phenomenon, which is a weather condition characterized by heavy rains and of unusually cool surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean resulting in storm surges and strong winds and the rapid deforestation in the province caused by illegal logging and upland migration;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, THAT, THE SENATE:**

(1.) Express its sincerest condolences to the families of the **unfortunate victims of the massive landslide and express its sympathies to those individuals who were injured and survived the aftermath of the landslide;**

(2.) Declare its readiness to support and assist the authorities of Southern Leyte in their efforts to prevent any similar tragedy to happen again; and,

**(3.) Call upon the Executive branch of government and the local government units to renew and strengthen efforts to establish an effective and efficient disaster-preparedness programs especially in the onslaught of the current La Nina crisis.**

Adopted,

  
M.A. MADRIGAL