

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



SENATE

20 FEB 26 P4:42

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 53

RECEIVED

Submitted by the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement on
FEB 26 2020.

Re: Proposed Senate Resolution No. 297

Recommending the adoption of the recommendations and their immediate implementation.

Sponsor: Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committee on Urban Planning Housing and Resettlement to which was referred **P.S. Res. No. 297**, introduced by Sen. Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino and Sen. Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa, entitled:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON URBAN PLANNING, HOUSING AND RESETTLEMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION AND IN THE EXERCISE OF THE SENATE'S OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS, TO URGENTLY CALL UPON THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES TO FORMULATE A SUSTAINABLE TAAL VOLCANO RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

has considered the same and has the honor to submit the report on its inquiry back to the Senate, recommending the adoption of the recommendations as contained therein and their immediate implementation.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PREFATORY STATEMENT

Housing is a basic human right. Shelter is one of the biological requirements for human survival.¹ To give us a context on the importance of satisfying one's physiological needs, Maslow wrote, "For the man who is extremely and dangerously hungry, no other interests exist but food. He dreams food, he remembers food, and he thinks about food, he emotes only about food, he perceives only food, and he wants only food."² By analogy, we can say that a man who is extremely and dangerously restless, no other interest exist but home. He dreams of sleep, he remembers home, he thinks about comfort, he emotes only about warmth, he perceives only relief and he wants only to rest. Anything else will be unimportant. Freedom, security, law, and order; love friendship, intimacy, trust and dignity; achievement, mastery, independence, status and prestige, are all insignificant and useless since they fail to fill the need of a shelter where he can rest.

Considering its importance in human survival as a physiological need, and its necessity of satisfaction before human being can pursue higher motivations of safety, belongingness, love, esteem and self-actualization, it is the government's duty and obligation to guarantee that everyone can exercise this human right, and to live in safe, secure, affordable and decent housing, with full access to basic services.

The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes everyone's right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including housing as an important component of the right to an adequate standard of living.³ The right to an adequate standard of living and housing is

¹ Maslow, A. (1943). A theory of human motivation. *Psychological Review*, 50, 370-396.

² *Id.*

³ Article 25 (1), Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

reflected in our 1987 Philippine Constitution which strongly mandates the State to undertake a continuing program for the provision of affordable, decent housing and basic services to the underprivileged and homeless citizens.⁴

The Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 states that the government recognizes the importance of building and expanding people's access to safe and secure shelter in well-planned communities. If not managed well, poorly-planned communities can pose risks to health, life, and property as well as increased exposure to natural hazards and disasters.

The Philippines is considered as one of the most exposed and vulnerable countries to natural calamities. The Philippines is located at the West Pacific Rim, the most active tropical cyclone basin, averaging around twenty tropical cyclones entering the Philippine Area of Responsibility, with about 8 or 9 crossing the Philippine Archipelago, causing landslides, flash floods and other disasters. At the same time, the Philippines sits in the Pacific Ring of Fire, characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.

Recognizing this constant battery of natural disasters, on February 14, 2019, the law creating the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development was passed. One of its functions, among others, is to formulate a framework for resilient housing and human settlements as a basis for the mechanisms for post-disaster housing and resiliency planning, research and development, extension, monitoring and evaluation of programs, projects and activities to protect vulnerable communities from the adverse effects of climate change and disasters.⁵ The

⁴ Section 9, Article XIII, 1987 Constitution of the Philippines. The State shall, by law, and for the common good, undertake, in cooperation with the private sector, a continuing program of urban land reform and housing which will make available at affordable cost, decent housing and basic services to under-privileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlement areas. It shall also promote adequate employment opportunities to such citizens. In the implementation of such program the State shall respect the rights of small property owners.

⁵ Section 5, I (e) of Republic Act No. 11201. Formulate a framework for resilient housing and human settlements as a basis for the mechanisms for post-disaster housing and resiliency planning, research and development, extension, monitoring and evaluation of programs, projects and activities to protect vulnerable communities from the adverse effects of climate change and disasters.

Department is also tasked to manage and oversee emergency post-disaster/post-conflict shelter recovery or climate change adaptation and mitigation disaster risk reduction provision and interventions.⁶

The Philippines has experienced a number of large scale and devastating natural disasters, including deadly earthquakes, catastrophic fires, far reaching floods, damaging storms, the most recent of which is the Taal Volcano Eruption.

B. BACKGROUND

Taal Volcano is one of the twenty-four (24) active volcanoes in the Philippines listed by the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (DOST-PHIVOLCS).⁷

Located in the Province of Batangas, it is one of the world's deadliest volcanoes that claimed thousands of lives. The Taal Volcano Island has a total land area of 2,500 hectares.⁸

Taal Volcano has forty seven (47) identified cones and craters which formed the Volcano Island by different types of volcanic processes, such as base surges, ash falls and effusions of lava.⁹

There are thirty-three (33) recorded eruptions of Taal from 1572-1977. The vents of these eruptions are confined to the Volcano Island. The 1754 eruption destroyed the old towns of Sala, Lipa, Tanauan and Talisay. In 1911, the eruption devastated almost the whole area of the Volcano Island and claimed more than 1,000 lives and ashes spewed out by the volcano reached as far as Manila. In the 1965 eruption, base surges killed 200 people when the surges traveled across the

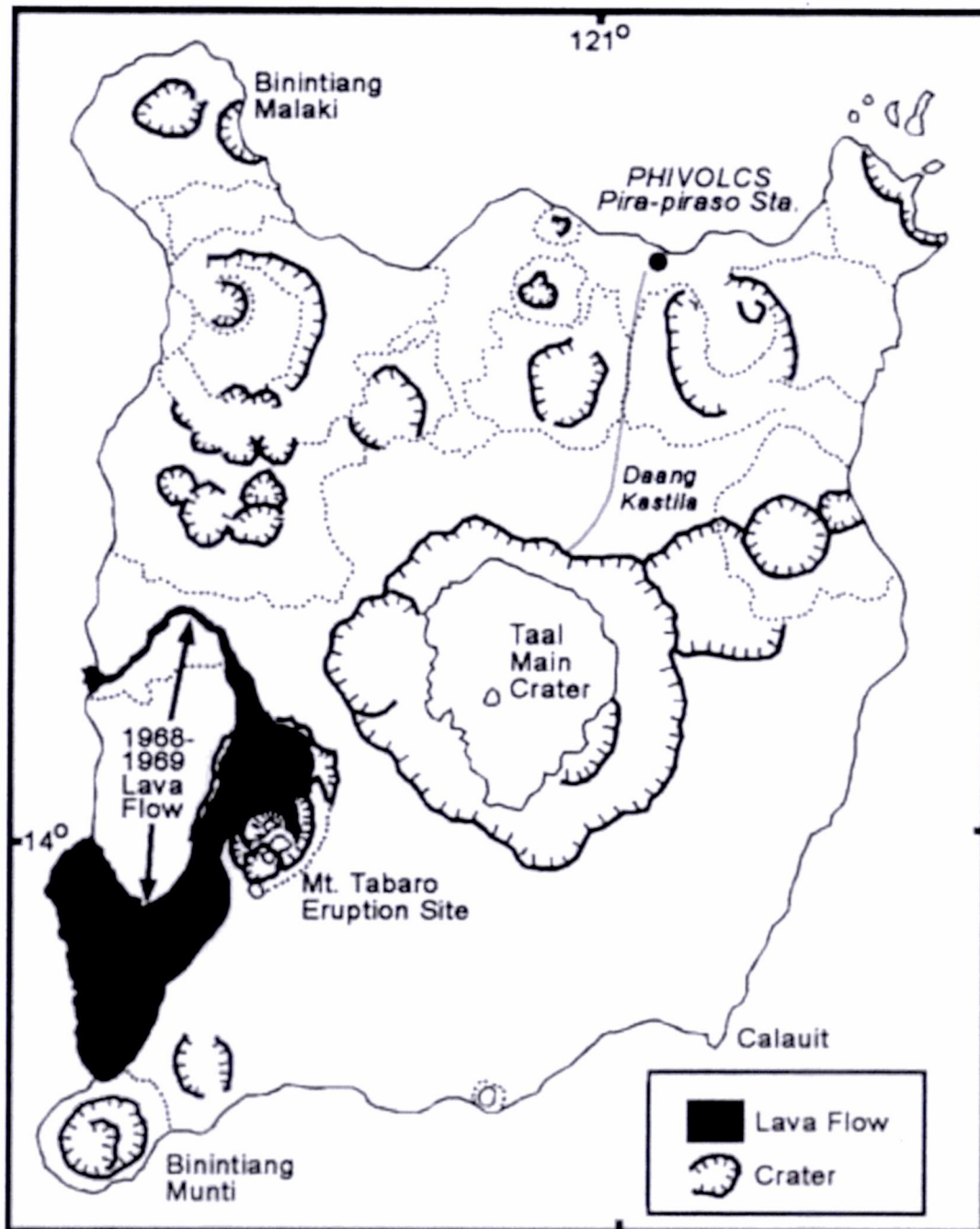
⁶ Section 10.2, Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11201. Manage and oversee emergency post-disaster / post-conflict shelter recovery or climate change adaptation and mitigation disaster risk reduction provision and interventions.

⁷ Delos Reyes, et.al. 2018, "A synthesis and review of historical eruptions of Taal Volcano, Southern Luzon, Philippines", Retrieved 3 February 2020, from <https://www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph/index.php/volcano-hazard/volcanoes-of-the-philippines>.

⁸ General Facts about TVPL, DENR, Retrieved 9 February 2020 from <http://tvpl.denr.gov.ph/>

⁹ DOST-PHIVOLCS, 2003, Taal Volcano Profile, Retrieved 3 February 2020, from <https://www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph/index.php/publications/general-information-products>.

lake and onto the southwest Taal Lakeshore. In 1977, a mild phreatic explosion occurred.¹⁰



Map of eruption centers of Taal Volcano, published by DOST-PHIVOLCS.

Presidential Proclamation 903, series of 1996 declared Taal Volcano Island, Taal Lake and the watershed areas situated in the municipalities of Talisay, Malvar,

¹⁰ DOST-PHIVOLCS, 2003, Taal Volcano Profile, Retrieved 6 February 2020, from <https://www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph/index.php/publications/general-information-products>.

Tanauan, Laurel, Agoncillo, Santa Teresita, Cuenca, Alitagtag, Mataas na Kahoy, Lipa City, Balete and San Nicolas, Province of Batangas and Tagaytay City, Island of Luzon as a Protected Landscape.

Correspondingly, Republic Act No. 11038,¹¹ otherwise known as the Expanded National Protected Areas System Act of 2018, established the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape as a protected area within the classification of national park pursuant to the 1987 Constitution.¹²

In effect, a management plan is required to be formulated that shall serve as the basic long-term framework plan for the management of the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape, which shall include, zoning, buffer zone management, habitat conservation and rehabilitation, diversity management, community organizing and development, socioeconomic and scientific researches, site-specific policy development, climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction and management, waste sewerage and septic management, and gender and

¹¹ REPUBLIC ACT No. 11038: An Act Declaring Protected Areas and Providing for Their Management, Amending for This Purpose Republic Act No. 7586, Otherwise Known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992" and for Other Purposes, June 22, 2018.

¹² Section 3, Article XII, 1987 Philippine Constitution. Lands of the public domain are classified into agricultural, forest or timber, mineral lands and national parks. Agricultural lands of the public domain may be further classified by law according to the uses to which they may be devoted. Alienable lands of the public domain shall be limited to agricultural lands. Private corporations or associations may not hold such alienable lands of the public domain except by lease, for a period not exceeding twenty-five years, renewable for not more than twenty-five years, and not to exceed one thousand hectares in area. Citizens of the Philippines may lease not more than five hundred hectares, or acquire not more than twelve hectares thereof, by purchase, homestead, or grant.

Taking into account the requirements of conservation, ecology, and development, and subject to the requirements of agrarian reform, the Congress shall determine, by law, the size of lands of the public domain which may be acquired, developed, held, or leased and the conditions therefor.

Section 4, Article XII, 1987 Philippine Constitution. The Congress shall, as soon as possible, determine, by law, the specific limits of forest lands and national parks, marking clearly their boundaries on the ground. Thereafter, such forest lands and national parks shall be conserved and may not be increased nor diminished, except by law. The Congress shall provide for such period as it may determine, measures to prohibit logging in endangered forests and watershed areas.

development, among others.¹³ The management plan is to be prepared by the Protected Area Management Office, in consultation with the stakeholders, including the annual work and financial plans and ensure its implementation,¹⁴ and to be approved by the Protected Area Management Board.¹⁵

¹³ Sec. 9, Republic Act No. 7586, as amended. Management Plan. - Within one (1) year from the establishment of the protected area there shall be a management plan formulated for each protected area that shall serve as the basic long-term framework plan for the management of the protected area and guide in the preparation of its annual operations plan and budget.

The management plan shall, at the minimum, promote the adoption and implementation of innovative management techniques including, when necessary, zoning, buffer zone management, habitat conservation and rehabilitation, diversity management, community organizing and development, socioeconomic and scientific researches, site-specific policy development, climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction and management, waste sewerage and septic management, and gender and development, among others.

The plan shall be harmonized with the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP) required under Republic Act No. 8371, or 'The Indigenous People's Right Act of 1997', the respective Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) of local governments required under Republic Act No. 7160 or the 'Local Government Code of 1991' and other local plans.

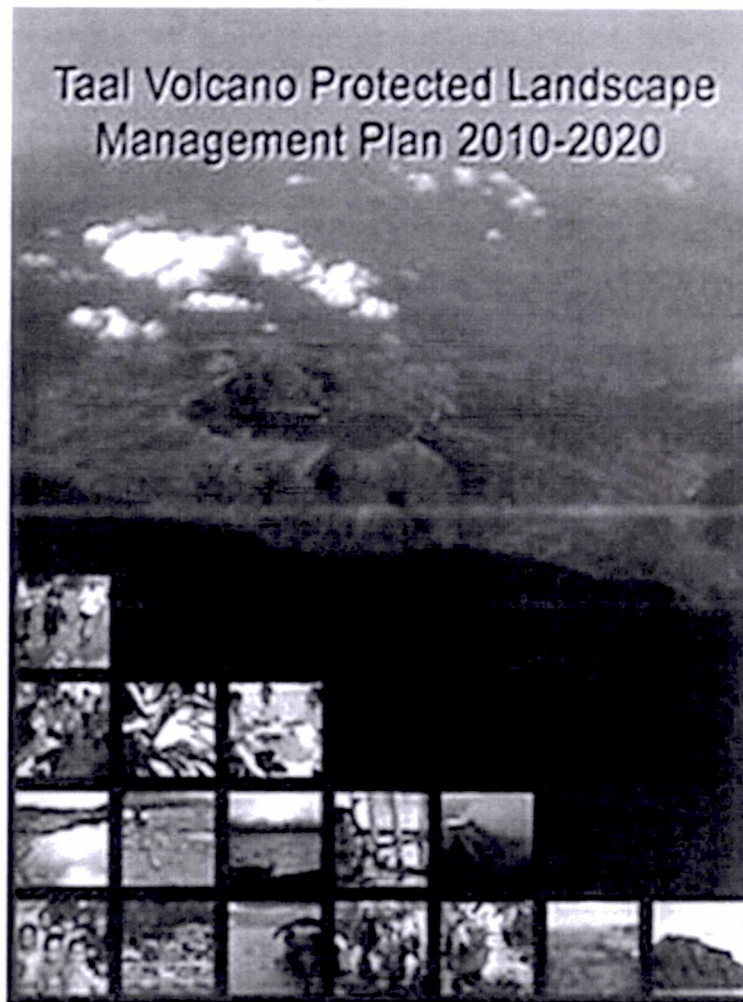
¹⁴ Sec. 11-B (a), Republic Act No. 7586, as amended. The Protected Area Management Office (PAMO). - There is hereby established a Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) to be headed by a Protected Area Superintendent (PASU) with a permanent plantilla position who shall supervise the day management, protection and administration of the protected area. A sufficient number of support staff with permanent plantilla position shall be appointed by the DENR to assist the PASU in the management of the protected area.

The PASU shall be primarily accountable to the PAMB and the DENR for the management and operations of the protected area. Pursuant thereto, the PASU shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) Prepare the management plan, in consultation with the stakeholders, including the annual work and financial plans and ensure its implementation

¹⁵ Sec. 11-A (c), Republic Act No. 7586, as amended. Powers and Functions of the PAMB. - The PAMB shall have the following powers and functions:

(c) Approve the management plan of the protected area and ensure its harmonization and integration with the ADSDPP, land use plan and other development plan public or private, and its implementation.



Taal Volcano Protected Landscape Management Plan 2010-2020 cover page

Accordingly, the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape Management Plan for 2020 was formulated. Chapter Six of the said plan is about Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management, with the objective of improved and fully enforced rules on the habitation and visitation of Volcano island towards increasing disaster response capacity and reducing the threat of casualty especially among vulnerable populations, enhanced capabilities of each citizen to respond to threats and occurrence of disaster and options for post-disaster start-up livelihoods.¹⁶

There are five (5) high priority actions for Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management within the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape.¹⁷

¹⁶ Taal Volcano Protected Landscape Management Plan 2010-2020, p.16.

¹⁷ Id.

First is full census, knowledge management and restriction on in-migration. A yearly census are to be undertaken with the help of the Sangguniang Barangay to promote awareness, generate support, consolidate knowledge on disaster preparedness and ensure general preparedness of the population on the hazards of the Taal Volcano as well as evacuation options, routes and centers and foster a holistic view of the ecosystems and the natural hazards they pose on the population. Sustained information, education and communication programs to increase the awareness of the general public will be put in place, emphasizing the importance of disaster preparedness and the protection of life and properties/investments.¹⁸

Second is volcano monitoring and climate change preparedness. The monitoring of Taal Volcano's activity will be undertaken by the PHIVOLCS. Residents and visitors are encouraged to report unusual observations such as hydrothermal activity, animal behavior, ground movement, including felt earthquakes.¹⁹

Third, disaster response drills and microinsurance options. Strong partnerships and collaboration shall be established and/or strengthened with the law enforcement agencies, disaster and coordinating agencies at the national and local level, disaster and humanitarian agencies to provide material and human support to assist in disaster preparedness and management, and during times of volcanic activities. Efforts shall also be made for the integration of disaster preparedness in the curriculum at the elementary level, prioritizing those schools located within the danger zones. Annual mass evacuation drills of Volcano Island shall be undertaken using strategic and productive measures. Evacuation centers shall be established by local governments with the help of the national government where schools shall no longer be used for such purposes.²⁰

Fourth is geohazard mapping. A geohazard mapping shall be undertaken to determine areas vulnerable to landslides and other volcanic, earthquake, typhoon and climate change related disasters. In such areas, LGUs shall undertake information dissemination, disaster preparedness activities and respond when such

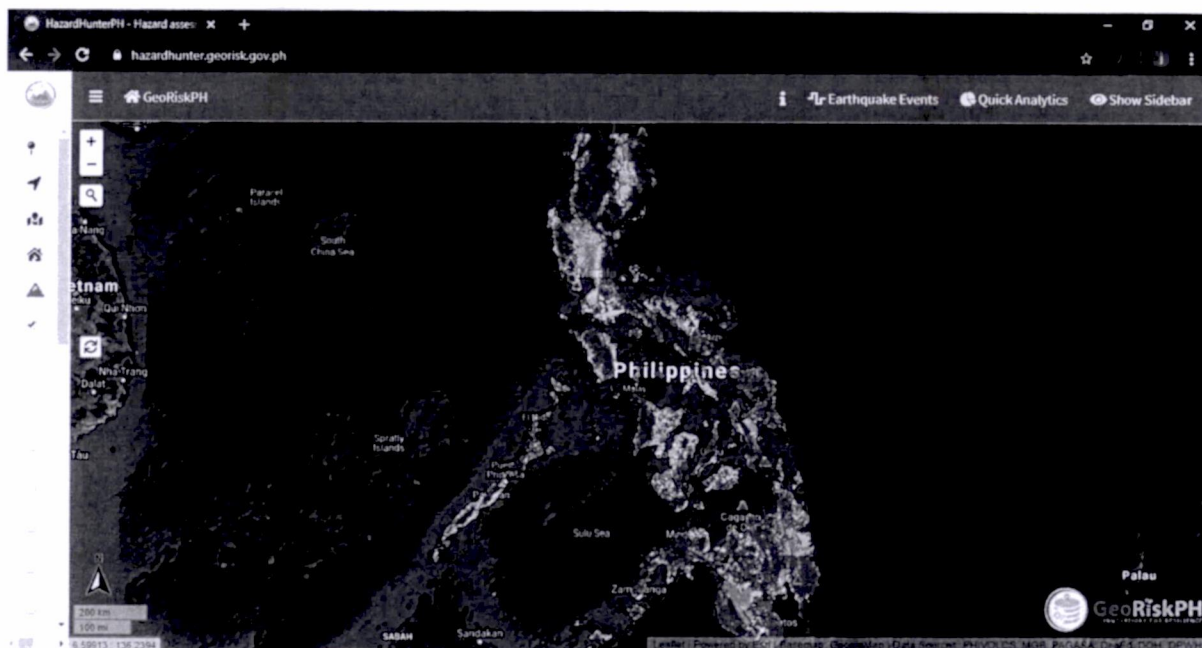
¹⁸ Id.

¹⁹ Id., p. 17.

²⁰ Id.

disaster occurs. Geohazard maps must be included in information and education efforts in all levels.²¹

In line with this, PHIVOLCS prepared HazardHunterPH²². HazardHunterPH is a tool that can be used to generate indicative hazard assessment which is based on the most recent updates provided by the corresponding mandated government agencies through the GeoRiskPH Integrated System. It is a product of GeoRisk Philippines, a multi-agency initiative led by DOST-PHIVOLCS and participated by DOST-PAGASA, DOST-ASTI, DENR-MGB, DENR-NAMRIA, DND-OCD, and DepEd.



Interface of HazardHunterPH, a hazard hazard risk assessment map with Seismic, Volcanic and Hydro-Meteorological indicators which is accessible by everyone.

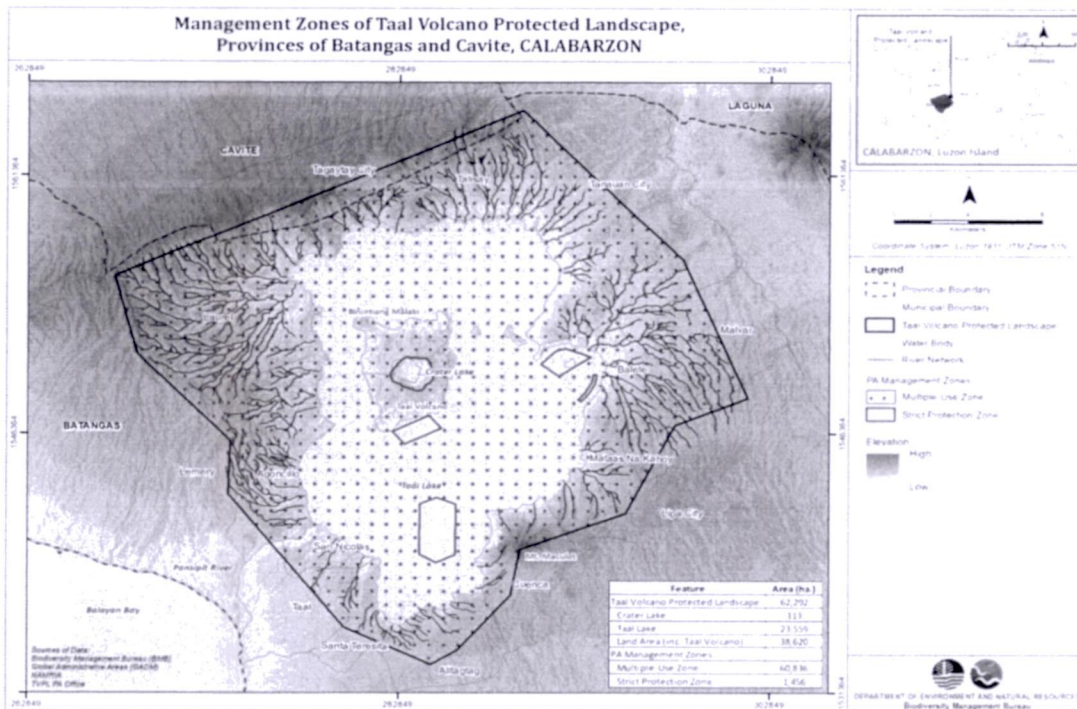
According to Chapter 10 of the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape, there are five (5) management zones on land. The Taal Volcano Island is considered a Permanent Danger Zone, while the other zones have multiple uses, such as the Forest Subzone composed of the Public Forest, the Private Forest Reserves, and the Municipal Watershed Management Reserve; the Agro-tourism Subzone composed of the Agro-tourism Subzone Agricultural Lands.²³

²¹ Id.

²² <https://hazardhunter.georisk.gov.ph/>

²³ Id., p. 24-27.

However, there are parts of Taal Volcano Island that is not within the Strict Protection Zone and classified as Agro-tourism. Ideally, all inhabitants within the 23 square kilometer island would be moved out in the long term. While such relocation is not feasible, the Institute has established an Alert Level System to guide occupants. No new permanent structures would be allowed, no new migration would be allowed and all activities under this plan would not constitute a magnet to further in-migration and exposure of more people to constant danger.²⁴



Management Zones of Taal Volcano Protected Landscape

C. CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR TAAL VOLCANO ERUPTION: CONPLAN BULKAN

Given the historical activity of the Taal Volcano, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office of Batangas prepared a Contingency Plan for Taal Volcano Eruption in order to protect the populace against the most critical vulnerabilities and provide effective, efficient, timely and well-coordinated response

²⁴ Id., p. 24.

mechanisms for the country in the occurrence of Taal Volcano eruption affecting major parts of the Province of Batangas.²⁵

According to the contingency plan, twelve (12) Municipalities and two (2) Cities will be greatly affected by the eruption of Taal Volcano, covering two hundred (200) barangays, seventy-five thousand five hundred twenty six (27,526) families, and three hundred nine thousand nine hundred twenty-nine (309,929) individuals, and with a worst case scenario estimate of five thousand (5,000) people dead, thirty-thousand (30,000) people injured, and seven-thousand (7,000) people missing, one thousand seventy-four (1,074) houses totally damaged and sixty-seven thousand (67,000) houses partially damaged.²⁶

NUMBER OF BARANGAY AFFECTED	NUMBER OF FAMILY AFFECTED	NUMBER OF POPULATION AFFECTED
200	72,526	309, 929
CASUALTY: (Worst Case)		
Dead		5,000 individuals
Injured		30, 000 individuals
Missing		7,000 individuals
AFFECTED POPULATION: (Worst Case)		
Local		309,929 individuals
Foreign		236 individuals per day
EFFECTS ON: (Worst Case)		
Housing	1,074 houses are totally damaged; 67,000 are partially damaged	
Properties	Devastated	
Tourism	Not operational	
Agriculture	Devastated	
Fisheries	Devastated	
Livelihood/Business	More than three months delay in operation	
Roads	Roads within 5-7 Km Radius is not passable	
Bridges	Bridges within 5-7 Km Radius is not Passable	

²⁵ Contingency Plan for Taal Volcano Eruption: CONPLAN Bulkan, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, Province of Batangas, p. 28.

²⁶ Id., pp. 6-7.

Communication	Partially affected - recurring signal disruption (poor signal)
Power	Total power shutdown
Water	No potable water
Environment/Ecology	Devastated
Response Capabilities	10% Response Capability

***Projected Numbers for a Worst Case Scenario Taal Volcano Eruption by
Batangas PDRRMO***

The Contingency Plan includes provisions, composition, and protocols for Search and Rescue and Retrieval,²⁷ Incident Command System²⁸, LGU Response Mechanism²⁹, Interoperability of the Response Cluster and the Incident Management Team³⁰, Concept of Operation³¹, Communication Flow and Warning Dissemination³², Emergency Telecommunications³³, Law and Order³⁴, Camp Coordination and Camp Management³⁵, Logistics³⁶, Education³⁷, Medical, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Mental Health and Psychosocial Services³⁸, and Management of the Dead and Missing³⁹.

RESPONSE CLUSTERS	LEAD	MEMBERS
Food and Non-Food Items	PSWDO	Department of Agriculture, Philippine Red Cross - Batangas, Lipa and Nasugbu Chapters, Provincial Public Order, Safety and Security Department, Provincial Agriculture Office, Provincial Cooperative Livelihood and Enterprise Development Office, Provincial Veterinary Office, Budget Office, Provincial Engineering Office, General Services Office, National Food Authority and Provincial Health Office

²⁷ Id., pp. 31-33.

²⁸ Id., pp. 34-43.

²⁹ Id., pp. 42-43.

³⁰ Id., pp. 44-45.

³¹ Id., p. 46.

³² Id., p. 47.

³³ Id., pp. 53-59.

³⁴ Id., pp. 60-62.

³⁵ Id., pp. 63-68.

³⁶ Id., pp. 69-74.

³⁷ Id., pp. 74-80.

³⁸ Id., pp. 81-87.

³⁹ Id., pp. 88-93.

Emergency Telecommunications	NTC	Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Information Agency and other media, PLDT, Smart Communications Inc. and Sun Cellular
Law and Order	PNP	Department of Interior and Local Government, AFP, BFP, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, PCG and PRC
Search and Rescue and Retrieval	PCG	PDRRMO, BFP, PRC, AFP, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard Auxillary, Volunteers and Civil Society
Camp Coordination and Camp Management	PSWDO	DepEd, PHO, PNP, DILG, PRC, GSO, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Provincial Tourism, Culture and Arts Office, Provincial Assistance for Community Development, NFA
Logistics	PEO	Budget, PEO, DPWH, GSO, OPG, OVG, SP, PSWDO, Provincial Administrator's Office, PPDO, PDRRMO, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, Provincial Treasurer's Office, Provincial Accounting Office, PNP
Education	DepEd	DepEd Districts of Province, Tanauan City and Lipa City, PHO, PSWDO, and OPG-Provincial School Board
Medical, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS)	PHO	Private Hospitals, PSWDO, PRC, PGENRO and DENR
Management of the Dead and Missing	DILG	DILG, PNP, National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Health, Bureau of Fire Protection, Funeral Parlor, AFP, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, PCG, Department of Public Works and Highways Districts 2 & 4

Response Cluster for CONPLAN Bulkan, its Lead Agency and Members

The contingency plan will be automatically activated as eruption occurs and PHIVOLCS issuance of Alert Level 4 or 5.⁴⁰

D. RECENT ERUPTION OF TAAL VOLCANO (2020)

⁴⁰ Id., p. 94.

Taal Volcano's status was first raised by DOST-PHIVOLCS to alert level 1 last March 28, 2019, after having recorded fifty (50) volcanic earthquakes since March 2, 2019.⁴¹ The bulletin further stated that the entire volcano island is a Permanent Danger Zone, and permanent settlement on the island is strongly not recommended.

On December 1, 2019, DOST-PHIVOLCS issued a Taal Volcano Advisory, notifying the public and concerned authorities that since March 28, 2019, the Taal Volcano seismic network has recorded 4857 volcanic earthquakes.⁴² It reiterated that Alert Level 1 remained in effect over Taal Volcano which means that hazardous eruption is not imminent; however, there is a possibility of magmatic disturbance ongoing under the volcano.⁴³

From January 8 to 12, 2020, DOST-PHIVOLCS issued Taal Volcano Bulletins, reporting a seismic record of 180 total volcanic earthquakes over the span of five (5) days.⁴⁴

At 2:30 P.M. of January 12, 2020, DOST-PHIVOLCS issued a Taal Volcano Bulletin,⁴⁵ to notify the raising of the alert status of Taal from Alert Level 1 to Alert Level 2, after Taal Volcano manifested the following increased level of activity:

1. Increased steaming activity in at least five spots inside the Main Crater;
2. Phreatic explosion that generated a plume approximately 100 meters high;
3. Earthquakes were felt with intensity ranging from Intensity I (Scarcely Perceptible) to Intensity III (Weak Shaking), often accompanied by rumbling sounds;
4. Cumulative elevation changes of the volcanic edifice;

⁴¹ Perez, A. 2019, "Taal Volcano at an 'abnormal condition'; alert level 1 raised", Retrieved 3 February 2020, from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/03/28/19/taal-volcano-at-an-abnormal-condition-alert-level-1-raised>.

⁴² DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Advisory, 01 December 2019, 08:00 AM.

⁴³ Id.

⁴⁴ DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Bulletin, 8 January 2020, 8:00 A.M.; DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Bulletin, 9 January 2020, 8:00 A.M.; DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Bulletin, 10 January 2020, 8:00 A.M.; DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Bulletin, 11 January 2020, 8:00 A.M.; DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Bulletin, 12 January 2020, 8:00 A.M.

⁴⁵ DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Bulletin, 12 January 2020, 2:30 P.M.

5. Dissolved carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentrations in Taal Main Crater Lake have been gradually increasing.

Alert Level 2 means that there is probable magmatic intrusion that may or may not lead to an eruption;⁴⁶ hence, DOST-PHIVOLCS recommended the precautionary evacuation of Taal Volcano Island.⁴⁷



Taal Volcano Phreatic Explosion, January 12, 2020 (Photo courtesy of RMN)

According to the Office of Civil Defense – Region IV-A, over 6000 residents of the Taal Volcano Island have been evacuated.⁴⁸

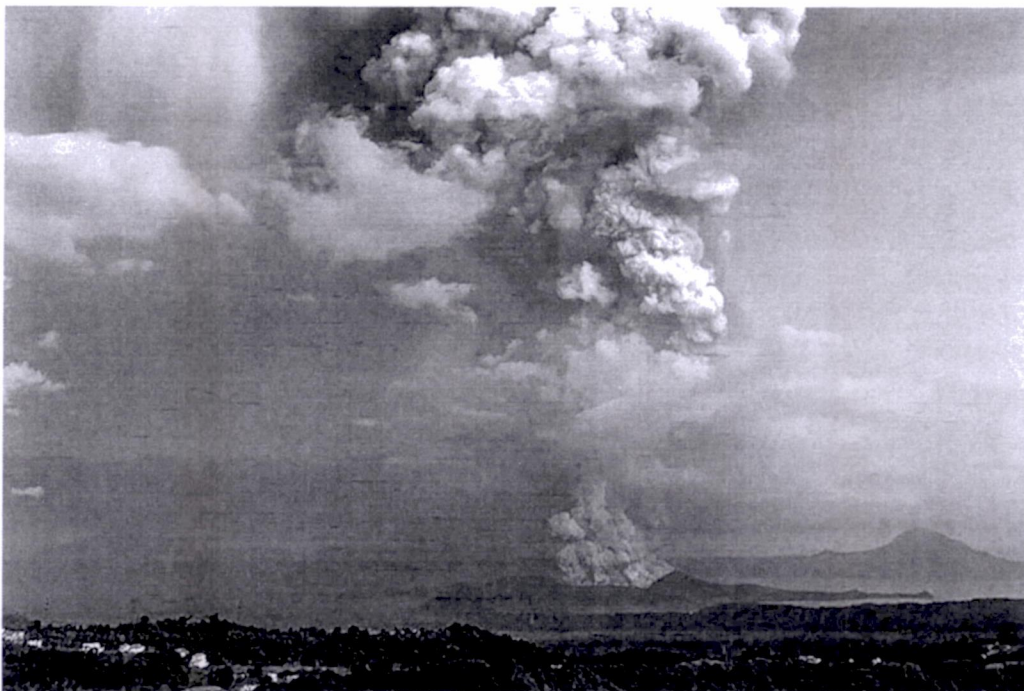
⁴⁶ DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Alert Signals, Retrieved on 3 February 2020, from <https://www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph/index.php/volcano-hazard/volcano-alert-level>.

⁴⁷ DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Bulletin, 12 January 2020, 2:30 P.M.

⁴⁸ Yap, C., 12 January 2020, Philippines Braces for Hazardous Volcano Eruption, Bloomberg, Retrieved on 3 February 2020, from [bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-01-12/philippines-raises-alert-level-in-taal-as-volcano-spews-ash](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-01-12/philippines-raises-alert-level-in-taal-as-volcano-spews-ash)

At 4:00 P.M., the alert status of Taal was raised to Alert Level 3, which means that there is magmatic intrusion that is likely driving the current activity, due to the escalated its eruptive activity of the Taal Volcano Main Crater, generating an eruption plume 1 kilometer-high accompanied by volcanic tremor and felt earthquakes in Volcano Island and barangays of Agoncillo, Batangas.⁴⁹ PHIVOLCS recommended that Taal Volcano Island and high-risk barangays of Agoncillo and Laurel, Batangas be evacuated due to the possible hazards of pyroclastic density currents and volcanic tsunami.⁵⁰

At 7:30 P.M., DOST-PHIVOLCS raised the alert status of Taal to Alert Level 4, which means that hazardous explosive eruption is possible within hours to days.⁵¹



Intensified eruptive activity of Taal Volcano Main Crater generating a 10-15 kilometer steam-laden tephra column (Photo courtesy of Philippine Star)

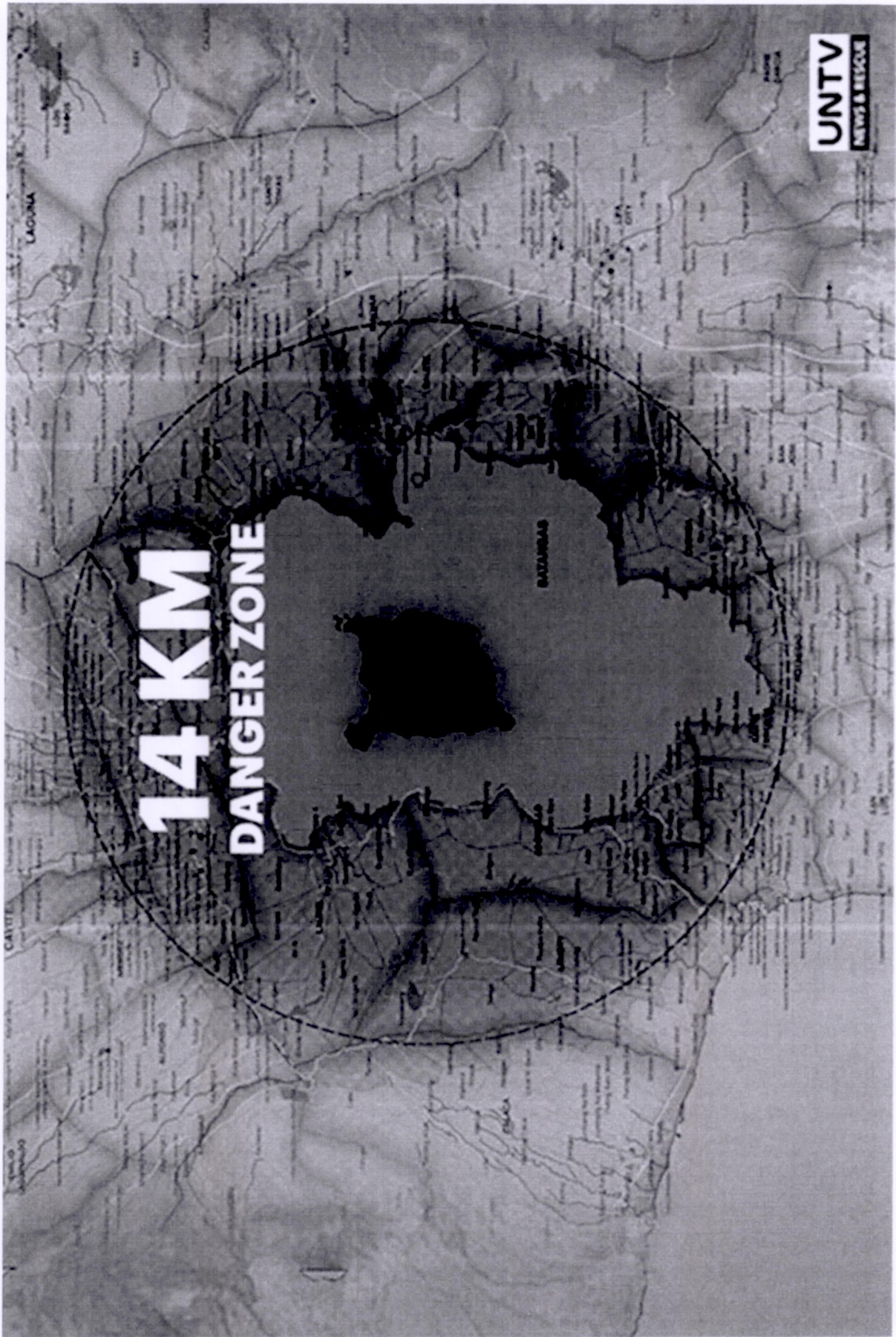
DOST-PHIVOLCS also strongly reiterated the total evacuation of Taal Volcano Island and included the recommendation of additional evacuation of residents with areas at high risk to pyroclastic density currents and volcanic tsunami within a 14-kilometer radius from Taal Main Crater.⁵²

⁴⁹ DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Bulletin, 12 January 2020, 4:00 P.M.

⁵⁰ Id.

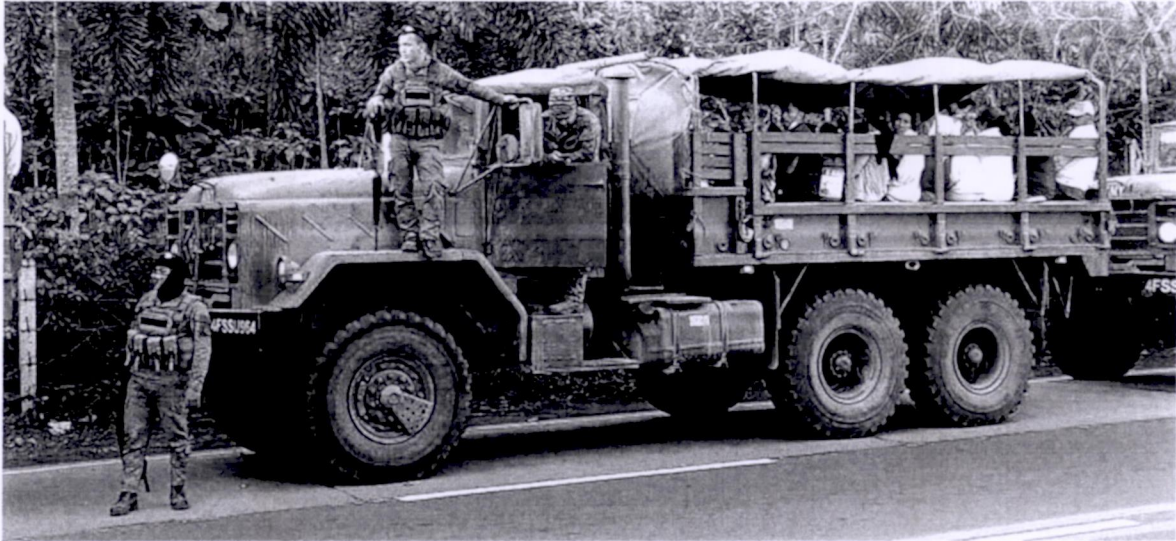
⁵¹ DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Bulletin, 12 January 2020, 7:30 P.M.

⁵² Id.



Map of the 14-kilometer Danger Zone (Photo courtesy of UNTV)

Forced evacuation and lock-down has been implemented in areas within the fourteen-kilometer danger zone, including Tagaytay City in Cavite, and in Talisay, Malvar, Tanauan, Laurel, Lemery, Agoncillo, Santa Teresita, Cuenca, Alitagtag, Mataas na Kahoy, Lipa City, Balete and San Nicolas towns in Batangas.

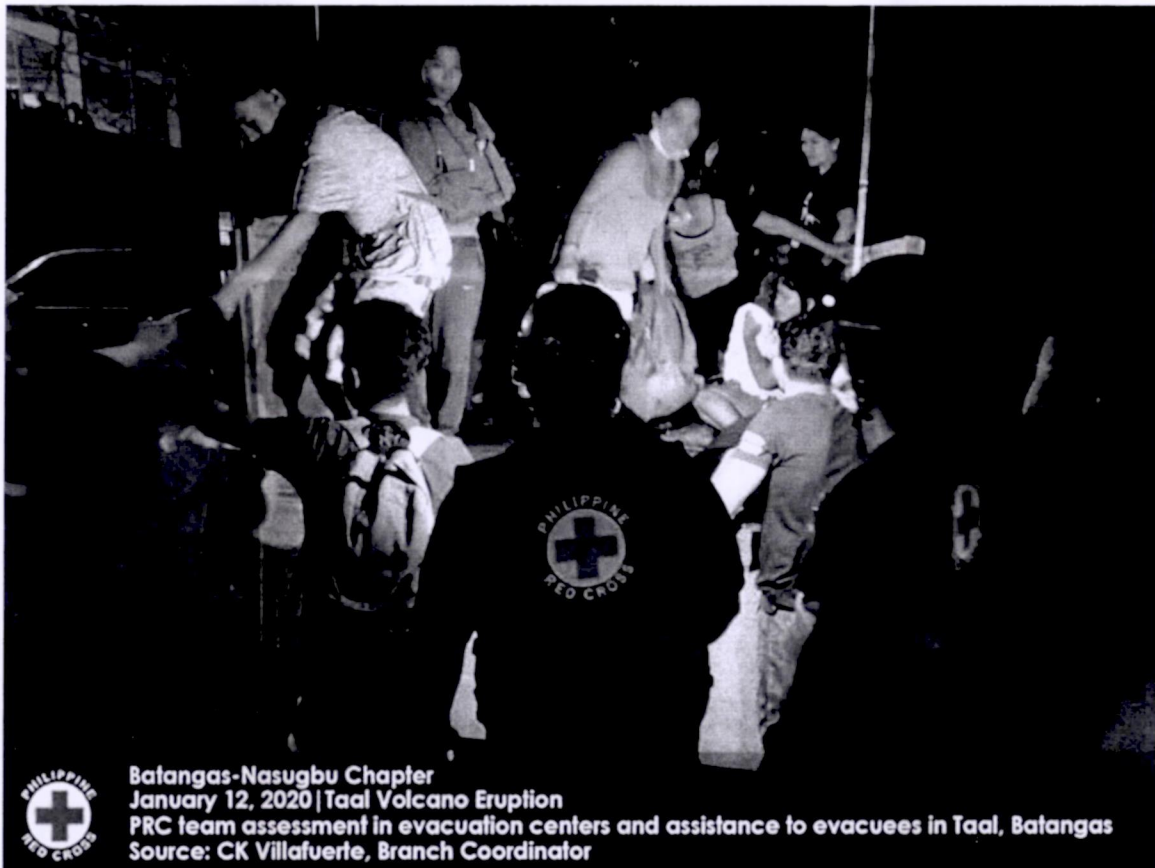


The AFP Southern Luzon Command were among the first responders in the area (Photo courtesy of Bombo Radyo)



Forced evacuation of residents within the fourteen-kilometer danger zone (Photo courtesy of Rappler)

Private cause-oriented groups, non-government organizations, and international humanitarian organizations also responded to the emergency and assisted in the mass emergency evacuation of people residing near the Taal Volcano.



Batangas-Nasugbu Chapter
January 12, 2020 | Taal Volcano Eruption
PRC team assessment in evacuation centers and assistance to evacuees in Taal, Batangas
Source: CK Villafuerte, Branch Coordinator

The Philippine Red Cross joined in the evacuation of Batangeunos on the day of Taal Volcano's eruption (Photo courtesy of RedCross.Org)

The effect of the Taal Volcano Eruption has spread to nearby cities and municipalities. DOST-PHIVOLCS said that ash fall has reportedly fallen in the following areas: Tanauan, Batangas, Escala, Tagaytay, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Dasmariñas, Cavite, Bacoor, Cavite, Silang, Cavite, Malolos, Bulacan, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, Meycauayan, Bulacan, Antipolo, Rizal, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Marikina, Parañaque, Pasig, Quezon City, San Juan, Makati City and Taguig City.⁵³ It has led to the cancelation of two hundred eighty-six (286) flights to and from NAIA International Airport, and the suspension of work and classes.

⁵³ DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Bulletin, 13 January 2020, 3:20 A.M.

On January 13, 2020, Senator Francis Tolentino coordinated the efforts of local and national officials in Batangas and Cavite. In attendance were the Cavite Governor Juanito Victor Remulla, Local Chief executives of some municipalities from the Province of Batangas, Congresswoman Collantes, Mayors of Cavite, members of the City Council of Tagaytay, Members of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council of Tagaytay City, Rescue Unit of the City of Manila, Department of Internal and Local Government, Representatives from PHIVOLCS, Office of Civil Defense, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Public Works and Highways, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Department of Health, Philippine Red Cross, and members of the media.



Senator Tolentino convened the inter-agency meeting in Tagaytay International Convention Center

During the inter-agency meeting, it was announced that all barangay halls and gyms of Cavite is open for use by evacuees. It also established the need for emergency food packs, drinking water, blankets, mats, and other needs of the

evacuees, along with adequate number of trucks to transport evacuees from Taal to safer places.

The national agencies stated their commitments in the evacuation and post-disaster care of the victims. The Department of Health coordinated with Batangas Medical Center regarding the intervention to be administered by their trauma specialists and the emergency purchase and distribution of N95 masks for the people of Batangas. The Department of Social Welfare and Development distributed food and water in affected areas in Batangas. A Cash-for-Work Program was also proposed wherein evacuees will clear and clean public roads in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

In response to the crisis resulting from the eruption of Taal Volcano, several relief operations followed, led by the private sector on top of the government's efforts, to address the immediate needs of the evacuees.



The Philippine Red Cross mobilized on January 13, 2020 (Photo courtesy of RedCross.Org)



SM Foundation donated 2,500 6-liter bottled water, rice, ready-to-eat meals, and instant noodles to the evacuation centers. (Photo courtesy of SM Foundation)



Coca-Cola delivered over 40,000 liters of water to the evacuation centers (Photo courtesy of Tribune)



AP Renewables, Inc. Makiling-Banahaw (APRI-MakBan), LiMA EnerZone Corporation (LEZ), and Aboitiz Land, Inc. assemble relief packs containing food, N95 face masks, sleeping kits, hygiene kits, and drinking water. (Photo courtesy of Aboitiz)



Gardenia volunteers distributed bread loaves to Taal Volcano evacuees (Photo courtesy of Gardenia)



Horses from Taal Volcano Island were rescued (Photo courtesy of Manila Bulletin)



Residents unload their horses from a wooden boat after rescuing them from Taal Volcano Island (Photo courtesy of Ted Albije)



Sen. Tolentino's relief operation at Alfonso, Cavite



Sen. Dela Rosa's relief operation in Tagaytay City



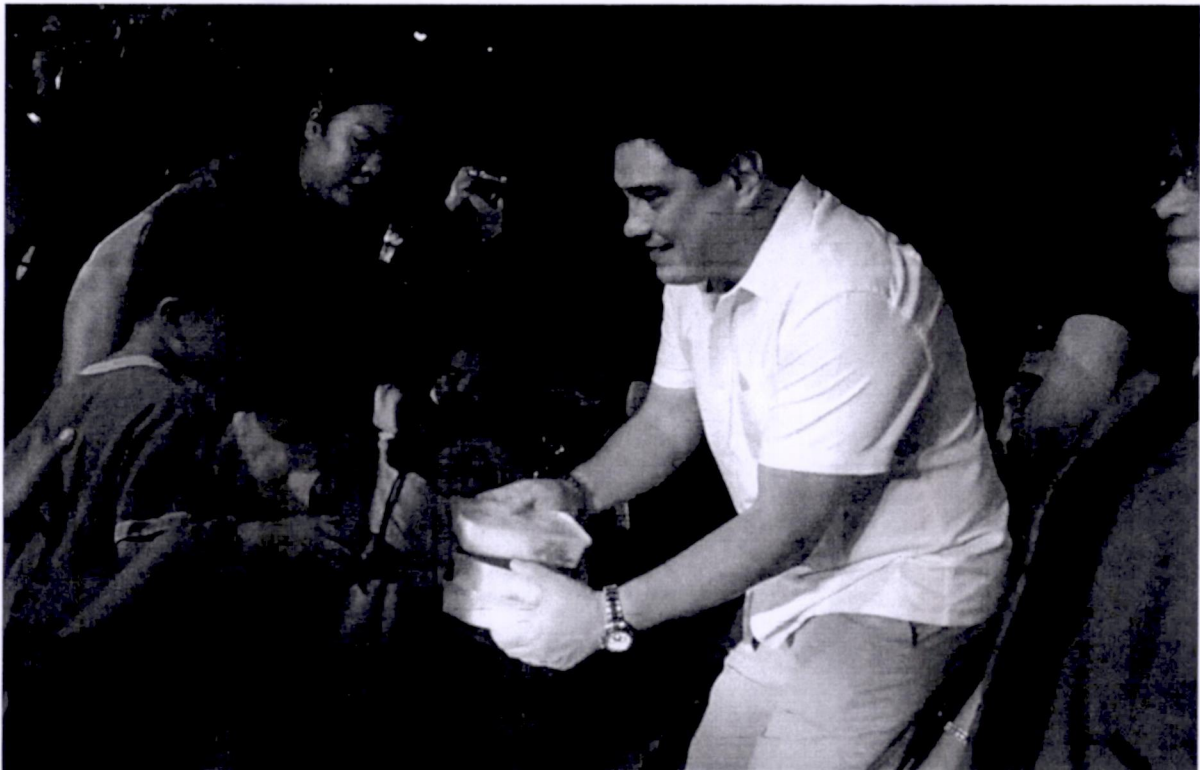
Sen. Go's visit of the victims of Taal Volcano eruption



Sen. Villar's medical mission at Batangas City



Sen. Revilla's Batangas relief operation



Sen. Zubiri's feeding operation in Tagaytay City



Sen. Binay's distribution of hygiene kits for affected families in Batangas



Sen. Gordon's and Red Cross' relief operations for the Taal Volcano eruption Victims



Sen. Gatchalian's and Valenzuela City LGU's relief operation in Batangas



Sen. Villanueva's and the Jesus is Lord's relief operation for Batangas



Sen. Recto's visit at San Nicolas, Batangas

On January 26, 2020, DOST-PHIVOLCS lowered the alert status of Taal Volcano to Alert Level 3, and has reduced the danger zone to a seven (7) kilometer radius from the Main Crater.⁵⁴ Hence, the residents of Alitagtag, Balete, Cuenca, Lemery, Lipa City, Malvar, Mataas na Kahoy, San Nicolas, Sta. Teresita, Taal, Talisay and Tanauan City, Province of Batangas were allowed to return since the lockdown was lifted; meanwhile, Agoncillo and Laurel, Batangas remained to be in lockdown.

While Alert Level 3 is in effect, the following Barangays were under lockdown:⁵⁵

1. Barangay Bilibinwang, Barangay Banyaga, and Barangay Subic Ilaya of the Municipality of Agoncillo
2. Barangay Gulod, Barangay Buso-Buso, and Barangay Bugaan East of the Municipality of Laurel
3. Four (4) Barangays of different Municipalities in the Taal Volcano Island.

⁵⁴ DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Bulletin, 26 January 2020, 8:00 A.M.

⁵⁵ TSN, 6 February 2020, p. 9.

Now, the alert status of the Taal Volcano has been lowered by DOST-PHIVOLCS to Alert Level 2 to reflect the overall decreasing trend in volcanic activity. Alert Level 2 means that there is decreased unrest but should not be interpreted that unrest has ceased or that the threat of an eruption has disappeared.

II. ISSUES

1. Status of the Taal Volcano Island
2. Number of Families, Individuals, Houses, and Livelihood Affected by the Taal Volcano Eruption
3. Number of Families that Need to be Relocated
4. Rehabilitation and Resettlement Framework
5. Role of the Key Shelter Agencies and the Private Sector

III. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

ON THE STATUS OF THE TAAL VOLCANO ISLAND

Taal Volcano Island is part of the 62,292 hectares Taal Volcano Protected Landscape declared as a protected area by Presidential Proclamation 906 and Republic Act No. 11038,⁵⁶ otherwise known as the Expanded National Protected

⁵⁶ REPUBLIC ACT No. 11038: An Act Declaring Protected Areas and Providing for Their Management, Amending for This Purpose Republic Act No. 7586, Otherwise Known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992" and for Other Purposes, June 22, 2018.

Areas System Act of 2018. Therefore its use should be limited in scope under the guidance of the management plan prepared pursuant to the law.

On the Taal Volcano Island, it is estimated that there are around two thousand (2,000) families permanently residing therein, after considering the population growth rate.⁵⁷ According to the 2015 Census, there were already one thousand one hundred seventy-six (1,176) families composed of six thousand eighty-five (6,086) permanently residing on the island.



Hearing held by the Senate Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement on January 30, 2020

During the committee hearing, it was recognized that these residents and the community on the island are well established. The community of Taal Volcano Island is composed of two barangays from the Municipality of San Nicolas, one barangay from the Municipality of Balete, and Two Sitios of a Barangay of the Municipality of Talisay. The community was described by Mr. Inumerable, a resident of Taal Volcano Island, as follows:

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Mr. Inumerable, X X X sa inyo pong palagay, ilan po ang nakatira sa pulo? Kayo po ba ay may*

⁵⁷ TSN, 30 January 2020, p. 53.

dalawang libo, tatlong libo, anim na libo, apat na libo, limang libo? Ilan po ang nakatira doong mga nakikita ninyong mga kahanggan ninyo doon, mga kapitbahay?

MR. INUMERABLE. *Medyo marami din nga hong nakatira diyan dahil bawa't lugar ho ay may kanya-kanyang piyestahan diyan, bawa't lugar ho.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Piyesta kayo?*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Opo.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Gaano katagal na ho kayong nakatira doon?*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Aba'y umpisa pa ho noon gawa ng amin pong—iyong mga tatay po nito ay doon na pina—*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Doon na pinanganak?*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Opo.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *So pag pinanganak doon, may birth certificate, doon na nag-elementary, doon na nag-high school sa bulkan?*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Opo.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Iyong mga apo ninyo doon na rin lumaki?*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Doon na rin po nag-aral ho, tapos eh di lumipat po.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *May high school ho doon?*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Wala po. Hanggang Grade 6 lang po.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Grade 6. May Grade 6. Tapos may piyesta kayo taun-taon?*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Opo.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *May mga telebisyon din, ano ho?*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Opo. Gawa nang sa pamamagitan po ng mga generators.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Naka-generator, may telebisyon, may washing machine, may refrigerator?*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Wala naman po. Hindi na po kakayanin iyon.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Hindi na. Pero ibig sabihin, pag piyesta, may handaan. May kasalan din, may mga binyagan, parang ordinaryong komunidad.*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Para din pong nasa kabayanan din ng Talisay.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *So mayroon ding nakatira doon sa araw—Sa araw nandoon, nagtatrabaho, naghahanapbuhay. Sa hapon, gabi, uuwi na sa Talisay? Sa Sampaloc, uuwi na?*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Ay minsan po ay talagang hindi na po naguuwian gawa nang—noong hindi pa po naputok talaga ang bulkang iyan ay doon na ho talaga natira.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Pati iyong mga nangingisda?*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Opo. Kami po ay halos doon na rin po kami natira gawa nang—siyempre nandoon po iyong ikinabubuhay. Iyong kaunting mga halamanan, panghuhuli ng isda doon sa lake na iyon.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *May mga simbahan din doon?*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Tuklong lang po.*

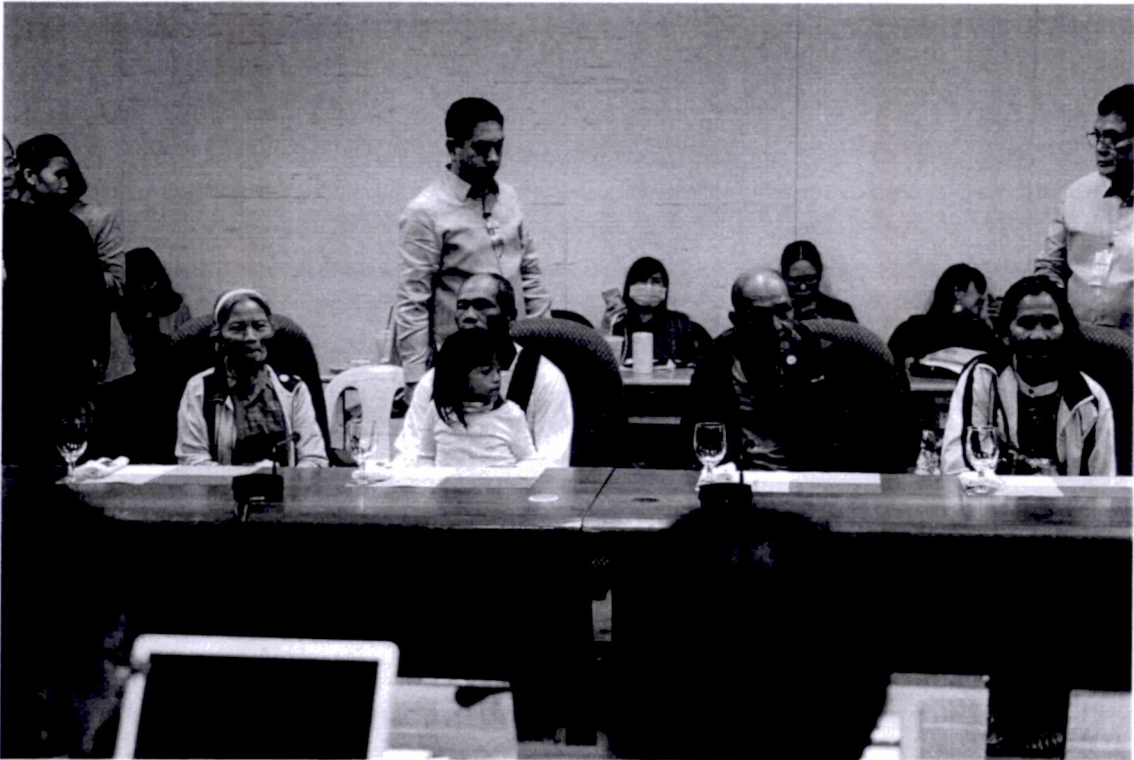
THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *May chapel?*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Mayroon po.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *So may pari doon?*

MR. INUMERABLE. *Nagkakaroon po ng pari doon pagka, halimbawa, piyesta. Nagmi-misa lang po sila.⁵⁸*

⁵⁸ TSN, 30 January 2020, pp. 53-56.



Residents of the Taal Volcano Island were invited during the Senate committee hearing

Furthermore, it was found during the committee hearing that the Taal Volcano Island is privately owned and with Torrens Title and tax declarations, as stated by the Vice Mayor Natanauan of Talisay, Batangas, and confirmed by Atty. Marasigan, the Register of Deeds for Tanauan City and Lemery, Batangas:

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Matanong ko kayo ng direktso, nandito iyong sa LRA, mayroon bang lupa sa Volcano Island na may titulo?*

MR. NATANAUAN. *Ako ho ang sasagot. Lahat ho ay titled.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Vice mayor, Vice.*

MR. NATANAUAN. *Lahat ho ay titled doon ang halos na lupa.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Titulado lahat iyon.*

MR. NATANAUAN. *Oho, kasi ho ako minsa'y nakabili ng six hectares.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Nakabili ka rin, Vice?*

MR. NATANAUAN. *Nakabili ako, titled. Mas una pa doon sa Kastilang kuwan, titulado.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *So talagang titulado.*

MR. NATANAUAN. *Mayroon, sa mga Laurel. Kauna-unahang mayor doon, mga Laurel.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *So ang ibig sabihin nga—alam ko iyan.*

MR. NATANAUAN. *Iyong isang isla doon sa Laurel title.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Ang nagsukat niyan ay iyong—alam ninyo si Mayor Salamat. Kaya tayo mayroong Buck Estate doon sa Alfonso, si Mr. Buck ay surveyor, geodetic engineer. Si Mr. Buck ang nagsukat ng Barangay Pulo sa Talisay kaya iyan nagka-metes and bounds noong panahon ng—bago pa yata mag-tag-Hapon. Tama kayo.*

So ano na ngayon ang status noong mga titulo roon? Mamaya, tatanungin ko iyong LRA.

MR. NATANAUAN. *Ano ho, nandoon pa rin. Ibinubuwis nila sa amin sa bayan ng Talisay.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Nagbabayad ng real estate tax?*

MR. NATANAUAN. *Okay ho, nagbabayad ho.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Pwedeng isangla, pwedeng i-mortgage, collateral?*

MR. NATANAUAN. *Wala ho akong idea kung naisangla nila. Pero naibebenta nila sa individual, kagaya ko.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *X X X Totoo ba iyon, Atty. Marasigan, na titulado?*

MR. MARASIGAN. *Sir, I am the Register of Deeds for the Tanauan City and Lemery, Batangas po, dalawa po. X X X*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Titulado ba, may mga titulo?*

MR. MARASIGAN. *Yes, sir. Totoo po iyon. Iyong portion po under ng jurisdiction ng San Nicolas, may title din po, nasa Lemery po iyon. That is around 800 hectares po, may titulo. On the other side po, kasi ang boundary niyan is, I think, the crater. Iyon naman ay part ng Talisay, ang titulo po noon nasa RD, Tanauan.⁵⁹*

⁵⁹ TSN, 30 January 2020, pp. 84-87.



Resource speakers from the Local Government Units of Batangas

It is without a doubt that the State has knowledge of the existence of the private ownership over the island. Laws enacted in relation to the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape respects the rights of the private owners. Proclamation No. 906, series of 1996,⁶⁰ provides:

Upon recommendation of the Secretaries of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Tourism (DOT) and the Presidential Commission on Tagaytay-Taal (PCTT) and by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, do hereby withdraw from further settlement, entry, sale, explorations or other disposition, ***subject to private rights***, if any there be, the Taal Volcano Island, Taal Lake and the watershed areas situated in the municipalities of Talisay, Malvar, Tanauan, Laurel, Agoncillo, Santa Teresita, Cuenca, Alitagtag, Mataas na Kahoy, Lipa City, Balete and San Nicolas, Province of Batangas and Tagaytay City, Island of Luzon and declare the same as a PROTECTED LANDSCAPE for the benefit and

⁶⁰ Amending Proclamation No. 235 Dated July 22, 1967, By Declaring The Taal Volcano Island National Park, Province Of Batangas, Island Of Luzon, A Protected Area Under The Category Of Protected Landscape

enjoyment of the people of the Philippines, subject to ground survey, delineation and demarcations. (Emphasis supplied)

In the same fashion, Republic Act No. 11038⁶¹ also contains a provision regarding private lands within the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape:

Sec. 22. Existing Rights. - ***All property and private rights within the protected area and its buffer zones already existing and/or vested upon the effectivity of this Act shall be protected and respected in accordance with existing laws: Provided, That the exercise of such property and private rights shall be harmonized, as far as practicable, with the provisions of this Act.*** Notwithstanding this Act, all existing rights, contracts, or agreements entered into by government for utilization of natural resources within protected areas shall continue to be recognized and governed by Philippine laws. (Emphasis supplied)

Considering that the land in Taal Volcano Island is privately owned, nothing can prevent them from going back to their properties, unless there is a positive act by the government preventing them from entering the Taal Volcano Island.

Currently, the only thing that is preventing the private land owners from going back to their property is the volcanic activity.⁶² Only around 30 million cubic meters out of 80 million cubic meters was spewed out last January 12 to 13. The new magma is only around 5 kilometers under the crater.⁶³ Currently, the alert status of the Taal Volcano has been lowered by DOST-PHIVOLCS to Alert Level 2 to reflect the overall decreasing trend in volcanic activity.⁶⁴ Alert Level 2 means that there is decreased unrest but should not be interpreted that unrest has ceased or

⁶¹ REPUBLIC ACT No. 11038: An Act Declaring Protected Areas and Providing for Their Management, Amending for This Purpose Republic Act No. 7586, Otherwise Known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992" and for Other Purposes, June 22, 2018.

⁶² TSN, 30 January 2020, pp. 9-10.

⁶³ Id, p. 11

⁶⁴ DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Bulletin, 14 February 2020, 8:00 A.M.

that the threat of an eruption has disappeared.⁶⁵ At Alert Level 2, sudden steam-driven or phreatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, ashfall and lethal accumulations or expulsions of volcanic gas can still occur.⁶⁶

**ON THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES,
INDIVIDUALS, HOUSES, AND
LIVELIHOOD AFFECTED BY THE
TAAL VOLCANO ERUPTION**

The Batangas Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office reported that the Taal Volcano unrest has affected one hundred fourteen thousand nine hundred forty-one (114,941) families⁶⁷ or at around five hundred twenty-one thousand three hundred ninety-five (521,395) individuals.⁶⁸ Of which eighty-eight thousand nine hundred ninety-four (88,994) families sought shelter in evacuation centers while the remaining twenty-five thousand nine hundred fifty-two (25,952) families went to Cavite, Laguna and Quezon Province to stay with their families and friends.⁶⁹

⁶⁵ Id.

⁶⁶ DOST-PHIVOLCS, Taal Volcano Bulletin, 14 February 2020, 8:00 A.M.

⁶⁷ TSN, 6 February 2020, p 16.

⁶⁸ TSN, 30 January 2020, p. 128.

⁶⁹ TSN, 6 February 2020, p 16.



Evacuation Center in Batangas (Photo courtesy of PhilStar)

However, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council situational report, as of 6 February 2020, there are a total of one hundred thirty-three thousand four hundred seven (133,407) families or a total of five hundred one thousand twenty-two (501,022) individuals displaced by the Taal Volcano eruption.⁷⁰

As of 19 January 2020, majority of the families staying in evacuation centers returned to their homes. Only one thousand five hundred sixty (1,560) families or five thousand seven hundred six (5,706) individuals remained in the evacuation centers.⁷¹

The municipality of Alfonso, Cavite also hosted around seven thousand (7,000) evacuees from the Province of Batangas. As of January 30, 2020, only

⁷⁰ Id., p 62.

⁷¹Situational Report No. 110, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, 19 February 2020.

around eight hundred fifty-five (855) families or around two thousand nine hundred ninety-one (2,291) individuals remained in the evacuation center.⁷²

Preliminary assessment by the Batangas Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council estimated that around thirty-five (35) houses were damaged in the Municipality of Laurel while seventy-six (76) houses were damaged in Barangay Adia, Municipality of Agoncillo. There is no data yet as to the extent of damaged houses in the locked down barangays.⁷³

However, according to the records of the NDRRMC Operations Center, dated 5 February 2020, the number of partially damaged houses reached two thousand two hundred (2,200), while the totally damaged houses tallied to eight hundred eight (808) for a total of three thousand eight (3,008) damaged houses.⁷⁴

The main livelihood of the displaced families is agriculture. Out of the eighty-seven thousand forty-five (87,045 ha) hectare total land area of the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape, fifty thousand four hundred forty hectares (50,440 ha) is classified as agricultural land, while the remaining twenty four thousand three hundred fifty six hectares (24,326 ha) is composed of the Taal Lake.⁷⁵

Based on the report of the Department of Agriculture, there are a total sixteen thousand nine hundred ninety-eight (16,998) hectares of agricultural land were damaged by the volcanic eruption involving eleven thousand seven hundred twenty-two (11,722) farmers. Around forty three thousand seven hundred seventy-two metric tons of products were damaged resulting in a total damage in agriculture of Three Billion Two Hundred Thirty Million Pesos (Php 3,230,000,000.00). The key crops that were affected are vegetable, banana, coffee, pineapple, rice, corn, cassava, lanzones and cacao. For fishery, the total damage is One Billion Six Hundred Million Pesos (P1,600,000,000.00).⁷⁶

⁷² TSN, 30 January 2020, p. 157.

⁷³ TSN, 6 February 2020, p. 18.

⁷⁴ Id., p. 62.

⁷⁵ Batangas PDPFP and AFMP Profiling.

⁷⁶ Id.

Commodity	Area	Damage
Rice 308 hectares	Silang, Amadeo, General Trias City	P5,600,000.00
Corn 539.3 hectares 5329 metric tons	Naic, Magallanes, Laurel, Talisay, Santo Tomas, Lemery, Agoncillo, San Nicolas, Balete, Taal	P88,900,000.00
Livestock 55,881 heads (Chicken, Carabao, Cattle, Horse, Swine, and Goat)	Magallanes, Silang, Laurel, Talisay, Tanauan, Lemery, San Nicolas, Balete, Malvar, Mataasnahoy, Taal, Santa Teresita, Alitagtag, Cuenca, San Jose, Lipa City	P126,300,000.00
Fruits and Vegetables 197 hectares 1,453 metric tones	General Trias City, Magallanes, Amadeo, Silang, Laurel, Tanauan, Calaca, Agoncillo, San Nicolas, Balete, Taal, Santa Teresita, Alitagtag, Cuenca	P124,130,000.00
Coffee 4,309 hectares 8,240 metric tons	Amadeo, Silang, Cabuyao, Calamba City, Talisay, Laurel, Lemery, Agoncillo, San Nicolas, Balete, Taal	P360,500,000.00
Cacao 52 hectares 272 metric tons	Amadeo, Silang, Cabuyao, Laurel	P8,220,000.00
Pineapple 862 hectares 21,079 metric tons	General Trias City, Amadeo, Silang	P527,250,000.00
Banana 821 hectares 7,338 metric tons	General Trias City, Amadeo, Silang, San Nicolas	P138,590,000.00
Fisheries 6,000 fish cages	Laurel, Talisay, Agoncillo, San Nicolas	P1,600,000,000.00

Estimated damage to agriculture by Department of Agriculture – DRRM Operations Center

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office of the Province of Cavite estimated that as of 24 February 2020, the Provincial Government

of Cavite spent around Seven Million One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Two Pesos (Php 7,116,582.00) in reaction to the Taal Volcano eruption.⁷⁷

ON THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES THAT NEED TO BE RELOCATED

The data reported during the Senate Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement committee hearings were merely partial estimates considering that the government agencies in charge of the rapid assessment team cannot enter the locked down barangays due to the Alert Level and the dangers hazards that may be caused by a sudden eruption of the Taal Volcano.⁷⁸

Furthermore, the national government agencies, headed by the Office of the Civil Defense, are still organizing for the conduct of a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, which is estimated to be finished on March 2020.⁷⁹ The national government agencies concerned have met last February 7, 2020 for the orientation for the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment.⁸⁰ Below is the schedule for the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment activities:

⁷⁷ Official correspondence to the Senate Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement.

⁷⁸ TSN, 6 February 2020, p. 6.

⁷⁹ Id., p. 35.

⁸⁰ Id.

Post Disaster Needs Assessment Schedule of Activities

ACTIVITY	DATE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
PDNA Pre-Orientation	05-06 February	PDNA Secretariat
Orientation re UNDP IPDNA System	07-28 February	PDNA Teams
IPDNA Mission: Field Validation	10-22 February	PDNA Secretariat PDNA Teams
Consolidation of Report and PDNA <u>Writeshop</u>	23-26 February	PDNA Secretariat PDNA Teams
CDRR Sub-Committee Meeting and Presentation to the Sub-Committee of PDNA Report for Endorsement to RDRRMC	27 February	RDRRMC Member Agencies PDNA Secretariat PDNA Teams
RDRRMC Full Council Meeting and Endorsement of RDRRMC PDNA Report to NDRRMC and RDC	28 February	NEDA IV-A PDNA Secretariat PDNA Team

The situational report⁸¹ of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office of the Province of Batangas failed to indicate how many families and individuals come from the Taal Volcano Island and also the number of families and individuals that come from the seven kilometer danger zone.

However, during the committee hearing, it was estimated that there were around two thousand (2,000) families permanently residing in the Taal Volcano Island,⁸² and when the alert status of the Taal Volcano was lowered to Alert Level 3, only five thousand four hundred sixteen (5,416) families remained in the evacuation centers.⁸³ Therefore, the number of housing units that should be prepared for relocation and resettlement should be within this range if all the families within the seven (7) kilometer danger zone are to be relocated.

The relocation and resettlement of the affected families are to be shouldered by the national government. During the committee hearing, it was found that the Provincial Government of Batangas had already realigned their Eight Billion Two Hundred Million Pesos (P8,200,000,000.00) budget for 2020 for the relief operations due to the Taal Volcano eruption. Mr. Dimaunahan, the Batangas Provincial Administrator explained:

⁸¹ Situational Report No. 110, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, 19 February 2020.

⁸² TSN, 30 January 2020, p. 53.

⁸³ TSN, 6 February 2020, p. 17.

MR. DIMAUNAHAN. *Information lang po. Kasi iyong budget namin ngayon for this year, 2020, we allocated 8.2 billion. Iyong approved budget namin. X X X Now, we realigned our budget to respond to these challenges. Nag-realign kami ng 1.4 billion for rescue vehicles para lahat ng barangay ay mabigyan namin ng rescue vehicles. Kasi kita namin iyong need talaga na mobility natin. Kasi ito iyong pagputok ng bulkan na wala namang namatay. Awa ng Diyos. Wala din nasugatan, naospital. But we should be more ready. Kaya maglalagay tayo ng 1.4 billion—naglagay na po, actually realignment na ito.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Dito po sa resettlement, magkano ang ilalagay ng lalawigan?*

MR. DIMAUNAHAN. *Wala pang nakalagay dine. Ang nakalagay dine ay 1 billion for health. Kasi nga, we will take care of our evacuees.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *So lalabas nito iyong 3 billion na pangangailangan sa national government talaga?*

MR. DIMAUNAHAN. *Opo.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Tapos po iyong lupa sa provincial government of Batangas na?*

MR. DIMAUNAHAN. *Opo.*

THE CHAIRPERSON. *Iyon siguro ang magandang arrangement dito, ma'am. Take note ng NHA iyan, na Department of Housing. So ang lupa sa inyo; ang national government iyong panggastos, pangtustos sa construction.*

MR. DIMAUNAHAN. *Idagdag ko lang po, Mr. Chair. Iyon pong roads, nag-allocate kami ng 1 billion, and then para sa agriculture nagallocate kami ng 600 million, for a total of P4 billion.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *One billion for this rehabilitation sa—*

MR. DIMAUNAHAN. *Sa roads po 1 billion.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Parang walang livelihood na narinig pa.*

MR. DIMAUNAHAN. *Nakalagay doon sa agriculture iyon. Kasi mostly agricultural naman sila. So fisheries and tawag dito iyong mga farming,*

*600 million, kasi nga ang emphasis ni Governor ay walang resettlement kung walang livelihood.*⁸⁴

In summary, the Provincial Government of Batangas has realigned Four Billion Pesos (Php 4,000,000,000.00) from their budget for the year 2020 for the following programs:

1. ONE BILLION FOUR HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (Php1,400,000,000.00) for rescue vehicles, which will be distributed to the different barangays;
2. ONE BILLION PESOS (Php1,000,000,000.00) for health expenses of the evacuees;
3. ONE BILLION PESOS (Php1,000,000,000.00) for the rehabilitation of roads damaged by the volcanic eruption; and
4. SIX HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (Php 600,000,000.00) for agricultural rehabilitation.

The Provincial Government of Batangas is not capacitated to provide funds for the resettlement of the affected families, especially those residing in the Taal Volcano Island, after their budget was realigned for the immediate needs of its constituents.

ON THE REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK

Mt. Pinatubo Eruption Experience

The Philippines is not inexperienced when it comes to mass relocation of families due to volcanic eruption.

⁸⁴ TSN, 30 January 2020, p. 98-99.

During the Mt. Pinatubo eruption of 15 June 1991, heavy ash falls caused widespread damage in the provinces of Zambales, Pampanga and Tarlac, adjacent to Mount Pinatubo, large tracts of land were covered by ash which caused the roofs of houses, buildings and public facilities to collapse.

In order to speed up the rehabilitation and resettlement efforts of the government, on 26 June 1991, President Corazon C. Aquino, through Memorandum Order No. 369⁸⁵, created the Presidential Task Force on the Rehabilitation of Areas Affected by the Eruption of Mount Pinatubo or Task Force Mt. Pinatubo. It was mandated to guide and coordinate all rehabilitation efforts of the government, including those participated in by the private sector and the international community.

After a year, the Mount Pinatubo Assistance, Resettlement and Development Commission succeeded the Task Force by virtue of Republic Act 7637⁸⁶, passed by the Philippine Congress and signed by President Fidel V. Ramos on 24 September 1992. With a term of six years, the Commission was mandated, among others, to formulate policies and plans, to coordinate the implementation of programs and projects, and to administer the initial 10-billion peso fund appropriated for the "aid, relief, resettlement, rehabilitation and livelihood services as well as infrastructure support for the victims." Specifically, the Commission was tasked to:

- (1) Provide additional funds for the immediate relief of victims;
- (2) Establish resettlement centers and home sites;
- (3) Provide livelihood and employment opportunities;
- (4) Repair, reconstruct or replace infrastructure damaged or destroyed; and

⁸⁵ Memorandum Order No. 369, s. 1991, Creating a Task Force on the Rehabilitation of Areas Affected By the Eruption of Mt. Pinatubo and Its Effects.

⁸⁶ Republic Act No. 7637, An Act Appropriating The Sum Of Ten Billion Pesos For The Aid, Relief, Resettlement, Rehabilitation And Livelihood Services As Well As Infrastructure Support For The Victims Of The Eruption Of Mt. Pinatubo, Creating The Mt. Pinatubo Assistance, Resettlement And Development Commission, And For Other Purposes, September 24, 1992.

(5) Construct new infrastructure facilities needed by the affected communities.

In pursuit of these tasks, the Commission, through relevant government agencies, implemented projects and activities on four major program areas: resettlement, livelihood, social services and infrastructure. Pursuant to law⁸⁷, President Ramos extended the term of the Commission to December 2000 by virtue of Presidential Proclamation 1201⁸⁸ issued on 19 March 1998.

Executive Order No. 6⁸⁹ and Executive Order No. 54⁹⁰ were issued which directed the transfer of resettlement functions and responsibilities over the Mt. Pinatubo lowland communities, as well as the assets, records, funds, personnel, liabilities and responsibilities of the Mt. Pinatubo lowland communities to the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council;

In 2006, Executive Order No. 552⁹¹ was issued transferring the administration and responsibilities over the Mt. Pinatubo lowland communities from the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council to the National Housing Authority. The National Housing Authority instituted a mechanism wherein all the stakeholders

⁸⁷ Section 6, Republic Act No. 7637. Section 6. Creation of Mt. Pinatubo Assistance, Resettlement and Development Commission. – For purposes of this Act, there is hereby created the Mt. Pinatubo Assistance, Resettlement and Development Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission.

It shall be organized within thirty (30) days after the approval of this Act. It shall have a term of six (6) years from its organization: provided, that the President by proclamation may, within six (6) months prior to the expiration of the term, extend the period of its existence once for not more than three (3) years. x x x

⁸⁸ Proclamation No. 1201, s. 1998, Extending the Term of Mt. Pinatubo Assistance, Resettlement and Development Commission until 31 December 2000.

⁸⁹ Executive Order No. 6, S. 2001, Approving The Transfer Of Resettlement Functions And Responsibilities Over The Mt. Pinatubo Lowland Communities From The Mt. Pinatubo Commission To The Housing And Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

⁹⁰ Executive Order No. 54, s. 2001, Directing The Transfer Of Assets, Records, Funds, Personnel, Liabilities And All Pinatubo-Related Functions, Tasks And Responsibilities To The Pinatubo Project Management Office Under The Housing And Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

⁹¹ Executive Order No. 552, s. 2006, Transfer Of Administration And Responsibilities Over The Mt. Pinatubo Lowland Communities From The Housing And Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) To The National Housing Authority (NHA).

concerned shall be consulted on the reforms to be instituted and provide the overall strategic framework for the completion of Mt. Pinatubo related tasks.

A Collection Program was implemented to generate revenues from lots occupied by families not qualified as beneficiaries of the Mt. Pinatubo Lowland Communities and from institutional and commercial lots in resettlement sites.

A Trust Fund was established by the National Housing Authority, as project administrator for the Mt. Pinatubo lowland communities in accordance with existing rules and regulations. Disbursements from the Trust Fund shall be utilized exclusively for the following purposes:

- a. Completion of the remaining work in the resettlement sites including surveys and titling;
- b. Project management and administration; and
- c. Settlement of obligations.

In addition, the National Government made available funds to the NHA to cover obligations under the Mt. Pinatubo operations incurred prior to the effectivity of the transfer of project administration to NHA.

In the Philippines efforts to resettle the dislocated families, it constructed a total of Forty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Five (48,845) house and lots in twenty-three (23) resettlement sites.⁹² The National Housing Authority has not awarded for free all TCTs to the original beneficiaries who were victims of the Mount Pinatubo eruption since 2006. The generation of TCTs had been delayed by the lack of survey, delay in the turnover of deeds of donation or sale from private individuals, and validation of original awardees. Those who occupy the housing units but are not qualified beneficiaries are required to pay the legalization fee amounting to One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) payable in thirty (30) years. The resettlement house is a single detached house with a total area of ninety-four (94)

⁹² TSN, 30 January 2020, p. 62.

square meters. The resettlement sites had complete facilities and amenities such as school, police station, market, clinic at day care center.



One of the relocation sites for Mt. Pinatubo victims (Photo courtesy of SACOP, Inc.)

There were a total of ten (10) upland resettlements for Aetas. By the end of 1996, five thousand four hundred fourteen (5,414 families; approx. 32, 484 people) had received permanent housing. Each new Aeta settlement had an average population of three hundred (300) to six hundred (600) families. Primary and secondary schools, medical centers, community halls and recreation centers were provided, along with some basic facilities such as deep wells, water distributions systems, public toilets, roads, and for some, electricity. Home plots awarded per family unit range from one hundred square meters (100 sq. m.) to two hundred square meters (200 sq. m.) and are legitimized by a Certificate of Stewardship Contract and a usufruct contract.

Taal Volcano Rehabilitation and Resettlement Framework

Based on our experience, the timeline of the post-disaster rehabilitation and resettlement efforts by the government is long-term and enduring.

For the Mt. Pinatubo rehabilitation and resettlement, the responsibility was transferred amongst three agencies, which caused further delay to the efforts of the government, lasting for about fifteen (15) years.

Aimed at the Taal Volcano Rehabilitation and Resettlement, the National Economic and Development Authority, the Office of the Civil Defense, together with the other national agencies have met with the Regional Development Council of Region IV-A.⁹³ In that meeting, the National Economic and Development Authority presented a framework for rehabilitation and recovery of Batangas.⁹⁴

In the Rehabilitation and Recovery Framework for Taal Volcano Eruption presented by the National Economic and Development Authority, there are five sector outcomes:⁹⁵

1. Agriculture and Fisheries – Farmers and fisher folks with sufficient and sustainable income;
2. Tourism and Other Livelihood Activities – Communities benefit from sustainable and inclusive tourism activities;
3. Housing and Settlement – Well-planned settlements built with safe, affordable and disaster-resilient housing;
4. Social Services – Families are ensured of access to quality and affordable social services; and
5. Physical Infrastructure – Disaster resilient infrastructures are constructed.

The framework is not yet final because the input of the concerned national government agencies is still being collated and yet to be considered.⁹⁶ The framework prepared by the National Economic and Development Authority is presented herein:

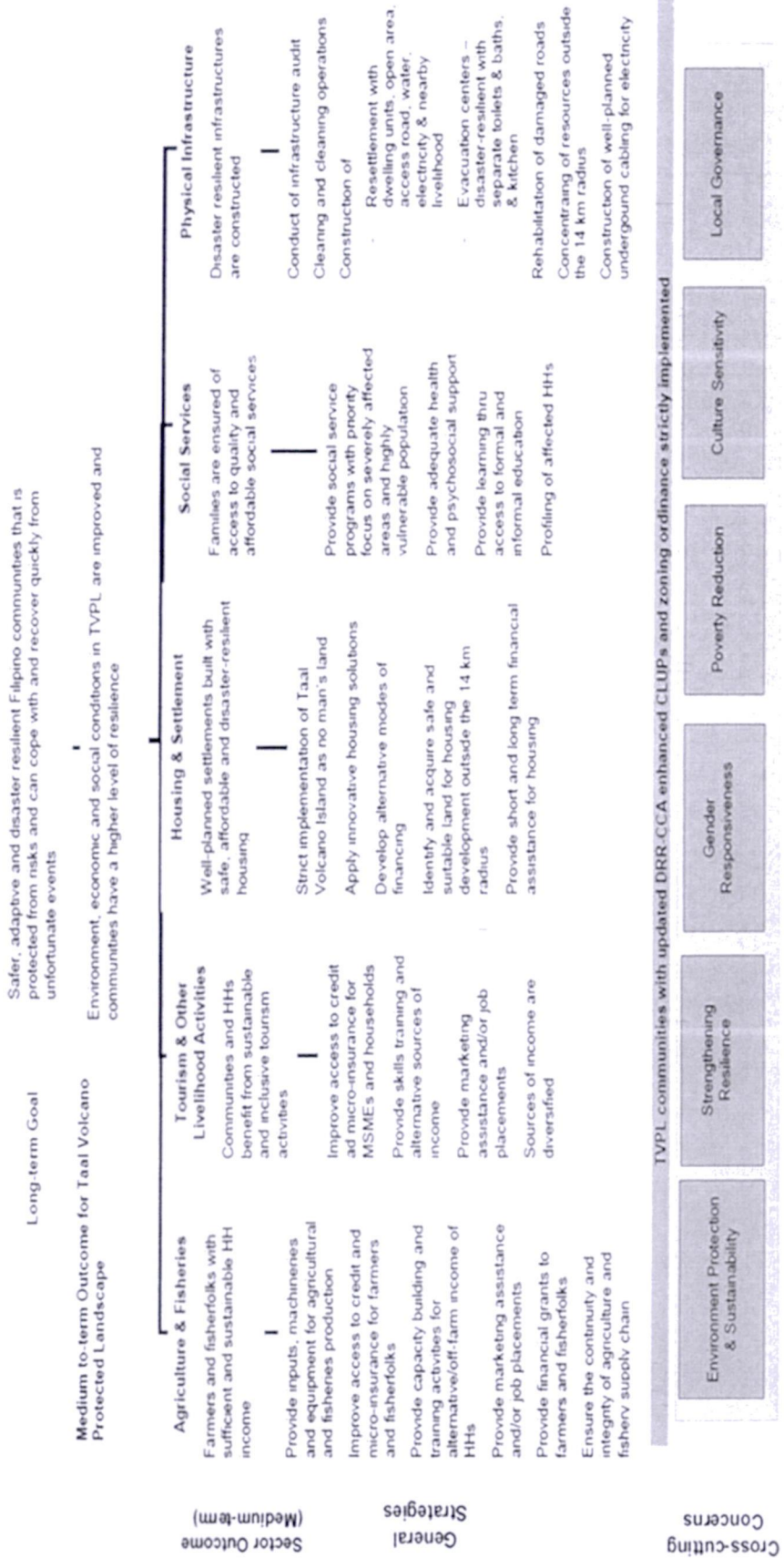
⁹³ TSN, 6 February 2020, p. 33.

⁹⁴ Id.

⁹⁵ Id., p. 69.

⁹⁶ Id., p. 70.

Rehabilitation and Recovery Framework for Taal Volcano Eruption



Source: National Economic and Development Authority

ON THE ROLE OF THE KEY SHELTER AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Based on the Rehabilitation and Recovery Framework for Taal Volcano Eruption, the Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development and its attached agencies will be responsible for housing and settlement.⁹⁷



Rehabilitation and Recovery Framework for Taal Volcano Eruption by the National Economic and Development Authority

For the Housing and Settlements sector outcome, the general strategies for the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development include:

1. Strict implementation of Taal Volcano Island as a “no man’s land”;

⁹⁷ Id., p. 33.

2. Application of innovative housing solutions;
3. Development of alternative modes of financing;
4. Identification and acquisition of safe and suitable land for housing development outside the fourteen (14) kilometer radius; and
5. Provision of short term and long term financial assistance for housing.

Strict implementation of Taal Volcano Island as no man's land

As found during the Committee hearing, the Taal Volcano Island is part of the sixty two thousand two hundred twenty two hectare (62,292 ha.) Taal Volcano Protected Landscape declared as a protected area by Republic Act No. 11038,⁹⁸ otherwise known as the Expanded National Protected Areas System Act of 2018. Therefore its use should be limited in scope under the guidance of the management plan prepared pursuant to the law.

Under the Expanded National Protected Areas System Act of 2018,⁹⁹ the management plan shall be consistent with the comprehensive land use plan of local government units.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁸ Republic Act No. 11038: An Act Declaring Protected Areas and Providing for Their Management, Amending for This Purpose Republic Act No. 7586, Otherwise Known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992" and for Other Purposes, June 22, 2018.

⁹⁹ Republic Act No. 11038: An Act Declaring Protected Areas and Providing for Their Management, Amending for This Purpose Republic Act No. 7586, Otherwise Known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992" and for Other Purposes, June 22, 2018.

¹⁰⁰ Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7586, as amended. Sec. 9. Management Plan. -Within one (1) year from the establishment of the protected area there shall be a management plan formulated for each protected area that shall serve as the basic long-term framework plan for the management of the protected area and guide in the preparation of its annual operations plan and budget.

The management plan shall, at the minimum, promote the adoption and implementation of innovative management techniques including, when necessary, zoning, buffer zone management, habitat conservation and rehabilitation, diversity management, community organizing and development, socioeconomic and scientific researches, site-

The Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development expressed the need to update the concerned comprehensive land use plan in order to integrate the no man's land policy of Taal Volcano Island. The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Region IV-A will be mobilized in order to assist the local government units in updating its comprehensive land use plan,¹⁰¹ consistent with their functions under Republic Act No. 11201¹⁰², which provides:

Section 5. Powers and Functions. - The Department shall exercise the following powers and functions:

II. Environmental, Land Use and Urban Planning and Development

(a) Develop and maintain a shelter and urban development management, standards and monitoring information system which shall include, but not be limited to, the following data sets: inventory of idle lands, CLUPs, inventory of housing stocks, and list of beneficiaries: Provided, That notwithstanding this provision, all existing CLUPs duly approved and being implemented by the LGUs shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of the period as stated therein: Provided, further, That upon enactment of this Act, LGUs may improve, amend and enhance their existing CLUPs in accordance with the standards set by the Department;

(b) Provide technical assistance to provinces, cities and municipalities in building their capability to undertake housing and urban development and management, such as, but not limited to: creating a Local Housing Board (LHB) or similar entity; formulating CLUPs and local shelter plans

specific policy development, climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction and management, waste sewerage and septic management, and gender and development, among others.

The plan shall be harmonized with the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP) required under Republic Act No. 8371, or "The Indigenous People's Right Act of 1997", the respective Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) of local governments required under Republic Act No. 7160 or the 'Local Government Code of 1991' and other local plans."

¹⁰¹ Id., p. 34.

¹⁰² An Act Creating the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, Defining its Mandate, Powers and Functions, and Appropriating Funds Therefor, February 14, 2019.

(LSPs); and strengthening local government compliance with housing and urban development laws, standards and guidelines;

X X X

(e) Formulate and prescribe land use planning and zoning standards and regulations for the guidance of cities and municipalities in the formulation of their respective CLUPs

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, in updating the comprehensive land use plans of the local government units, should also be mindful of paragraph 2 of Section 33 of Republic Act No. 7586, as amended, which provides:

All existing land use and resource use permits issued for purposes which are authorized within the protected area shall be reviewed and shall not be renewed upon their expiration unless consistent with the management plan and approved by the PAMB.

Apply innovative housing solutions

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development should develop, conceptualize and formulate a more resilient design, in coordination with the stakeholders, the local government units, the private sector and other relevant agencies.¹⁰³

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development can coordinate with the private sector, like the United Architects of the Philippines, to conceptualize a housing unit design that would cover onsite analysis, including geohazard analysis, sun and wind direction, in order to optimize the relocation sites and prudently choose the materials that would be used.¹⁰⁴

Another issue that floated during the Committee hearing is on the tendency and propensity of the resettled beneficiaries to return to their original sites, as

¹⁰³ TSN, 30 January 2020, p. 96.

¹⁰⁴ Id, p. 136-137.

alleged by Vice Mayor Natanauan of the Municipality of Talisay, Batangas and by Mr. Dimaunahan, the Provincial Administrator of the Province of Batangas:

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Tatanungin ko si vice mayor ng Talisay, Vice Mayor Natanauan. Kung sakaling matuloy po ito, at talagang ideni-declare na na "no man's land," ano po ang hakbangin ng pamahalaan ng Talisay, Batangas, ng sangguniang bayan ukol po rito, Vice Mayor Natanauan?*

MR. NATANAUAN. *Magandang umaga sa inyong lahat na nandito. Para ho sa akin, ang suggestion ko diyan, kung talaga hong may budget para sa mga taga-island, kung maari po ay doon na rin laang sa area ng bayan ng Talisay ilagay. Kasi po nangyari na noong 1965, ang mga taga-Talisay at mga taga-Laurel ay nagkaroon ng pabahay sa Rosario pero ipinagbili rin lang.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Rosario, Batangas.*

MR. NATANAUAN. *Rosario, Batangas, iyan. Palagay ko, alam ninyo, ano ho, diyan.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Binigyan ng pabahay noong 1965, tapos?*

MR. NATANAUAN. *Noong 1965, pero ibinenta rin. Umalis din.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Nagbalikan uli sa island?*

MR. NATANAUAN. *Masasayang lang po ang pondo. Ngayon, ang suggestion ko, doon na rin po sa aming area, tapos kaunting bahay lang. Dahil kasi ang mga iyan naman ay kung ano ang maibigay natin, siguro naman satisfied na sila.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Bakit, may lupa pa ba sa—*

MR. NATANAUAN. *May mga area hong possible, pwedeng mabili. Tapos ho, ang isa-suggest kong isa, iyong evacuation center na in case magkuwan uli, iyon ang permanent sa malalayo na pwedeng pagdalhan sa aming lahat, kung sakali. Pero iyong mga bahay ho ng mga taga-Pulo ay hindi ho mag-i-stay iyan doon.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Pag inilagay ninyo sa San Juan, Batangas o sa Nasugbu, magbabalikan ulit?*

MR. NATANAUAN. *Balik din ho iyan, 'matic ho iyon, ibebenta ho iyon.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Ibebenta iyon. Iyon iyong karanasan ninyo noon?*

MR. NATANAUAN. *Iyon ho ang karanasan namin noong 1965, oho, na eruption.*

THE CHAIRPERSON (SEN. TOLENTINO). *Provincial administrator?*

MR. DIMAUNAHAN. *Mr. Chair, tama po iyong sinasabi ni Vice. Ang totoo po, noon pong 1965, mayroon po tayong Butucan, Nasugbu; mayroon po tayong Balsa ng San Juan; mayroon po tayong Nasi ng Rosario. Ang mga ito po—actually, hindi lang po ito ibinigay. Nagkaroon na po ang iba dito ng deed of conveyance noong 1973 na ibinibigay na sa kanila ang pira-pirasong lupa dito. Lima hong ektarya ang bawa't isa.¹⁰⁵*

Without the post-resettlement support of the government, even a five hectare (5 ha.) land can't prevent the beneficiaries from abandoning the relocation site that was given to them. An innovative and holistic approach should be adopted by the housing agencies, taking into account the tendencies of the beneficiaries to return to their previous places of residence.

Develop alternative modes of financing

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, aside from developing relocation sites and awarding housing units to beneficiaries, should also develop alternative modes of financing for those who would not be relocated or resettled and for those who opt not to be included in the relocation.

The main proponent in financing housing loans is the Home Development Mutual Fund or the Pag-IBIG fund. It is the main government agency that grants or finances housing loans to the general public, especially its members. It offers calamity loan, among others, to assist Pag-IBIG Fund members who reside in areas declared under a state of calamity and are affected by such disasters in order to

¹⁰⁵ Id, p. 81-83.

provide immediate financial assistance to help members recover from the effects of such calamity.¹⁰⁶ It comes at a low interest rate of 5.95% per annum.

Another agency that could provide financing program to the affected communities would be the Social Housing Finance Corporation. It offers the following programs:

1. Abot Kaya Pabahay Fund - Development Loan Program (AKPF-DLP). This program aims to provide affordable houses to low-income families in key urban areas by financing site development or improvements and house/building construction in CMP and other socialized housing projects. The program is open to corporations, single proprietorship, and LGUs with partner developer of socialized housing projects.¹⁰⁷
2. Community Mortgage Program (CMP). CMP is a people-led housing finance and community development program implemented by the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) which assists legally organized associations of low-income groups to acquire and develop a tract of land under the concept of community ownership. The primary objective of the program is to assist residents of blighted or depressed areas to own the lots they occupy, or where they choose to relocate to, and eventually create sustainable and resilient communities in coordination with the local government units. CMP shall be implemented in various Flexible, Affordable, Innovative, and Responsive (FAIR) shelter solutions.¹⁰⁸
3. High Density Housing (HDH). The High Density Housing (HDH) program is the Social Housing Finance Corporation's (SHFC)

¹⁰⁶ Retrieved 17 February 2020, from https://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph/STL_MPL_Calamity.html#calamitylanding.

¹⁰⁷ Social Housing Finance Corporation, Abot Kaya Pabahay Fund, retrieved on 17 February 2020, from https://www.shfcph.com/Abot-Kaya_Pabahay_Fund.html.

¹⁰⁸ Social Housing Finance Corporation, Community Mortgage Program, retrieved on 17 February 2020, from https://www.shfcph.com/Community_Mortgage_Program.html.

participation to the informal settler families' (ISFs) Housing Program being implemented by the incumbent administration with an allocated budget of P50 - billion for five (5) years. The ISFs' Housing Program aims to ensure safe and flood-resilient permanent housing solutions for the ISFs living in danger areas of the National Capital Region (NCR).¹⁰⁹

The Social Housing Finance Corporation has no temporary shelter program, but has a permanent shelter program. The provincial government of Batangas and its constituents can coordinate and apply for the programs offered by the Social Housing Finance Corporation. As of last year, the Board of Directors of the Social Housing Finance Corporation already approved a socialized housing interest rate of as low as two percent (2%) per annum to those with the lowest income and lowest capacity.¹¹⁰

In addition to the national government agencies, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, other national agencies and the Provincial Government of Batangas should also consider the role of the private developers. Under Republic Act No. 10884¹¹¹, otherwise known as the Balanced Housing Development Program Amendments, owners and/or developers of proposed subdivision and condominium projects are required to develop an area for socialized housing equivalent to at least fifteen percent (15%) of the total subdivision area or total subdivision project cost and at least five percent (5%) of condominium area or project cost.¹¹²

¹⁰⁹ Social Housing Finance Corporation, High Density Housing program, retrieved on 17 February 2020, from https://www.shfcph.com/High_Density_Housing_Program_.html.

¹¹⁰ TSN, 6 February 2020, p. 43-50.

¹¹¹ Republic Act No. 10884: An Act Strengthening the Balanced Housing Development Program, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 7279, as Amended, Otherwise Known as the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992, July 17, 2016.

¹¹² Section 18, Republic Act No. 7279, as amended. Sec. 18. Balanced Housing Development. - The Program shall include a system to be specified in the Framework plan whereby owners and/or developers of proposed subdivision and condominium projects shall be required to develop an area for socialized housing equivalent to at least fifteen percent (15%) of the total subdivision area or total subdivision project cost and at least five percent (5%) of condominium area or project cost, at the option of the developer, in accordance with the standards as provided by law: Provided, That proposed socialized subdivision

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, other national agencies and the Provincial Government of Batangas and its constituents could take advantage of the low cost socialized housing projects of the private developers. The private developers have committed that they would cooperate with the government in the rebuilding, relocation and resettlement of the communities affected by the Taal Volcano Eruption.¹¹³

Identify and acquire safe and suitable land for housing development outside the fourteen (14) kilometer radius

The cabinet approved last February 5, 2020 the relocation sites for the displaced residents within the seven-kilometer radius danger zone.¹¹⁴ A total of five thousand four hundred forty-eight (5,448) housing units would be given to the Taal Volcano Eruption victims as a housing grant and without payment from the beneficiaries. Said housing units were originally allocated in favor of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

projects and proposed socialized condominium projects shall be exempt from this requirement. For this purpose, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and the National Economic and Development Authority shall jointly determine and set separate socialized housing price ceilings for socialized subdivision and socialized condominium projects which shall be mandatorily reviewed or revised every two (2) years. The balanced housing development as herein required may also be complied with by the owners and/or developers concerned in any of the following manner:

- (a) Development of socialized housing in a new settlement;
- (b) Joint-venture projects for socialized housing with either the local government units or any of the housing agencies or with another private developer, or with a nongovernmental organization engaged in the provision of socialized housing and duly accredited by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, but if the developer has failed to complete the development of the project, the owner and/or developer of the main subdivision or condominium project shall be solidarily liable only to the extent of compliance to the balanced housing requirement regardless of the provisions of their joint venture agreement; or
- (c) Participation in a new project under the community mortgage program.

¹¹³ TSN, 6 February 2020, p. 80-82.

¹¹⁴ Aguilar, K., Duterte OKs relocation, housing plan for displaced Taal folk, Inquirer, retrieved 17 February 2020, from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1224348/province-relocation-sites-for-taal-affected-residents-approved#ixzz6EAnFlfR9>.

During the Committee hearing¹¹⁵, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development and the National Housing Authority presented the following housing units and resettlement sites:

Project Name	Location	Number of Available Housing Units
Villa del Pio Homes	Brgy. San Miguel, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	300 Units
Sea Breeze Residences	Brgy. Talaibon, Ibaan, Batangas	700 Units
Valley Breeze Residences	Brgy. Can-Anlog, Calamba, Laguna	553 Units
Lake Breeze Residences 1	Brgy. Looc, Calamba, Laguna	176 Units
Lake Breeze Residences 2	Brgy. Uwisan, Calamba, Laguna	219 Units
Summer Homes	Brgy. Cabuco, TMC, Cavite	1000 Units
Sunshine Ville 2	Brgy. Cabuco, TMC, Cavite	1000 Units
Villa de Adeladia	Brgy. Halang, Naic, Cavite	500 Units
San Manuel Homes	Brgy. Lagalag, Tiaong, Quezon	700 Units
Happy Valley Homes	Brgy. Concepcion, Sariaya, Quezon	400 Units

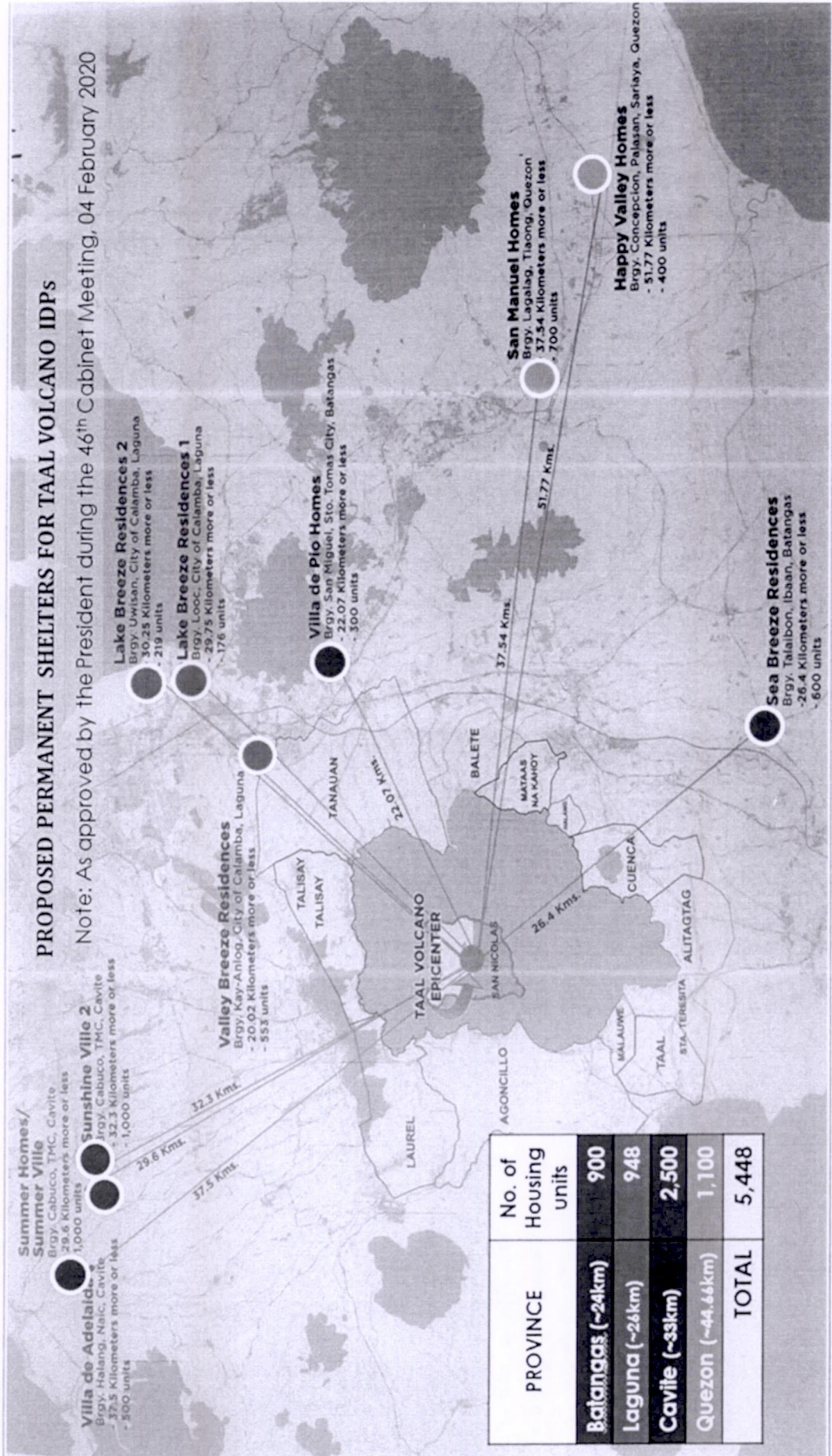
All of the planned relocation sites are located outside the fourteen kilometer danger zone, the nearest of which is around twenty kilometers from the Volcano Island.

Project Name	Distance from Volcano Island
Villa del Pio Homes	22.07 km
Sea Breeze Residences	26.04 km
Valley Breeze Residences	20.02 km
Lake Breeze Residences 1	29.75 km
Lake Breeze Residences 2	30.25 km
Summer Homes	29.60 km
Sunshine Ville 2	32.30 km
Villa de Adeladia	37.50 km
San Manuel Homes	37.54 km
Happy Valley Homes	51.77 km

¹¹⁵ TSN, 6 February 2020, p. 11.

PROPOSED PERMANENT SHELTERS FOR TAAL VOLCANO IDP'S

Note: As approved by the President during the 46th Cabinet Meeting, 04 February 2020



PROVINCE	No. of Housing units
Batangas (~24km)	900
Laguna (~24km)	948
Cavite (~35km)	2,500
Quezon (~44.66km)	1,100
TOTAL	5,448

Provide short term and long term financial assistance for housing

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development has a Two Hundred Million Pesos (Php 200,000,000.00) Resettlement Emergency Assistance Program. However, the Department is still drafting its implementing guidelines.¹¹⁶ According to the General Appropriations Act, Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) would be allocated to the National Capital Region while the remaining One Hundred Fifty Million Pesos (Php 150,000,000.00) would be shared among the remaining regions.¹¹⁷

The National Housing Authority has an Emergency Housing Assistance Program. For the totally damaged houses, a family can receive Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00). For the partially damaged houses, the grant that may be received by the family ranges from Five Thousand Pesos (5,000.00) up to Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00) based on ground validation.¹¹⁸

In addition to the financial assistance from the housing agencies, the Department of Social Welfare and Development has an Eight Billion Seven Hundred Million Pesos (Php 8,700,000,000.00) budget for its Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation Program and Five Billion Four Hundred Million Pesos (Php 5,400,000,000.00) budget for its Sustainable Livelihood Program. The Department of Social Welfare and Development allocated Eighteen Million Pesos (Php 18,000,000.00) for the victims of the Taal Volcano eruption and is planning to give Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) per affected family.¹¹⁹

For the reinvigoration of the livelihood of the displaced families, the Department of Trade and Industry was able to get funding from the President Strategic Initiative Fund.¹²⁰ For the Taal Volcano eruption, a Two Hundred Million Pesos (Php200,000,000.00) fund is allocated but the guidelines for the release is still being finalized. Fifty (50) identified beneficiaries from the area has been pilot tested

¹¹⁶ Id., p. 108.

¹¹⁷ Id.

¹¹⁸ Id., p. 82.

¹¹⁹ TSN, 30 January 2020, p. 129-131.

¹²⁰ Id., p. 122.

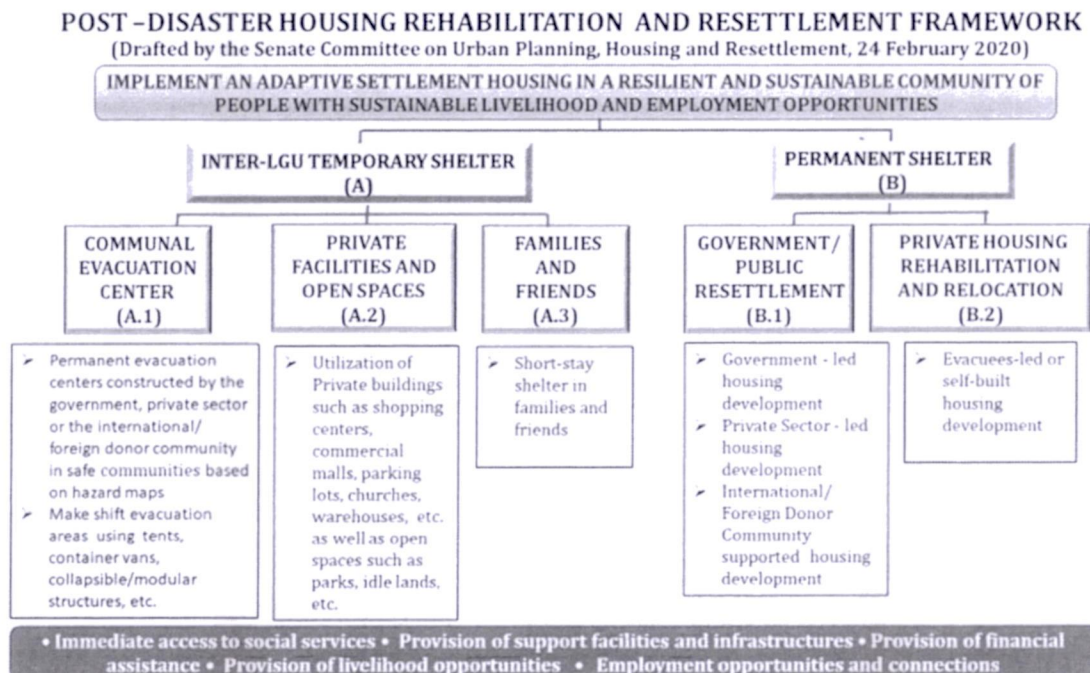
and were given Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00) each in order to start a business.¹²¹

For the assistance to farmers and fisher folks, the Department of Agriculture has allotted Four Hundred Thirty Four Million Pesos (Php 434,000,000.00) from its Quick Response Fund for rehabilitation and recovery program synchronized with the resettlement program of the Department of Humans Settlements and Urban Development.¹²²

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. EXECUTIVE ACTION

- 1) Approval and adoption of Post - Disaster Housing Rehabilitation and Resettlement Framework which will serve as a general template to be followed by all concerned government entities and instrumentalities, local government units and the private sector partners regardless of the type of disasters and calamities such as earthquakes, volcanic eruption, tsunami, typhoons, flooding, landslide and the like.



¹²¹ Id.

¹²² TSN, 6 February 2020, p. 42

The framework shall address the immediate/temporary relocation and long-term/permanent resettlement requirements of population affected by any type of disaster or calamity.

The overarching goal is to implement an adaptive post – disaster resettlement housing in a resilient and sustainable community of people with appropriate livelihood and employment opportunities. The following cross-cutting concerns should be addressed by applying a comprehensive approach in providing for immediate access to social services, provision of support facilities and infrastructures, provision of financial assistance, provision of livelihood opportunities, and provision of employment opportunities and connections, at a minimum.

- **The Inter-LGU Temporary Shelter (Box A)** shall cater to the immediate need for resettlement of affected population regardless of their place of residence while a permanent shelter is being completed elsewhere safe. Meaning, the temporary evacuation centers shall be prepared to accommodate all evacuees or even those coming from other LGUs beyond the centers' local jurisdiction. There are 3 schemes:
 - Scheme 1 (Box A.1) Communal Evacuation Centers - Additional permanent evacuation centers shall be constructed throughout the country by the government, private sector and/or foreign/international donor communities especially in those areas frequented by disasters but built in safer communities based on the hazard maps. In addition, make-shift evacuation areas using 'ready-to install' shelter facilities (e.g. refabricated container vans, collapsible/modular structures, tents, etc.) shall be erected in a government nominated communal evacuation areas. These shall be readily made available for temporary resettlement. This will minimize disruptions in facilities usually utilized for evacuation purpose such as schools, multi-purpose halls, etc.

- Scheme 2 (Box A.2) Private facilities and open spaces shall be used as temporary evacuation areas as authorized by the government where private commercial buildings, shopping malls, parking lots, warehouses, parks and similar facilities shall be utilized as temporary evacuation centers or safe zones, provided that appropriate payment, from the local government unit or the national government in case of incapacity of the former, for the use of such private institutions shall be made after such use.
 - Scheme 3 (Box A.3) Families and friends where evacuees take short stay refuge, which is acceptable in the Filipino tradition of close family kinship and “bayanihan” or the spirit of helping.
- The **Permanent Shelter (Box B)** for affected population shall be a long-term intervention. There are two (2) schemes:
 - a. Scheme 1 (Box B.1): Public Resettlement which is:
 - i. *Government-led housing development* through the established housing development processes and mechanisms of the housing agencies of the government awarded either through grant for indigent beneficiaries or through affordable repayment scheme for those who can afford.
 - ii. *Private sector-led housing development* where the private sector housing developers shall be allowed to construct low-cost resettlement housing in urban and rural areas affected by disasters and calamities, either in government owned and appointed sites or private properties. Such intervention shall be credited as compliance with the balanced housing requirement under Republic Act No. 7279, as amended.

Currently, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development only credits private sector low-cost housing projects when it is located in the same local government unit where the main housing project of the private sector developer is constructed.

The private sector developers shall continue to enjoy the incentives granted by RA 7279 to further reduce the cost of housing units for the benefit of disaster affected population.

- iii. *International/Foreign Donor Community supported housing development* shall also be awarded as a grant to those indigent affected population requiring safer shelter.

- b. Scheme 2 (Box B.2): Private Housing Rehabilitation and Relocation where indigent evacuees or beneficiaries themselves will lead either in the repair and rehabilitation of their damaged houses or the construction of their new houses in private lots in safer locations of their choice with government grant assistance.

Under this scheme, the government will provide construction materials for house repair and rehabilitation and financial assistance, if warranted, for the former case and financial assistance for lot acquisition and housing construction materials for the latter case.

In both cases, affected population or beneficiary will be responsible for housing construction where the "house for work" payment mode can also be applied. In excess of the allocated budget assistance cap, the affected population/ beneficiary will provide counterpart funding, as necessary.

- 2) Immediate Conduct of Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) within seven (7) days not necessarily by those local disaster officers who could have been affected themselves but by government appointed office or personnel in the province or region in close coordination with the concerned local government unit . This will enable in - depth analysis of the situation in order to identify the vital requirements and policy decisions to facilitate the process of building back better for the affected individuals, families and communities. The entire rehabilitation and resettlement process is highly dependent on the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment. The outcome of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment serves as the benchmark data necessary for a harmonized, cost-efficient and productive rehabilitation and resettlement activity. Any delay in the conduct of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment can further prejudice the welfare and endanger the lives of dislocated families and the affected communities.
- 3) While the National Economic and Development Authority's Rehabilitation and Recovery Framework for Taal Volcano Eruption identified the radius of the identification and acquisition of safe and suitable land for housing development from outside the fourteen (14) kilometer, this Senate Committee has instead identified the radius to be outside the seven (7) kilometer.
- 4) Ensure the active and continuous participation of the national government agencies concerned the local government units, the beneficiaries, the cause-oriented private organizations, and other stakeholders, in the overall process through consultation and conduct of dialogues to ensure beneficiaries' ownership of the intervention.
- 5) Implementation of comprehensive support program by concerned government agencies using a programmatic approach that would either directly or indirectly benefit the affected population in terms of

employment opportunities and income generation in the area of crop, fishery and livestock production and insurance.

The Philippine Crop Insurance, Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Tourism, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Labor and Employment, and Department of Social Welfare and Development should immediately release the funds for the beneficiaries and the implement programs for the livelihood and employment of the affected individuals and families.

- 6) A Contingency Plan should be prepared by all provinces, encompassing any possible or imminent threats and hazards that could affect communities within their jurisdiction, including threats and hazards that would emanate from neighboring local government units. The Contingency Plan should also include a plan on the possible evacuation of constituents from other local government units into its jurisdiction.
- 7) Updating of the 10-Year Taal Volcano Protected Landscape Management Plan which is about to expire in 2020. The new Taal Volcano Protected Landscape Management Plan shall contain measures regarding the danger zones after applying the hazard maps of the monitoring agencies and inter-local government cooperation disaster risk reduction and evacuation protocols.
- 8) The Department of Humans Settlements and Urban Development should assist and lead in the mainstreaming of a Comprehensive Land-Use Plan (CLUP) embedded with disaster risk reduction features. The Local Development Plan (LDP) should also be prepared to include the implications of the different hazards including specific program/project interventions. The Department of Humans Settlements and Urban Development should maintain an inventory of idle lands in order to simplify the process of identifying relocation sites.

- 9) Application of innovative solutions based on past experiences on resettlement activities to make current interventions more effective and responsive especially the case of resettled families selling their resettlement houses and returning to their original settlements. A deterrent to this practice is the annotation restrictions at the back of the land title awarded to the beneficiaries to prevent them from selling or disposing of their land, or deferring the transfer of ownership to the beneficiaries for a long period of time.
- 10) The Local Government Units should condone or reduce the real property tax and interest by applying Section 276 of the Local Government Code, which provides that in case of a general failure of crops or substantial decrease in the price of agricultural or agri-based products, or calamity in any province, city, or municipality, the Sanggunian concerned, by ordinance passed prior to the first (1st) day of January of any year and upon recommendation of the Local Disaster Coordinating Council, may condone or reduce, wholly or partially, the taxes and interest thereon for the succeeding year or years in the city or municipality affected by the calamity.
- 11) The national government should be vigilant in prohibiting the return of settlers within the seven (7) kilometer danger zone and in the Taal Volcano Island which was declared as "no man's land". The Philippine Coast Guard should patrol the area in order to prevent the re-entry of individuals to the permanent danger zone.

B. LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- 1) Change the title of Senate Resolution No. 297 to the following:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
URBAN PLANNING, HOUSING AND RESETTLEMENT, IN AID

OF LEGISLATION AND IN THE EXERCISE OF THE SENATE'S OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS, TO INQUIRE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE TAAL VOLCANO ERUPTION, AND FORMULATE A SUSTAINABLE RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION FRAMEWORK WHICH WOULD BE APPLICABLE TO ALL KINDS OF DISASTER

2) Passage of legislation:

- a. Creation of a department as a lead agency for the country's approach to the promotion of a strategic, comprehensive, and integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and management. This will result to a more efficient disasters and emergency response of the national government, concerned agencies and/or departments and local government units (LGUs), including the coordination of rehabilitation and resettlement efforts.
- b. **Senate Bill 1272**: Expanded Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework of 2020, for the creation of an inter-local government unit cooperation and coordination response mechanism and business continuity plan, which includes the identification and creation of permanent evacuation centers, safe refuge zones, evacuation routes and assembly points, as well as authorizing the Government to utilize private or commercial buildings, such as but not limited to schools, shopping malls, restaurants, warehouses, as evacuation centers or safe zones, provided that payment, from the local government unit or the national government in case of incapacity of the former, for the use of such private institutions shall be made after such use.

- c. **Senate Bill No. 1298**: Community Shelter Act, mandating the use of gymnasiums, convention centers, multi-purpose halls, covered courts, government warehouses, and other similar spacious structures as evacuation centers during emergencies and disasters.

- d. **Senate Bill No. 1275**: Taal Volcano Rehabilitation and Development Act, creating the Taal Rehabilitation and Development Commission, establishing a fund to provide assistance to provide assistance to victims, and individuals and communities affected by the eruption of Taal Volcano and its aftermath through the provision of funds for the immediate relief; establishment of resettlement centers, home sites and town sites, particularly for those living within the volcano's permanent danger zone; provision of livelihood and employment opportunities; construction, repair, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of public infrastructure; and the adoption and implementation of other interventions to expedite the return to normalcy in affected localities.

- e. **Senate Bill No. 79**, requiring the appointment of a permanent disaster officer in each local government unit in order to decentralize the disaster risk reduction and management function and enable local government units to be more dynamic and efficient, to directly provide for the needs of the communities within its jurisdiction.

- f. **Senate Bill No. 1073**, requiring the appointment of a permanent local housing officer in each local government unit in order to decentralize some of the functions and role of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development and enable local government units to be more compliant with the national laws and assist the Department in their function regarding the comprehensive land use plan and local shelter plan, inventory of lands, and list of beneficiaries of socialized housing, to directly provide for the needs of

the communities within its jurisdiction and hasten rehabilitation and resettlement activities.

- g. Canceling the titles over the private lands in Taal Volcano Island, in the exercise of the State's police power, to ensure public safety and general welfare of the people.

Respectfully Submitted by:



FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

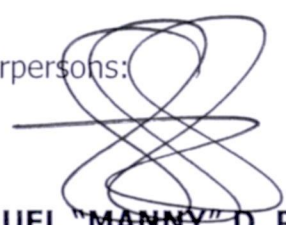
Chairperson

Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement



CHRISTOPHER BONG GO

Vice Chairpersons:




EMMANUEL "MANNY" D. PACQUIAO

MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

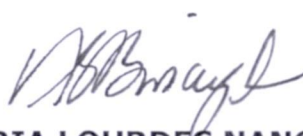
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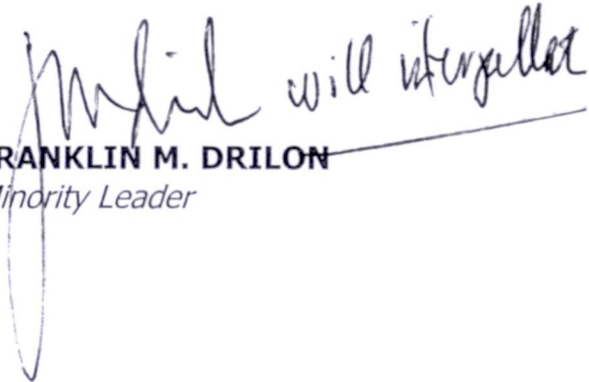


RALPH G. RECTO
President Pro-Tempore

*my
and*



JUAN MIGUEL "MIGZ" F. ZUBIRI
Majority Leader



FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Minority Leader

HON. VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Senate President

Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino and Senator Ronald
"Bato" M. dela Rosa

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON URBAN PLANNING, HOUSING AND RESETTLEMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION AND IN THE EXERCISE OF THE SENATE'S OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS, TO URGENTLY CALL UPON THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES TO FORMULATE A SUSTAINABLE TAAL VOLCANO RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 5, I(e) of Republic Act No. 11201, or otherwise known as
2 the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Act, provides that
3 the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development shall "formulate a
4 framework for resilient housing and human settlements as a basis for the
5 mechanisms for post-disaster housing and resiliency planning, research and
6 development, extension, monitoring and evaluation of programs, projects and
7 activities to protect vulnerable communities from the adverse effects of climate
8 change and disasters;"

9 **WHEREAS**, the Section 10.2 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of
10 Republic Act No. 11201 provides that the Department shall "manage and oversee
11 emergency post-disaster/post-conflict shelter recovery or climate change adaptation
12 and mitigation disaster risk reduction provision and interventions;"

13 **WHEREAS**, on January 12, 2020, the Taal Volcano began erupting and has
14 been on Alert Level 4 since its eruption, until it was lowered by DOST-PHIVOLCS to
15 Alert Level 3 on January 26, 2020, which means that sudden steam-driven and weak
16 phreatomagmatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, ashfall, and lethal gas expulsions
17 can still occur and threaten areas within Taal Volcano Island and nearby lakeshores;

18 **WHEREAS**, the economy of the municipalities of Talisay, Malvar, Tanauan,
19 Laurel, Agoncillo, Santa Teresita, Cuenca, Alitagtag, Mataas na Kahoy, Lipa City,
20 Balete and San Nicolas, Province of Batangas and Tagaytay City has been affected,

1 with an estimated P6.66 billion revenues lost, with agriculture and fisheries still
2 contributing to much of the losses at P3.17 billion;

3 **WHEREAS**, according to the 2015 Census Population, 907,664 residents are
4 within the affected areas;

5 **WHEREAS**, it has been estimated that around 4,000 individuals are
6 permanently residing on the Taal Volcano Island;

7 **WHEREAS**, according to the Batangas Provincial Disaster and Risk Reduction
8 Management Council, about a million individuals were displaced by the Taal Volcano
9 eruption, of which around 200,000 have been seeking refuge in evacuation centers
10 in Batangas and Cavite, among others;

11 **WHEREAS**, PHIVOLCS Alert Level 4 on Taal Volcano still remains to be in
12 effect which means that hazardous explosive eruption is still possible, hence no final
13 damage assessment can be done;

14 **WHEREAS**, the national government should now prepare, craft and
15 formulate post-disaster resettlement and livelihood programs, in coordination with
16 the private sector, to assist the affected residents;

17 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, directing the
18 Senate Committee on Urban Planning, Housing And Resettlement, in aid of
19 legislation and in the exercise of the Senate's oversight functions, to urgently call
20 upon the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development and other
21 relevant agencies to formulate a sustainable Taal Volcano Resettlement And
22 Rehabilitation Program.

Adopted,



FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO
Senator



RONALD "BATO" M. DELA ROSA
Senator