



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. (632) 929-66-26/28; 929-6635/929-3618/929-4028
IP Phone Trunkline No. 988-3367
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph/> E-mail: web@denrgov.ph



MEMORANDUM

TO : **The Directors**
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Environmental Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau

The Undersecretary and Administrator
National Mapping and Resource Information Authority

FROM : **The Assistant Secretary**
Field Operations - Mindanao and Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT : **INVITATION FROM THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

DATE : 22 June 2021

This pertains to the letter from the Office of Representative Francisco B. Benitez, Chairperson of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, dated 21 June 2021, **inviting DENR to a virtual Meeting on 23 June 2021 (Wednesday) at 1:30 p.m.** to share views, comments and recommendations on **House Resolutions Numbered 1679, 380 and 1605¹**. Likewise, Rep. Benitez requests your written comment.

The said Committee is also asking you to confirm your attendance in the meeting as well as the persons who will attend with you on or before 22 June 2021. You may send your attendance confirmation and written comment to committee.housing@house.gov.ph or housing_hor@yahoo.com copy furnish the Legislative Liaison Office² at denrlegislative@yahoo.com. The Zoom link would be sent around noon of 22 June 2021.

For inquiries, you may contact the Committee Secretariat through Ms. Mary Lovelyn "Shi-Shi" Rea-Dancel at 0919-0941816 or through the above-mentioned House email addresses.

For information and appropriate action.


JOAN A. LAGUNDA, D.M., D.P.A.

Encls: As stated.
/juo068

¹ For your convenience and reference, copy of the respective House Resolutions would be emailed as well

² Legislative Liaison Office landline number: 8920-1761



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Committee on Housing and Urban Development

FRANCISCO "KIKO" B. BENITEZ
CHAIRPERSON

3rd District – Negros Occidental

IARIO VITTORIO "MARVEY" A. MARIÑO
SENIOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON
5th District - Batangas

GAVINI "APOL" C. PANCHO
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
2nd District – Bulacan

NAELLA ROSE BAINTO-AGUINALDO
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
BAHAY - Partylist

FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS T. DY III
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
5th District – Isabela

ALFONSO V. UMALI, JR.
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
2nd District – Oriental Mindoro

MICHAELA S. VIOLAGO
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
2nd District – Nueva Ecija

JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
3rd District - Manila

FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Lone District, San Jose Del Monte City

FLORENCIO G. NOEL
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
AN WARAY - Partylist

NELSON F. RENDON
Legislative Committee Secretary

Chairman's Office:

Room SWA-P, House of Representatives
Complex, Constitution Hills, 1126 Quezon
City, Philippines

Trunk Line: 8931-5001 local: 7093

Telefax: 8936-1830

Email Addresses:

josefrancisco.benitez@house.gov.ph
congkikobenitez@gmail.com

Secretariat's Office:

3/F RVM Bldg., House of Representatives
Complex, Constitution Hills, 1126 Quezon
City, Philippines

Trunk Line: 8931-5001 local: 7151

Telefax: 8951-4328

Email Addresses:

committee.housing@house.gov.ph
housing_hor@yahoo.com

21 June 2021

HON. ROY A. CIMATU

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DENR Bldg., Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

Dear Secretary Cimatú,

The Committee on Housing and Urban Development will hold a virtual meeting on Wednesday, 23 June 2021 at 1:30 P.M. for the initial consideration of the following:

1. House Resolution No. 1679, entitled: RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ISSUANCE OF DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2021-031 WHICH LIFTS THE POSTPONEMENT OF DEMOLITION AND EVICTION ACTIVITIES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND STATE OF NATIONAL CALAMITY, AND TO RECOMMEND ITS IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL, introduced by Representatives Brosas, Zarate, Gaité, Cullamat, Castro, and Elago;

2. House Resolution No. 380, entitled: RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPENDING DEMOLITION OF THOUSANDS OF HOUSES TO GIVE WAY FOR THE NLEX-SLEX CONNECTOR ROAD AND THE PNR NORTH-SOUTH RAILWAY PROJECT, introduced by Representatives Zarate, Gaité, Cullamat, Brosas, and Bagatsing, and;

3. House Resolution No. 1605, entitled: A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE SERIES OF DEMOLITIONS IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY'S KATUPARAN HOUSING PROJECT IN VITAS, TONDO, MANILA AND RECOMMEND MEASURES TO HALT THE IMPENDING DISPLACEMENT OF AROUND SEVEN HUNDRED (700) FAMILIES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, introduced by Representatives Brosas, Zarate, Gaité, Cullamat, Castro, and Elago.

In this regard, may we invite you to participate in the meeting and share your views, comments and recommendations on the measure. Attached, for your ready reference, is a copy of each resolution. Likewise, may we request for your written comment on the same.

We would appreciate receiving confirmation of your attendance in the meeting including the list of persons accompanying you via email on or before 22

June 2021. You may send your position paper to the following email addresses: committee.housing@house.gov.ph or housing_hor@yahoo.com.

We will be sending the Zoom link around noon on 22 June 2021. For inquiries, you may contact Ms. Mary Lovelyn "Shi-Shi" Rea-Dancel, SLSO II (committee secretariat), through mobile number 0919-0941816 or through the foregoing email addresses.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

FRANCISCO "KIKO" B. BENITEZ
Chairperson

For the Chairperson:


NELSON F. RENDON
Legislative Committee Secretary

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1679

Introduced by

REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party);
REPS. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, FERDINAND R. GAITE, EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
(Bayan Muna Partylist); REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers Partylist);
and REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Kabataan Partylist)

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ISSUANCE OF DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2021-031 WHICH LIFTS THE POSTPONEMENT OF DEMOLITION AND EVICTION ACTIVITIES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND STATE OF NATIONAL CALAMITY, AND TO RECOMMEND ITS IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL

WHEREAS, the right to adequate housing is a basic human right which is recognized as part of the right to adequate standard of living under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR);

WHEREAS, Section 10 Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution that "urban or rural poor dwellers shall not be evicted nor their dwellings demolished..." and that "no resettlement of urban or rural dwellers shall be undertaken without adequate consultation with them and the communities where they are to be relocated;"

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-2019) a global pandemic due to the rapid increase of COVID-19 throughout the world;

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed Presidential Proclamation No. 922 declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines due to COVID-19; the said proclamation shall remain in force until lifted;

WHEREAS, Presidential Proclamation No. 929 declared a State of Calamity throughout the country due to COVID-19 for a period of six (6) months;

WHEREAS, the State of National Calamity has been extended up to September 2021 by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 1021 series of 2020;

WHEREAS, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued Memorandum Circular No. 2020-068 last April 2, 2020 postponing all administrative and demolition activities, with respect to Section 28 (a) and (b) of the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA), except on conditions related to Section 4(s) of Republic Act No. 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act;

WHEREAS, demolition and eviction activities were still carried out in various communities amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including the eviction of at least 90 families in the riverside portion of Vitas, Katuparan Housing in Tondo, Manila to give way to the construction of a high-rise housing project and cockpit arena;

WHEREAS, the Duterte administration has expressed its strong push for the continuation of its Build, Build, Build (BBB) program amid the pandemic and despite the urgent demands of Filipino families for cash aid, free mass testing, and decent jobs;

WHEREAS, Filipino families currently face the worst economic crisis on record and nonstop price hikes, with more than 4 million Filipinos jobless based on the official and conservative government data, and with the daily COVID-19 positivity rate breaching the 14 percent peak last March 2020;

WHEREAS, the country is expected to face a massive housing backlog of 6.8 million units by 2022 amid the failure of private sector-led housing programs to address the shelter needs of poor Filipino families;

WHEREAS, local government units are reimposing restrictions on travel and mobility in view of the alarming spike in COVID-19 cases, hence the further need to stop the eviction and resettlement of informal settler families amid the pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the DILG issued Memorandum Circular No. 2021-031 lifting the postponement of administrative demolition and eviction activities as instructed under DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2020-068, citing the alleged construction of dwellings on several danger areas by informal settler families;

WHEREAS, such claim by the DILG was not substantiated in the signed memorandum circular, and is bereft of any proof;


WHEREAS, Memorandum Circular No. 2021-031 in effect authorizes the demolition and eviction of families using the "danger zones alibi" amid the lingering recession, massive homelessness, and continuing State of Public Health Emergency and State of National Calamity;

WHEREAS, the DILG must thoroughly explain the rationale behind the issuance of Memorandum Circular No. 2021-031 which reverses Memorandum Circular No. 2020-068;

WHEREAS, the Duterte administration must prioritize programs that will genuinely address the massive housing backlog instead of increasing the number of homeless families amid the pandemic;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Housing and Urban Development to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the issuance of DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2021-031 which lifts the postponement of demolition and eviction activities amid the COVID-19 pandemic and state of national calamity.

Adopted,



ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women's Party



CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist



FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist



EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist



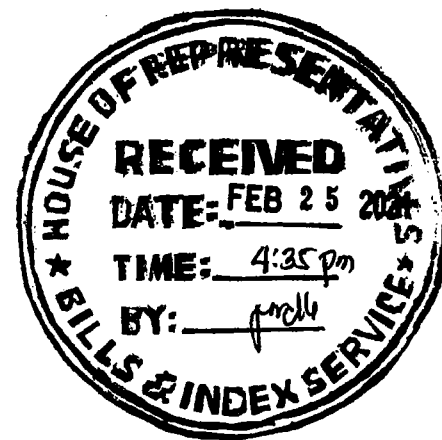
FRANCE L. CASTRO
Act Teachers Partylist



SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1605

Introduced by

REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party);
REPS. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, FERDINAND R. GAITE, EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
(Bayan Muna Partylist); REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers Partylist);
and REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Kabataan Partylist)

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE SERIES OF DEMOLITIONS IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY'S KATUPARAN HOUSING PROJECT IN VITAS, TONDO, MANILA AND RECOMMEND MEASURES TO HALT THE IMPENDING DISPLACEMENT OF AROUND SEVEN HUNDRED (700) FAMILIES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, Article II Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that it is the policy of the State to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights;

WHEREAS, the right to housing is a basic human right which is recognized in many charters and enshrined in and protected under various International Human Rights instruments that the Philippines is a signatory of;

WHEREAS, Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares that "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";

WHEREAS, Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR) provides that State parties "recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, to the continuous improvement of living conditions";

WHEREAS, it is likewise provided in Article XIII Section 10 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution that "urban or rural poor dwellers shall not be evicted nor their dwellings demolished... no resettlement of urban or rural dwellers shall be undertaken without adequate consultation with them and the communities where they are to be relocated";

WHEREAS, the Vitas Katuparan Housing Project in Tondo, Manila by the National Housing Authority (NHA) is home to over 2,000 low-income families residing within the housing project's 27 buildings;

WHEREAS, in the middle of January 2021 and amid the raging COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) North Manila District Engineering Office illegally demolished seventeen (17) houses in the Riverside of the Katuparan Housing Project in Tondo, Manila – without duly informing the affected families;

WHEREAS, the DPWH, the National Housing Authority (NHA), and the Barangay Chairman of Barangay 101 in Tondo did not hold consultations regarding the impending demolition of the houses in Riverside and there are even no plans for relocation;

WHEREAS, aside from the 7 previously demolished houses in Riverside, another ten (10) of the homes in the same community were destroyed in the middle of February 2021;

WHEREAS, the affected families in the demolished communities went to the DPWH and NHA on February 4, February 5, and February 15 consecutively this year but to no avail;

WHEREAS, last February 15, 2021, the NHA said that the DPWH did not coordinate with them on the previously illegally held demolition and only offered that the 7 families live in dog cage-like temporary shelters in the riverside of Rodriguez Bridge in Manila;

WHEREAS, the other 10 families are now cramped in the houses of their neighbors since the demolition of their homes;

WHEREAS, the contractor provided only Eight Thousand Pesos (PhP8,000) worth of financial assistance to the 17 families stripped of their rights to shelter, to adequate housing and standard of living, not taking into consideration the immense crisis faced by the former residents on life and livelihood in the time of the pandemic;

WHEREAS, additionally, last September 1, 2020, a Notice of Demolition was handed down to the residents of Phase I (Building 1 to Building 8) because of the supposedly condemned status of Katuparan Housing Project's twenty-seven (27) buildings; the said Notice of Demolition will affect around 700 families of Phase 1 in Vitas Katuparan Housing Project;

WHEREAS, the Manila City government is eyeing the construction of "Tondominium" high-rise residential buildings for LGU employees and poor families - ironically on the same site where the NHA Katuparan Housing Project is located;

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2021, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the "Tondominium" high-rise buildings;

WHEREAS, some of the residents of Phase I were asked to sign a blank "General Intake Form" supposedly from the DSWD and the NHA with no further information or details, with the promise that those who signed the said blank form would be receiving a subsidy of P54,000 for 18 months' worth of rent, or a measly P3,000 per month;

WHEREAS, this fast-paced and seemingly rushed demolition trashes the Katuparan residents' rights, dislocates them from their livelihood and sources of income, and disrupts their life in the midst of the pandemic and worst economic crisis in the country's history;

WHEREAS, aside from the Katuparan Housing Project other communities in Tondo, Manila are targeted for demolition including houses in Road 10 and the large communities of Parola, Aroma, and Smokey Mountain;

WHEREAS, the current and looming demolition of communities runs counter to the assurances by the national government that there will be no demolition amid the pandemic;


WHEREAS, development is not equivalent to the construction of buildings and infrastructure, as it should be about decent jobs with living wages for the people in the community;

WHEREAS, the lack of decent, affordable housing has unfortunately forced many poorer families to crowd into makeshift dwellings in informal settlements. These urban shantytowns, typically of poor and unsafe construction and lacking even basic services, are also vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters that can lead to sudden, widespread displacement and homelessness;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government has projected a shortfall of 6.8 million homes for impoverished Filipinos from 2017 to 2022, including two million existing units deemed unfit for occupancy; These figures do not include families who will be displaced by the Duterte administration's infrastructure projects under the Build, Build Build (BBB) program, or by calamities such as typhoons, earthquakes, or volcanic eruptions. This worsening crisis falls on ineffective government housing programs, which have not responded to people's real needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Housing and Urban Development investigate, in aid of legislation, the series of demolitions in the National Housing Authority's Katuparan Housing Project in Vitas, Tondo, Manila, and recommend measures to halt the impending displacement of around 700 families amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted,


ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women's Party


CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist


FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist


EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist


FRANCE L. CASTRO
Act Teachers Partylist


SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist

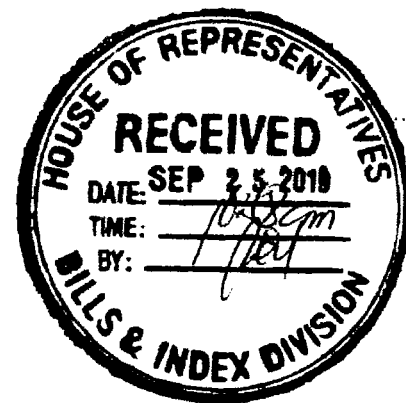
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

380

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. _____



Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Representatives CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
FERDINAND R. GAITE and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
GABRIELA WOMEN'S PARTY Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS, and
MANILA 5TH DISTRICT Representative CRISTAL L. BAGATSING

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO
CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
IMPENDING DEMOLITION OF THOUSANDS OF HOUSES TO GIVE WAY FOR
THE NLEX-SLEX CONNECTOR ROAD AND THE PNR NORTH-SOUTH
RAILWAY PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the NLEX-SLEX Connector Road is an 8-kilometer all elevated 4-lane toll expressway extending the NLEX southward from the end of Segment 10 in C3 Road Caloocan City to PUP Sta. Mesa, Manila and connecting to Skyway Stage 3, mostly traversing the PNR rail track. The project includes two (2) interchanges located at C3 Road, Caloocan and España, Manila, according to information published in the Department of Public Works and Highways website;

WHEREAS, the tollways unit of Manuel Pangilinan-led Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) gave an unsolicited proposal in 2010 for the connector road. Consequently, on January 21, 2014, the NLEX Corporation signed a joint venture agreement with the Philippine National Construction Corporation (PNCC) to build the road;


WHEREAS, the Department of Justice ruled later that the approval of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board of the agreement was "without factual basis or justification" and returned the agreement for review by the NEDA;

WHEREAS, the NEDA Board ruled that the NLEX Corporation should be bid out through a Swiss challenge. A Swiss challenge is done for unsolicited proposals that invites third parties to match or better the proposal;

WHEREAS, in September 2016 the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) still awarded the connector road project to the Pangilinan-owned Metro Pacific Tollways Development Corp. (MPTDC) and its subsidiary Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC);

92 *Adopted,*
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128


Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Party-List


Rep. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Party-list


Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Party-list


Rep. CRISTAL H. BAGATSING
MANILA 5TH DISTRICT

Rep. EDWARD VERA PEREZ MACEDA
MANILA 4TH DISTRICT


Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA WOMEN'S PARTY