



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Undersecretaries**
Finance, Information Systems, and Climate Change
Legal and Administration

The Directors
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service
Administrative Service

The Regional Executive Directors
Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII,
NCR, CAR, BARMM

All Bureau Directors

The Officer-In-Charge, Office of the Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

DATE : 13 February 2023

In reference to the invitation received by our office on 13 February 2023, the Senate Committee on Public Works would like to invite the Department to a public hearing on **February 14, 2023, Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., at the Senator Vicente Sotto Room, 2nd Floor, Senate of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Pasay City**, to discuss the following legislative measures:

1. Senate Resolution No. 67 – Resolution Urging the Department of Public Works and Highways and All Local Government Units to Conduct an Immediate Audit and Review of Existing Buildings and Structures in their Respective Jurisdictions Thereby Ensuring Full Compliance to the Standards Set by the National Building Code on Structural Safety and Integrity With the End in View to Protect the People Against Avoidable Damages to Property and Loss of Lives and Build Better Infrastructures and to Review the National Building Code for Possible Amendments to Conform with Present Circumstances (Introduced by Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.)
2. Senate Resolution No. 150 – Resolution Directing the Senate Committee on Public Works, to Conduct an Inquiry, In Aid of Legislation, On the Structural Integrity of All

Buildings, Bridges, Roads, Railways, Schools, Hospitals, Churches, and Other Infrastructures, After the 7.0 Magnitude Earthquake that Hit Northern Luzon, In Order to Institute Measures That Would Make the Infrastructures in the Country Disaster Resilient, and Ensure the Safety of the General Public in Case of Natural Man-Made Calamities (Introduced by Sen. Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa)

In this regard, would like to **request comments/recommendations on the above-mentioned Senate Resolutions**. Kindly submit it **on or before February 13, 2023, at 5 PM** via email at denrlo@denr.gov.ph. Further, your or your representative's attendance at the mentioned meeting is requested as the agenda will deliberate on resolutions that are of significance to your mandates.

ROMIROSE B. PADIN

Cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs



Republic of the Philippines
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Senate
Pasay City

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

February 8, 2023

SEC. MARIA ANTONINA Y. LOYZAGA

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

5 Visayas Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City 1128

Dear **Secretary Loyzaga**,

Greetings!

The Committee on Public Works would like to invite you or your authorized and accountable representative, who could provide the Committee with the official position of your good office, to a public hearing **on February 14, 2023, Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., at the Senator Vicente Sotto Room, 2nd Floor, Senate of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Pasay City**, to discuss the following legislative measures:

- **Senate Resolution No. 67** – Resolution Urging the Department of Public Works and Highways and All Local Government Units to Conduct an Immediate Audit and Review of Existing Buildings and Structures in their Respective Jurisdictions Thereby Ensuring Full Compliance to the Standards Set by the National Building Code on Structural Safety and Integrity With the End in View to Protect the People Against Avoidable Damages to Property and Loss of Lives and Build Better Infrastructures and to Review the National Building Code for Possible Amendments to Conform with Present Circumstances ***(Introduced by Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.)***
- **Senate Resolution No. 150** – Resolution Directing the Senate Committee on Public Works, to Conduct an Inquiry, In Aid of Legislation, On the Structural Integrity of All Buildings, Bridges, Roads, Railways, Schools, Hospitals, Churches, and Other Infrastructures, After the 7.0 Magnitude Earthquake that Hit Northern Luzon, In Order to Institute Measures That Would Make the Infrastructures in the Country Disaster Resilient, and Ensure the Safety of the General Public in Case of Natural Man-Made Calamities ***(Introduced by Sen. Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa)***

May we also request for the official position paper and comments on the aforesaid legislative agenda that your agency or organization would want to incorporate in the final form of the said bills. Please submit the same on or before the scheduled public hearing.

As part of the Senate health and safety protocols, those who will physically attend will need to present proof of a negative antigen test result (taken within 72 hours) from any Department of Health accredited facility.

The Committee Secretariat is required to submit the guest list to the Office of the Sergeant-At-Arms at least a day before the scheduled hearing. Those who are not on the list will be denied entry.

For this reason, we hope to receive the list of attendees on or before **February 13, 2023, Monday at 5:00 p.m.**

For confirmation and inquiries, your good office may contact the Secretariat through the following channels:

E-mail address: senatecommitteeonpublicworks@gmail.com

Trunk lines: 8552-6601 locals 3317, 3318 and 3321

Direct Line: 8552-6750

Kindly look for Mr. Mikee Angeles, Ms. Jona Perez, Ms. Sherry Garcia or Ms. Zal Laurente.

We look forward to your participation to the Committee hearing.

Thank you very much.

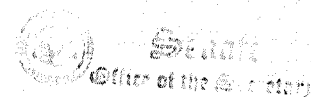
Very truly yours,

FOR THE CHAIRPERSON:
SEN. RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.



MS. MARIA GINA P. DELLOMES
Committee Secretary
Committee on Public Works

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



22 AUG 16 P 3:49

SENATE

RECEIVED BY:

P.S. RES. NO. 150

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF ALL BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, ROADS, RAILWAYS, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, CHURCHES, AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURES, AFTER THE 7.0 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE THAT HIT NORTHERN LUZON, IN ORDER TO INSTITUTE MEASURES WOULD MAKE THE INFRASTRUCTURES IN THE COUNTRY DISASTER RESILIENT, AND ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN CASE OF NATURAL AND MAN-MADE CALAMITIES

1 WHEREAS, the Philippines lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire, characterized by
2 frequent volcanic eruptions and earthquakes;

3 WHEREAS, the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that hit Northern Luzon, particularly
4 the province of Abra, last July 27, 2022, affected more than 500 thousand individuals,
5 and damaged different infrastructures, with an estimated cost of damage amounting
6 to over P1.8 billion¹;

7 WHEREAS, according to reports, the Abra earthquake "triggered landslides,
8 damaged roads and caused some structures – including century old churches and
9 buildings-- to collapse;"²

10

¹ Zacarian Sarao, "Abra earthquake damage now over P1.8B; agriculture damage over P56M," August 10, 2022, retrieved from: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1644422/abra-earthquake-damage-now-over-p1-8b-agriculture-damage-over-p56m>, retrieved on August 16, 2022.

² Xave Gregorio, "Damage to households, establishments reported after Abra quake," July 27, 2022, retrieved from: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/07/27/2198320/damage-households-establishments-reported-after-abra-quake>, retrieved on August 8, 2022

1 WHEREAS, this recent major earthquake once again resounded the call to
2 assess the structural integrity of all buildings and edifices, bridges, hospitals, schools,
3 churches, railways, and other public and private structures, all over the country, to
4 make sure that infrastructures are secured, retrofitted, and far more resilient to
5 natural as well as man-made calamities;

6 WHEREAS, a great number of towering edifices have been built over the years,
7 many of which have been constructed in a short period of time;

8 WHEREAS, it is imperative to inspect these structures and ensure that they can
9 withstand calamities, and provide sturdy protection and shelter to the people;

10 WHEREAS, it is important to undertake urgent action in assessing the structural
11 integrity of all public and private buildings and infrastructures in the midst of the
12 impending threat of the "Big One" or the worst case earthquake scenario that could
13 happen in the country anytime in the future that could possibly result to an enormous
14 loss of lives, and unimaginable destruction to properties.

15 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, To direct the Senate
16 Committee on Public Works, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the
17 structural integrity of all buildings, bridges, roads, railways, schools, hospitals,
18 churches, and other infrastructures, after the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that hit
19 Northern Luzon, in order to institute measures would make the infrastructures in the
20 country disaster resilient, and ensure the safety of the general public in case of natural
21 and man-made calamities.

Adopted,


RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

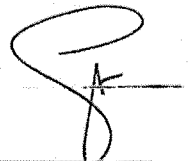
NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'22 JUL 27 P2:19

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 67

RECEIVED


Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE AUDIT AND REVIEW OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS THEREBY ENSURING FULL COMPLIANCE TO THE STANDARDS SET BY THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE ON STRUCTURAL SAFETY AND INTEGRITY WITH THE END IN VIEW TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE AGAINST AVOIDABLE DAMAGES TO PROPERTY AND LOSS OF LIVES AND BUILD BETTER INFRASTRUCTURES AND TO REVIEW THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE FOR POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO CONFORM WITH PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES

1 WHEREAS, the Philippines is located along a typhoon belt and the so-called
2 Ring of Fire, a vast Pacific Ocean region where many of Earth's earthquakes and
3 volcanic eruptions occur. According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and
4 Seismology (PHIVOLCS), around 100-150 earthquakes per year, with magnitude of
5 4.0 and above, have been felt from year 1600s to early 2000;

6 WHEREAS, these earthquakes have devastating effects that result to immense
7 loss of life and property in areas affected. In the last forty-five (45) years since the
8 National Building Code was enacted in 1977, several destructive earthquakes have

1 already occurred that resulted in massive casualties. One of the most notable is the
2 Bohol earthquake in October 2013 measuring 7.2 on the Richter Scale which shook
3 the Philippines. The earthquake affected over 1.2 million people, 222 people died.
4 Over 79,000 structures including homes, roads, churches, schools and public buildings
5 were damaged, of which 14,500 were totally destroyed. Another one is the Laoag
6 earthquake in August 1983, a 5.3 magnitude earthquake that resulted to sixteen (16)
7 people dead and massive damage to structures. The Baguio Earthquake in July 1990,
8 a 7.7-magnitude earthquake that struck the island of Luzon with Baguio City suffering
9 the most devastating effects. Reports indicated that the shaking went on for nearly a
10 full minute. Collapsing buildings were the main cause of damage and deaths, with
11 more than 1,000 fatalities;

12 WHEREAS, on July 27 2022, a 7.3-magnitude earthquake has hit different parts
13 of Luzon, and damaged various infrastructures. According to the Philippine Institute
14 of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), its epicenter was recorded two kilometers
15 north of Lagangilang, Abra at 8:43 a.m.;

16 WHEREAS, Phivolcs classified the incident as a "major earthquake", with a
17 warning that it may cause multiple aftershocks which could last for months;

18 WHEREAS, there have been various reports documenting the damage to
19 buildings and structures in the affected areas. Especially affected are vital structures
20 like bridges, roads and government offices which not only affected government
21 operations but the day-to-day life of the inhabitants in the affected areas. There have
22 been several reports of the provinces in the north in danger of being cut-off because
23 of the heavy damage to roads;

1 WHEREAS, particularly concerning as well is the state of hospitals and schools
2 especially because history would reveal that they are vulnerable to acts of nature.
3 Now that the education sector is gearing up for a school year of face-to-face learning,
4 it is vital for the government to ensure the integrity of the school buildings and
5 structures. The aforementioned Bohol earthquake disrupted hospitals also with
6 healthcare workers and patients alike scrambling to seek refuge when buildings
7 started shaking. It is thus necessary to ascertain the status of our hospital buildings
8 and their capacity to withstand similar occurrences;

9 WHEREAS, the National Building Code is the government's policy which sets
10 the technical standards in constructing and renovating buildings and structures in the
11 Philippines. The Code was enacted forty-five (45) years ago in 1977 by President
12 Ferdinand Marcos, Sr.;

13 WHEREAS, the Code's principal policy is, as stated in its Section 1.01.02, is "to
14 safeguard life, health, property, and public welfare, consistent with the principles of
15 environmental management and control; and to this end, make it the purpose of this
16 Code to provide for all buildings and structured, a framework of minimum standards
17 and requirements by guiding, regulating, and controlling their location, siting, design,
18 quality of materials, construction, use, occupancy, and maintenance, including their
19 environment, utilities, fixtures, equipment, and mechanical electrical, and other
20 systems and installations";

21 WHEREAS, the National Building Code primarily seeks to prevent loss of life and
22 damage to property;

1 WHEREAS, it is imperative to revisit and review existing laws in order to
2 determine whether there is room for improvement, with the welfare of the people as
3 the primordial consideration;

4 WHEREAS, the lives, safety and livelihood of the people which are at risk when
5 acts of nature strike must be upheld and protected in the crafting of meaningful
6 legislation;

7 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to urge the
8 Department of Public Works and Highways and all Local Government Units to conduct
9 an immediate audit and review of existing buildings and structures in their respective
10 jurisdictions thereby ensuring full compliance to the standards set by the National
11 Building Code on structural safety and integrity with the end in view to protect the
12 people against avoidable damages to property and loss of lives and build better
13 infrastructures and to review the National Building Code for possible amendments to
14 conform with present circumstances.

Adopted.


RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.