



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

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

PS Res. No. **321**

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON EARTHQUAKE DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES IN THE LIGHT OF THE
MAGNITUDE 7.2 EARTHQUAKE THAT HIT BOHOL, CEBU AND NEARBY
PROVINCES**

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2013, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 on the Richter scale hit the Visayas, resulting in 190 human casualties, 11 missing individuals, and 605 injured persons;

WHEREAS, the damage to public roads, bridges, flood control, school buildings, hospitals, and other public buildings is estimated at almost P1 billion, broken down as follows: Cebu Province (PhP 132,250,000), Bohol (PhP 763,680,000), Negros Oriental (PhP 250,000) and Siquijor (PhP 6,660,000,00);

WHEREAS, 53,439 private houses were damaged in Regions VI and VII, including 14,253 houses totally destroyed;

WHEREAS, prior to the earthquake, the Congress passed Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, and several agencies in the Executive Department have launched programs aimed at reducing risk from earthquakes;

WHEREAS, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has launched the Geohazard Mapping and Assessment Program, which was cited by President Aquino in his State of the Nation Address in July 2013;

WHEREAS, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council has published the National Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NRRMP) for 2011-2018, which states that the Philippines is highly prone to earthquakes, and experiences an average of five earthquakes per day;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) has highlighted the urgent need to strictly impose the regulations on buildings and structures in order to minimize the impact of earthquakes, citing a study that half a million residential buildings in the Metro Manila area will be heavily or partly damaged if a magnitude 7.2 earthquake occurs in the West Valley Fault, also known as the Marikina

centers, roads, broadcast media, fire and ambulance stations, and telecommunication facilities;

WHEREAS, in view of the devastating consequences of earthquake disasters upon human lives, infrastructures, utilities and properties, there is an urgent need to investigate, in aid of legislation, (i) the status of government agencies in terms of earthquake disaster preparedness and (ii) the earthquake disaster preparedness scenarios in the earthquake-prone areas of the Philippines, so that appropriate plans and preparations can be made and the proper legal and policy framework can be put in place for an effective earthquake disaster risk reduction and management system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the appropriate committee(s) in the Senate to investigate on the state of earthquake disaster preparedness of the government and its appropriate agencies.

Adopted.



SENATOR SONNY ANGARA