



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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## MEMORANDUM

TO : **The Directors**  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau  
Policy and Planning Service  
Legal Affairs Service  
  
The Executive Director  
River Basin Control Office

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

SUBJECT : **INVITATION FROM THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD jointly with the SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NORTH  
LUZON GROWTH QUADRANGLE**

DATE : 22 January 2021

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Forwarding herewith the letter dated 21 January 2021, from Representative **WILFREDO MARK M. ENVERGA**, Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture and Food, inviting DENR to a virtual Committee meeting on **28 January 2021 (Thursday) at 9:00AM via Zoom Video Conferencing with Meeting ID: 895 3657 5522 Password: 462849**, for your information and reference.

Kindly inform this Office of your attendance before the scheduled date of the meeting and submit presentation, comments and/or position paper in hard and soft at the Legislative Liaison Office at telephone number 8920-1761 and e-mail address [denrlegislative@yahoo.com](mailto:denrlegislative@yahoo.com), for consolidation

You may contact the Committee Technical Staff through email address [agriculturenfood@gmail.com](mailto:agriculturenfood@gmail.com) with telephone numbers (02) 89514400 and (02) 89315001 local 7139.

  
JOAN A. LAGUNZA, D.M., D.P.A.  


Encls:

As stated.

/juo004

MEMO NO.2021-63



## COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD

3<sup>rd</sup> Flr., Ramon V. Mitra Building, Batasan Complex, Quezon City  
Tel Nos : (+632) 931-5001 loc. 7139 Telefax : (+632) 951-4400  
Email Address: [agriculturefood@gmail.com](mailto:agriculturefood@gmail.com)

21 January 2021

### SECRETARY ROY A. CIMATU

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Dear Secretary Cimat:

The *Committee on Agriculture and Food*, jointly with the *Special Committee on North Luzon Growth Quadrangle*, will convene to continue its deliberation on the following measures:

1. **House Resolution No. 1345** entitled: *A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE UNTIMELY AND IRRESPONSIBLE OPENING OF FLOOD GATES OF DAMS AND WATERSHEDS IN LUZON DURING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON ULYSSES*, introduced by Rep. Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy;
2. **House Resolution No. 1348** entitled: *A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ON THE SEVERE AND UNPRECEDENTED FLOODING IN THE PROVINCES OF CAGAYAN AND ISABELA DURING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON ULYSSES*, introduced by Reps. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Joseph Stephen "Caraps" Paduano; and
3. **House Resolution No. 1369** entitled: *A RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE MASSIVE FLOODING IN THE PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN CAUSED BY TYPHOON ULYSSES AND WATER RELEASED FROM THE MAGAT DAM WITH THE END IN GOAL OF IDENTIFYING NEEDED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION PROGRAMS TO PREVENT SIMILAR DISASTER FROM HAPPENING AGAIN*, introduced by Rep. Joseph 'Jojo' Lara.

In this regard, we would like to request your attendance via zoom virtual meeting **on 28 January 2021 (Thursday), at 9:00am**. We would also like to inform you that during the Nov 24, 2020 hearing, members of the Committees strongly recommended your presence in the next hearing, together with the heads of the River Basin Control Office and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau. The Committees would like to be informed/updated on the management of the river basins in the country and on the newly created Environmental Laws Enforcement Taskforce, as well as your plans and recommendations in order to prevent similar disasters from happening again. The Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force and the Dam Safety Committee were also mentioned. Rep. Antonio Albano also requested for the budgetary requirement of the Sierra Madre National Park Agency.

Below is the Zoom log-in details:

[https://l.messenger.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F89536575522%3Fpwd%3D-IEQ\\_IV8\\_2OeLJGcp2LAoRTzP75wj8zhMQMv7GBrlxw](https://l.messenger.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F89536575522%3Fpwd%3D-IEQ_IV8_2OeLJGcp2LAoRTzP75wj8zhMQMv7GBrlxw)

Meeting ID: 895 3657 5522  
Password: 462849

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

**REP. WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA**  
Chairperson

**REP. RAMON "Mon-Mon" V. GUICO III**  
Chairperson  
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle

21, January 2021

**ATTY. WILFREDO G. MONCANO**

Acting Director

Mines and Geosciences Bureau, DENR

Dear Director Moncano:

The *Committee on Agriculture and Food, jointly with the Special Committee on North Luzon Growth Quadrangle*, will convene to continue its deliberation on the following measures:

1. **House Resolution No. 1345** entitled: *A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE UNTIMELY AND IRRESPONSIBLE OPENING OF FLOOD GATES OF DAMS AND WATERSHEDS IN LUZON DURING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON ULYSSES*, introduced by Rep. Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy;
2. **House Resolution No. 1348** entitled: *A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ON THE SEVERE AND UNPRECEDENTED FLOODING IN THE PROVINCES OF CAGAYAN AND ISABELA DURING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON ULYSSES*, introduced by Reps. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Joseph Stephen "Caraps" Paduano; and
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In this regard, we would like to request your attendance via zoom virtual meeting *on 28 January 2021 (Thursday), at 9:00am*. We would also like to inform you that during the Nov 24, 2020 hearing, members of the Committees strongly recommended your presence in the next hearing. We would appreciate it if you can also submit your recommendations to prevent similar disasters from happening again.

Below is the Zoom log-in details:

[https://l.messenger.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F89536575522%3Fpwd%3D-IEQ\\_IV8\\_2OeLJGcp2LAoRTzP75wj8zhMQMv7GBrlxw](https://l.messenger.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F89536575522%3Fpwd%3D-IEQ_IV8_2OeLJGcp2LAoRTzP75wj8zhMQMv7GBrlxw)

Meeting ID: 895 3657 5522

Password: 462849

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**REP. WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA**  
Chairperson



**REP. RAMON "Mon-Mon" V. GUICO III**  
Chairperson

21 January 2021

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANTONIO M. DAÑO**  
River Basin Control Office, DENR

Dear Director Daño:

The *Committee on Agriculture and Food, jointly with the Special Committee on North Luzon Growth Quadrangle*, will convene to continue its deliberation on the following measures:

1. **House Resolution No. 1345** entitled: *A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE UNTIMELY AND IRRESPONSIBLE OPENING OF FLOOD GATES OF DAMS AND WATERSHEDS IN LUZON DURING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON ULYSSES*, introduced by Rep. Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy;
2. **House Resolution No. 1348** entitled: *A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ON THE SEVERE AND UNPRECEDENTED FLOODING IN THE PROVINCES OF CAGAYAN AND ISABELA DURING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON ULYSSES*, introduced by Reps. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Joseph Stephen "Caraps" Paduano; and
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In this regard, we would like to request your attendance via zoom virtual meeting *on 28 January 2021 (Thursday), at 9:00am*. We would also like to inform you that during the Nov 24, 2020 hearing, Members of the Committees strongly recommended your presence in the next hearing to answer their queries in relation to the management of the river basins in the country.

Below is the Zoom log-in details:

<https://l.messenger.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F89536575522%3Fpwd%3D-IEQ-IV8-2OeLJGcp2LAoRTzP75wj8zhMQMv7GBrIwx>

Meeting ID: 895 3657 5522  
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Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**REP. WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA**  
Chairperson

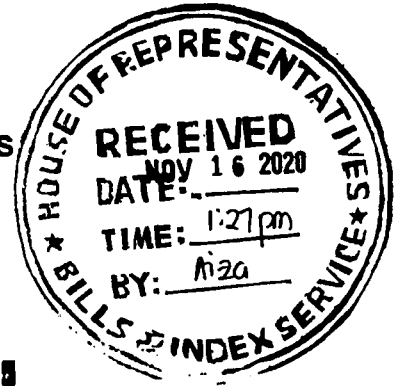


**REP. RAMON "Mon-Mon" V. GUICO III**  
Chairperson  
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1348



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Introduced by Rep. Bernadette Herrera

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1 **A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF**  
2 **REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,**  
3 **ON THE UNTIMELY AND IRRESPONSIBLE OPENING OF FLOODGATES OF DAMS**  
4 **AND WATERSHEDS IN LUZON DURING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON**  
5 **ULYSSES**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, on November 11, 2020, the Philippines was battered by Typhoon Ulysses,  
8 the 21<sup>st</sup> typhoon to hit the country this year. The storm first made a landfall in  
9 Patnanungan, Quezon about 10:30 p.m. local time. Instead of weakening on its first  
10 landfall, Ulysses grew stronger with a sustained wind of 150 kilometers per hour closer to  
11 the center with gustiness reaching as high as 205 kilometers per hour. It moved north-  
12 westward towards Metro Manila with a sluggish speed of 15 kilometers per hour.

13 **WHEREAS**, Typhoon Ulysses left Metro Manila with 40,000 houses submerged in  
14 floodwater in the City of Marikina alone. Similar situations were also reported in the  
15 provinces of Bulacan, Rizal, and Cavite. Cagayan was submerged in water in what local  
16 authorities described as the "worst" flooding in the region since the 1980s. Out of 28 towns  
17 and the City of Cagayan, 24 were flooded.

1 **WHEREAS**, Typhoon Ulyses brought rainfall ranging from 271 millimeters to 356  
2 millimeters of rainfall, far below that brought by Typhoon Ondoy in 2009 of 455 millimeters  
3 of rainfall.

4 **WHEREAS**, inasmuch as the Typhoon brought significant rainfall, much of the flooding  
5 was further aggravated by the opening of six dams during the onslaught of Typhoons  
6 Ulysses. These are the Angat, Ipo, La Mesa, Ambulao, Binga, San Roque, and Magat  
7 dams. The opening of these dams intensified flashfloods in the provinces of Bulacan,  
8 Pangasinan, CAMANAVA, Benguet, Isabela, and the National Capital Region.

9 **WHEREAS**, the official death toll of typhoon Ulysses climbed to 67 as of November 15,  
10 2020, with dozens more injured or missing. To date, damages are estimated at PhP 1.19  
11 billion worth of agricultural and PhP 469.7 worth of infrastructure.

12 **WHEREAS**, numerous reports showed that these dams released water not in a gradual  
13 manner, but rather a hasty and rushed manner. For Magat dam alone, on November 12,  
14 2020, the dam opened seven gates, discharging 6,244 cubic meters of water per second.  
15 In a statement, Infracatch PH indicated that two to three days prior to the arrival of  
16 Typhoon Ulyses, "Magat did not make sufficient water drawdown", in violation of the  
17 Magat Dam protocol.

18 **WHEREAS**, this irresponsible release of millions of cubic meters of water resulted in  
19 further aggravating the flash floods, leading to loss of life and millions in property damage;

20 **WHEREAS**, it is apparent that these dam and catchbasin operators function  
21 independently and without coordination with the National Disaster Risk Reduction  
22 Management Council (NDRRMC);

23 **WHEREAS**, the management of these dams and catchbasins must be called to account  
24 for their actions to the fullest extent of the law;

25 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to conduct an investigation to determine the accountability of  
26 dam operators in the casualties that took the lives and livelihood of many Filipinos.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, to direct the appropriate committee of the  
28 House of Representatives to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the untimely

1 and irresponsible opening of floodgates of dams and watersheds in Luzon during the  
2 onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

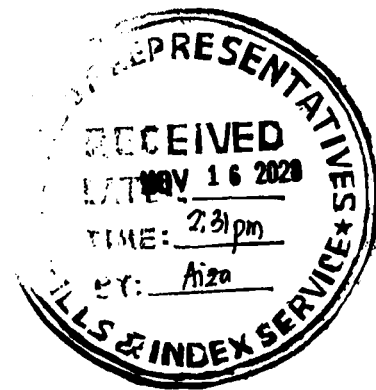
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**BERNADETTE HERRERA-DY**



Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Eighteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1348

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**Introduced by Representatives Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SEVERE AND UNPRECEDENTED FLOODING IN THE PROVINCES OF CAGAYAN AND ISABELA DURING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON ULYSSES**

**WHEREAS**, beginning on November 11, 2020, various areas of the Philippines were severely affected by Typhoon Ulysses (international name: Typhoon Vamco), the 21<sup>st</sup> typhoon to hit the country this year;

**WHEREAS**, to date, the death toll from Typhoon Ulysses has reached sixty-seven, with over twenty people missing, and the damage to agriculture and infrastructure estimated to be at least at 1 billion pesos and half a billion pesos, respectively;

**WHEREAS**, Typhoon Ulysses was predicted to make landfall in Luzon, and came in the heels of recent typhoons and heavy monsoon rains that battered the country;

**WHEREAS**, given the circumstances and the predicted Category-4 strength of Typhoon Ulysses, the forecast should have prompted concerned government agencies and local government units to take necessary preemptive action to mitigate possible adverse effects on local communities;

**WHEREAS**, as Typhoon Ulysses made the expected landfall, heavy winds and torrential rains battered parts of NCR, Bicol Region, Central Luzon, CAR, and CALABARZON, causing power failures, extreme flooding, and heavy damage to infrastructure and property, and threatened the lives and livelihood of many of our countrymen;

**WHEREAS**, the effects of the typhoon likewise caused massive destruction in Cagayan Valley, particularly in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela, as the region experienced unprecedented flooding in the wake of Typhoon Ulysses;



**WHEREAS**, the damage was reportedly due to the swelling of the Cagayan River from the amount of rainwater coming in from its eighteen tributaries, with the increase in water level further exacerbated by the outflow of water from the Magat Dam;

**WHEREAS**, it was reported that at the height of Typhoon Ulysses, seven of Magat Dam's gates were opened, and the discharge of water from the reservoir caused rapid and widespread flooding in the surrounding areas;

**WHEREAS**, days after Typhoon Ulysses had exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility, many areas of Cagayan and Isabela remained submerged, with hundreds stranded in their homes and clinging to rooftops with no access to food or water;

**WHEREAS**, as the death toll continues to rise, and the extent of damage is slowly being revealed, there is an urgent need to examine the actions that were taken during, before, and after the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses;

**WHEREAS**, given the gravity and unprecedented nature of the situation, the geographic propensity of the country to natural calamities, and the need to prevent similar situations from occurring, there is a need to conduct an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the rapid inflow of water into the reservoir, any non-compliance with laws, rules, or regulations that may have had a contributory effect to the swelling of the Cagayan River, the decision of the National Irrigation Administration to open the spillway gates of the Magat Dam, and if the latter was conducted in accordance with duly established guidelines and protocols;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct the appropriate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the severe and unprecedented flooding in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

Adopted,

  
LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

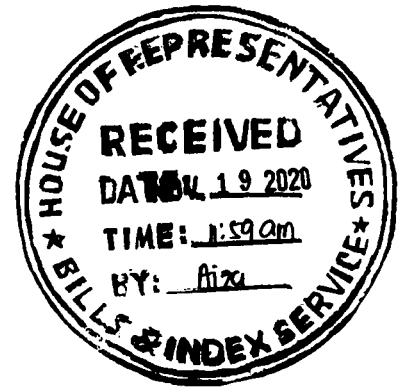
  
JOSEPH STEPHEN S. PADUANO

  
FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1369



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Introduced by **HON. JOSEPH "JOJO" L. LARA**

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE MASSIVE FLOODING IN THE PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN CAUSED BY TYPHOON ULYSSES AND WATER RELEASED FROM THE MAGAT DAM WITH THE END GOAL OF IDENTIFYING NEEDED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION PROGRAMS TO PREVENT SIMILAR DISASTER FROM HAPPENING AGAIN**

**Whereas**, on November 11, 2020, Typhoon Ulysses started battering provinces in Luzon bringing about heavy rains and powerful winds that left destruction in its path;

**Whereas**, the Province of Cagayan experienced its worst flooding in the last forty five (45) years, submerging 24 of its 29 city/municipalities;

**Whereas**, in addition to flooded tributaries brought about by the rains of Typhoon Ulysses, Magat Dam added into the fray and started releasing water;

**Whereas**, on November 12, 2020, the Magat Dam opened seven (7) spillways, releasing enough water to fill 106,223 Olympic-sized swimming pools or about 2 pools per second from 5pm until 4am the next day;

**Whereas**, the combination of heavy rains and release of water by the dam resulted into the catastrophic flooding of Cagayan destroying homes and livelihood, property, agricultural crops and cattle, infrastructure, leaving 22 dead, several missing and scores injured;

**Whereas**, days after Typhoon Ulysses left the Philippine Area of Responsibility, there are still areas under water, people have yet to come home and are in need of food, water and clothing;

**Whereas**, way back 1998 in the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee on Good Government investigated the flooding in the Province of Cagayan, and the Magat Dam Management then promised to come up with measures and policies to prevent repetition of the flooding;

**Whereas**, nothing seems to have happened regarding the promise of the Magat Dam Management because massive and destructive flooding again occurred in 2005, 2011 and in 2020;

**Whereas**, there is an urgent need to examine the events before, during and after the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses that led to the massive flooding in the region and view all contributing factors to include, protocols and advisory on Magat Dam water release, disaster preparedness capability of the national, provincial and local governments concerned, denuded watersheds, illegal logging, illegal mining and lack of appropriate infrastructure to address flooding;

**Whereas**, given that the Province of Cagayan is the catch basin for rainwater in the Cagayan Valley and Cordilleras, making it vulnerable to floods, there is a need to conduct an inquiry into the contributing factors that lead to the fast rising waters of the Cagayan River and its tributaries, whether necessary protocols were followed by the National Irrigation Administration when they opened the spillways of Magat Dam, whether the advisories issued were sufficient and easy to understand by and ordinary layman, whether the national, provincial and local government disaster capabilities in terms of manpower and equipment are sufficient and what can be done in the future in terms of infrastructure and government intervention to prevent a similar event from occurring again;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct the appropriate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the catastrophic flooding in the Province of Cagayan during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

Adopted,



**JOSEPH "JOJO" L. LARA**