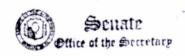
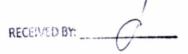
## EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session



20 JAN 20 P12:48

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 289



## Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

## RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM, THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AND THE HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND TO EXTEND CALAMITY OR EMERGENCY LOANS TO AND/OR IMPOSE A ONE-YEAR MORATORIUM ON LOAN AMORTIZATIONS OF MEMBERS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE TAAL VOLCANO ERUPTION CALAMITY AREAS; THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO BE MORE LENIENT TO AFFECTED BUSINESSES ON THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES, RENEWAL OF BUSINESS PERMITS AND IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES; AND THE PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT BANKS TO DEFER LOAN PAYMENTS OF AFFECTED BORROWERS

**WHEREAS**, at 2:30 PM of January 12, 2020, Taal volcano started erupting which prompted the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) to raise its alert status to Level 2<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS,** by 7:30 PM of the same day, January 12, 2020, PHIVOLCS raised the status to Alert Level 4, where a hazardous explosive eruption is possible within hours to days, and strongly reiterated total evacuation of the Taal Volcano Island and areas at high risk to pyroclastic density currents and volcanic tsunami within a 14-kilometer radius from the Taal Main Crater<sup>2</sup>;

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Taal Volcano Bulletin 12 January 2020 02:30 PM, http://www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph/index.php/taal-volcano-bulletin-menu/9617-taal-volcano-bulletin-12-january-2020-02-30-pm

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

**WHEREAS,** the Philippine Seismic Network (PSN) plotted a total of six hundred seventy-three (673) volcanic earthquakes since 1:00 PM of January 12, 2020 with intensities ranging from Intensity I to V<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, as of January 17, 2020, over 70,000 residents of Cavite and Batangas are taking temporary shelter in 300 evacuation centers since Taal Volcano's stream-driven eruption. Nearby provinces, including Metro Manila, were also affected by ashfall<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS,** Alert Level 4 still remains in effect over Taal Volcano as of January 18, 2020. Residents around Taal Volcano were advised to guard against the effects of heavy and prolonged ashfall<sup>5</sup>;

WHEREAS, the widespread ashfall resulted to the blanketing of homes, fields with still planted crops, and business establishments with a heavy layer of ash, which caused the agriculture sector to suffer over Php3 billion worth of damages<sup>6</sup>, and placed the operations of the tourism sector in affected areas to a halt<sup>7</sup>;

WHEREAS, the Batangas Provincial Government, based on the recommendation of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (PDRRMC), following the declaration of state of calamity by the municipalities of Balete and Agoncillo through Resolution 004-2020 and Resolution 01-2020, respectively, declared a provincial state of calamity on January 13, 20208;

**WHEREAS**, the Cavite Provincial Government also declared a state of calamity for the province on January 15, 2020<sup>9</sup>;

Eruption Update for Taal Volcano Alert Level 4 (Hazardous Eruption Imminent): 18 January 2020 06:00 PM, http://www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph/index.php/taal-volcano-bulletin-menu/9664-eruption-update-for-taal-volcano-alert-level-4-hazardous-eruption-imminent-18-january-2020-06-00-pm

<sup>4</sup> CNN Philippines, "Phivolcs: Hazardous eruption will 'definitely' kill anyone in Taal danger zone," 17 January 2020, https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/1/17/taal-volcano-hazardous-eruption.html

Supra Note 3.

<sup>6</sup> Supra Note 4.

Philippine Star, "Taal eruption steals livelihoods," 19 January 2020, https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/01/19/1986070/taal-eruption-steals-livelihoods

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> GMA News Online, "Batangas under state of calamity due to Taal Volcano unrest," 13 January 2020, https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/721993/batangas-under-state-of-calamity-due-to-taal-volcano-unrest/story/

Rappler, "Cavite declares state of calamity due to Taal Volcano eruption," 15 January 2020, https://www.rappler.com/nation/249407-cavite-declares-state-calamity-taal-volcano-eruption-january-2020

WHEREAS, as of January 17, 2020, the Batangas Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) declared lockdowns of the towns of Agoncillo, Alitagtag, Balete, Cuenca, Laurel, Lemery, Malvar, San Nicolas, Sta. Teresita, Taal, Talisay and Mataas na Kahoy, and parts of the cities of Lipa and Tanauan<sup>10</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, as of January 18, 2020, there are 37,186 families with 162,178 individual evacuees coming from various LGUs in the Province of Batangas<sup>11</sup>;

WHEREAS, to date, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the Social Security System (SSS) and the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund) have not yet issued a moratorium with a term longer than 6 months on the loan amortizations of their respective members and/or pensioners residing in calamity areas, nor have these agencies extended calamity assistance or emergency loans to affected members;

WHEREAS, as a form of financial assistance and to ease the burden of those hit by natural calamities, the grant by the GSIS, the SSS and the Pag-IBIG Fund of emergency or calamity loans and/or a moratorium with a term longer than 6 months on loan amortizations of their respective members and/or pensioners residing in calamity areas as well as the deferment of loan payments and debt restructuring by private and governments banks to borrowers, either as individuals or business entities, in affected areas will greatly alleviate the suffering brought about by the Taal volcano eruption and will help them out during their times of need;

WHEREAS, the suspension of the imposition of penalties by local government units to calamity-affected business establishments which are unable to pay their real property taxes, as well as those unable to renew their respective business permits, will likewise help our affected citizens to recover and rebuild, and will facilitate and reinvigorate the economy of the affected areas, especially the city of Tagaytay and the municipality of Taal which are tourist destinations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to urge the GSIS, the SSS and the Pag-IBIG Fund to extend calamity or

Sun Star, "14 Batangas towns on lockdown after Taal eruption," 17 January 2020, https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1840326

Tempo, "Number of Taal evacuees swells," 18 January 2020, http://tempo.com.ph/2020/01/18/number-of-taal-evacuees-swells/

emergency loans to and/or impose a one-year moratorium on loan amortizations of members who are residents of the Taal volcano eruption calamity areas; the local government units to be more lenient to affected businesses on the payment of real property taxes, renewal of business permits and imposition of penalties; and the private and government banks to defer loan payments of affected borrowers.

Adopted,