

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



Office of the Secretary

14 OCT 27 P5:27

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. **983**

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION

**CALLING ON THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REGARDING THE DELAYED
REHABILITATION IN THE PROVINCE OF BOHOL AND TO CONSIDER ITS
DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS TO THE LIVES OF OUR LESS FORTUNATE AND LOW
INCOME FAMILIES RESIDING IN THE AFFECTED AREAS**

WHEREAS, ARTICLE XIII, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides, to wit:
“The Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance
the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities,
and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common
good.”;

WHEREAS, it is a declared policy of the State to uphold the people's constitutional rights to life
and property by addressing the root causes of vulnerabilities to disasters¹ and to provide
maximum care, assistance and services to individuals and families affected by disasters²;

WHEREAS, in the past year the province of Bohol suffered damages caused by earthquakes³,
said damages trickled down to the less fortunate and low income families in the affected areas;

WHEREAS, after the quick response addressing urgent relief needs of disaster victims to
prevent further loss of life and property have been rendered, rehabilitation of the affected areas
would be the next step in recovering from said disasters;

WHEREAS, news reports have indicated that there is delay in the rehabilitation of the province
of Bohol⁴;

¹ Section 2 (a), Republic Act No, 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010

² Section 2 (p), Republic Act No, 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010

³ Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology Website;

http://www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph/html/update_SOEPD/2013_Earthquake_Bulletins/October/2013_1015_0012_B3F.html.

⁴ Rappler Website; <http://www.rappler.com/thewrap/october-21-2014-edition/whats-causing-rehab-delays-bohol-yolanda-areas>.

WHEREAS, news reports have also indicated that the delay of the rehabilitation was due to several factors such as lack of manpower having technical expertise⁵, bureaucratic practices like the bottom-up-budgeting⁶ and local government units (“LGUs”) themselves⁷;

WHEREAS, Mayor Leoncio Evasco, Jr. of Maribojoc in response to the rebuking by Department of Interior and Local Government (“DILG”) Secretary Mar Roxas, pointed out that the blame should not be on the mayors of the local government units but on the delay caused by the belated release of the guidelines by the DILG relating to a program called Bohol Earthquake Assistance (“BEA”) that would have helped the Mayors in planning their rehabilitation programs⁸;

WHEREAS, the said guidelines were issued only on August 1, almost two months after Roxas and Budget Secretary Florencio “Butch” Abad turned over P2.4 billion in funds for BEA on June 6 to Gov. Edgar Chatto of Bohol⁹;

WHEREAS, Bohol DILG director Ma. Loisella Lucino confirmed the belated issuance of the guidelines, saying that her office received a copy of “Guidelines in the Implementation of the BEA-DILG Fund for the affected LGUs in the province of Bohol” on August 1¹⁰;

WHEREAS, this is not the time to point fingers or look for personalities to blame for the delay, it is time to positively act towards the rehabilitation of affected areas by exerting efforts that would zero in on the need to fill-up the lack of manpower, streamline the bureaucratic processes and ensure proper information dissemination to the LGUs;

WHEREAS, poor implementation of government instrumentalities in the grassroots level has also been alleged as the cause of the delay attributing it to issues in the execution and delivery of rehabilitation projects¹¹;

WHEREAS, pursuant to good governance, government accountability and social uplifting, it is imperative that facts and circumstances surrounding the government’s slow efforts be examined in order to address the government’s inadequacies and improve as well as fast track the rehabilitation efforts that would benefit the less fortunate and low income families in the affected areas.

⁵ Business World Website; <http://www.bworldonline.com/content.php?section=Nation&title=lack-of-engineers-delays-rehabilitation-of-bohol&id=96326>.

⁶ Rappler Website; <http://www.rappler.com/nation/72551-yolanda-master-plan-delays>

⁷ Sunstar Website; <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/cebu/local-news/2014/10/16/roxas-scolds-bohol-lgus-over-rehab-work-delay-371294>.

⁸ Inquirer Website; <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/645570/bohol-mayor-to-mar-roxas-scold-yourself>.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Inquirer, Cebu Daily News; <http://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/44260/implementation-not-funds-delay-disaster-rehab>.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved to call on the appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, regarding the delayed rehabilitation in the province of Bohol and to consider its detrimental effects to the lives of our less fortunate and low income families residing in said areas.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MLNB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator