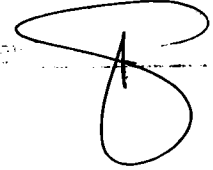


SENATE

RECEIVED



P. S. Res No. 948

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CONTRIBUTING
FACTORS TO AND THE ENTITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LANDSLIDE
IN THE MINING VILLAGE OF MASARA, TO PREVENT FURTHER LOSS
OF LIVES AND PROPERTY IN LANDSLIDE-PRONE AREAS IN THE
COUNTRY**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, on February 6, 2024, a landslide occurred at Zone 1, Brgy.
2 Masara, Maco, Davao de Oro,¹ a gold mining village with more than 1,200
3 residents, following nonstop heavy rains that began on February 2, 2024;²
4 **WHEREAS**, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
5 Council (NDRRMC) reported that at least 580 families evacuated from Masara.³
6 The landslide buried a barangay hall, two buses, and around 55 houses;⁴
7 **WHEREAS**, after 15 days of search for survivors and bodies in Masara,
8 the local government terminated retrieval operations and reported that 98

¹ "Philippines, Landslide in Davao de Oro (6 Feb 2024)," Relief Web. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-landslide-davao-de-oro-6-feb-2024>. Last accessed on Feb. 27, 2024, 3:39pm.

² "Landslide in Philippines mining town kills nearly 100, prompts calls for action," Mongabay. Retrieved from <https://news.mongabay.com/2024/02/landslide-in-philippines-mining-town-kills-nearly-100-prompts-calls-for-action/>. Last accessed on Feb. 29, 2024, 1:04pm.

³ "2 landslide-hit barangays in Davao de Oro in danger of turning into 'ghost villages'," Manila Bulletin. Retrieved from https://mb.com.ph/2024/2/23/2-landslide-hit-barangays-in-davao-de-oro-in-danger-of-turning-into-ghost-villages#google_vignette. Last accessed on Feb. 28, 2024, 6:59pm.

⁴ "Landslide in Philippines mining town kills nearly 100, prompts calls for action," Mongabay. Retrieved from <https://news.mongabay.com/2024/02/landslide-in-philippines-mining-town-kills-nearly-100-prompts-calls-for-action/>. Last accessed on Feb. 29, 2024, 1:04pm.

1 bodies have been recovered during the retrieval operations, with eight (8)
2 people still missing;⁵

3 **WHEREAS**, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of Davao (MGB-Davao)
4 recommended in 2008 to the local government of Davao de Oro that Masara
5 be declared as a no-build zone,⁶ in view of the persistent pattern of landslides
6 in the area since 2007 which led to fatalities, as well as a series of geohazard
7 mappings consistently showing the area's high susceptibility to landslides;⁷

8 **WHEREAS**, heavy rains triggered a landslide in Masara in 2007, killing
9 10 people. In 2008, another landslide in the area caused the death of 24 people,
10 injuring 32 more and displacing at least 5,000 residents;⁸

11 **WHEREAS**, despite the MGB-Davao's classification of Masara as a no-
12 build zone, thousands of people still constructed structures, including
13 residential houses, a bus terminal for workers of mining firm Apex Mining
14 Corporation, and a barangay hall, in the area;⁹

15 **WHEREAS**, according to Davao de Oro Executive Assistant for
16 Communications Edward Macapili, while there is already a policy that Masara is
17 a no-build zone, people went back to the area after 2008, and it was tolerated
18 by the local government and Apex Mining;¹⁰

19 **WHEREAS**, MGB-Davao issued landslide and flash flood warnings to
20 mining companies and local governments on February 4, 2024, following
21 nonstop heavy rains. However, no preemptive evacuation order was given by
22 the local government and Apex Mining;¹¹

⁵ "Search operations end in landslide-devastated Davao de Oro village," Rappler. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/mindanao/search-operations-end-landslide-devastated-davao-de-oro/>. Last accessed on Feb. 27, 2024, 9:52am.

⁶ "2,669 communities highly vulnerable to landslides in Davao Region – OCD," Rappler. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/mindanao/communities-highly-vulnerable-landslides-davao-region/>. Last accessed on Feb. 27, 2024, 2:37pm.

⁷ "Beyond profit: Holding Apex mining and government agencies accountable for the Masara landslide incident (Part 1)," Sun Star. Retrieved from <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/davao/beyond-profit-holding-apex-mining-and-government-agencies-accountable-for-the-masara-landslide-incident>. Last accessed on Feb. 28, 2024, 2:37pm.

⁸ "Landslide in Philippines mining town kills nearly 100, prompts calls for action," Mongabay. Retrieved from <https://news.mongabay.com/2024/02/landslide-in-philippines-mining-town-kills-nearly-100-prompts-calls-for-action/>. Last accessed on Feb. 29, 2024, 1:04pm.

⁹ "2,669 communities highly vulnerable to landslides in Davao Region – OCD," Rappler. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/mindanao/communities-highly-vulnerable-landslides-davao-region/>. Last accessed on Feb. 27, 2024, 2:37pm.

¹⁰ "55 dead in Philippines landslide that buried a village," The Washington Post. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/02/12/philippines-landslide-davao-de-oro-death-toll/>. Last accessed on Feb. 29, 2024, 1:02pm.

¹¹ "Landslide in Philippines mining town kills nearly 100, prompts calls for action," Mongabay. Retrieved from <https://news.mongabay.com/2024/02/landslide-in-philippines-mining-town-kills-nearly-100-prompts-calls-for-action/>. Last accessed on Feb. 29, 2024, 1:04pm.

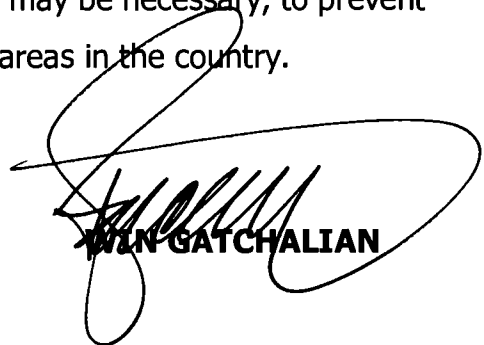
1 **WHEREAS**, according to the Interfacing Development Interventions for
2 Sustainability Inc. (IDIS), Apex Mining employs underground mining in its
3 operation, a process which has the potential of disrupting the stability of rock
4 and soil layers and increasing the likelihood of landslides. While Apex Mining is
5 not actively operating in the area where the landslide occurred, it is still within
6 the premises of Apex Mining’s Mineral Production Sharing Agreement;¹²

7 **WHEREAS**, according to IDIS, a study commissioned by Apex Mining in
8 2021 showed that the geological and meteorological conditions in Davao de
9 Oro already indicated that the province is vulnerable to natural hazards like
10 landslides. The said Apex Mining report also stressed the presence of a
11 prominent fault lineation in Masara, indicating that the region is prone to
12 geological hazards and is highly susceptible to landslides;¹⁴

13 **WHEREAS**, it is incumbent for the Senate to ensure that the
14 government, both national and local, are undertaking measures to prevent
15 similar disasters from happening;¹⁵

16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the
17 Senate of the Philippines, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to
18 conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the contributing factors to, and the
19 entities responsible for, the landslide in the mining village of Masara which has
20 been classified as a no-build zone as early as 2008, with the end in view of
21 crafting legislation or policy recommendation, as may be necessary, to prevent
22 the loss of lives and property in landslide-prone areas in the country.

23 *Adopted,*



WIN GATCHALIAN

¹² "Beyond profit: Holding Apex mining and government agencies accountable for the Masara landslide incident (Part 1)," Sun Star. Retrieved from <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/davao/beyond-profit-holding-apex-mining-and-government-agencies-accountable-for-the-masara-landslide-incident>. Last accessed on Feb. 28, 2024, 2:37pm.

¹⁴ "Landslide-hit Davao site listed as 'high risk' since 2008," Inquirer. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1907452/landslide-hit-davao-site-listed-as-high-risk-since-2008>. Last accessed on Feb. 28, 2024, 1:13pm.

¹⁵ "Calls for probe, shutdown of mining firm grow after Davao de Oro landslids," Rappler. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/mindanao/calls-probe-shutdown-mining-firm-grow-davao-de-oro-landslide-february-2024/>. Last accessed on Feb. 29, 2024, 10:33am.