

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 143

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON REVISITING THE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6541, OR THE BUILDING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1586, AND OTHER PERTINENT LAWS IN LIGHT OF GROWING PUBLIC CONCERNS ON THE IMPACT OF GEOLOGIC HAZARDS ON THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF HOUSES AND BUILDINGS IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9, states that "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all;"

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* in its 30 April 2011 issue reported that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) called for a review of the Republic Act No. 6541, or the Building Code of the Philippines, in light of growing public concerns on the impact of geologic hazards on the structural integrity of houses and buildings in the country;

WHEREAS, DENR officials pointed out that the devastating earthquakes that shocked Japan, Haiti, Chile and New Zealand is a wake-up call for the national government to consider amending the Building Code to update it according to the latest and prevalent studies, technologies, and other contexts at present;

WHEREAS, reviewing and possibly amending Presidential Decree No. 1586 establishing an Environmental Impact Statement System should also be considered because of the increasing occurrence and intensities of these natural calamities;

WHEREAS, DENR already has reportedly directed the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) to work for the full integration of Engineering Geological and Geohazard Assessment Report (EGGAR) into the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) System;

WHEREAS, the Philippines should learn from the Japanese experience in disaster-preparedness when it comes to ensuring that buildings are earthquake-resistant with the use of extra steel bracings, giant rubber pads, and embedded hydraulic shock absorbers, on top of routine earthquake and tsunami drills which are all credited for saving lives during the March 2011 earthquake;

WHEREAS, strict obedience to and enforcement of their building codes were also pointed out to be crucial aspects in saving lives of countless Japanese during the March 2011 earthquake, compared to those disasters in Haiti in 2010 and in China in 2008 where death and destruction were largely due to shoddy building construction and lax implementation of construction codes;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on revisiting the Republic Act No. 6541, or the Building Code of the Philippines, Presidential Decree No. 1586, and other pertinent laws in light of growing public concerns on the impact of geologic hazards on the structural integrity of houses and buildings in the country.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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