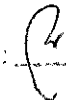


DEPT. OF JUSTICE
AUG 11 PG 31

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 91

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEES ON CLIMATE CHANGE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL DEFENSE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON METRO MANILA'S EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS PLANS CITING A REPORT STATING THAT THE COUNTRY'S EXISTING DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ARE INSUFFICIENT, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF RESOLVING THE CONCERNS RAISED IN THE SAID REPORT

Whereas, Haiti was struck with a magnitude 7.0 earthquake in January this year causing major damage to infrastructure, left thousands dead, 300,000 injured and as many as one million people homeless;

Whereas, six months after the disaster (July), as much as 98% of the rubble from the quake remains uncleared. An estimated 26 million cubic yards (20 million cubic meters) remain, making most of the capital impassable.¹

Whereas, thousands of bodies remain in the rubble and the number of people in relief camps of tents and tarps since the quake remains at 1.6 million, and almost no transitional housing has been built. Most of the camps have no electricity, running water, or sewage disposal, and the tents are beginning to fall apart. Crime in the camps is widespread, especially against women and girls.²

Whereas, The Philippines lies within the Pacific ring of fire and therefore, is much prone to earthquake than Haiti;

Whereas, according to Pacific Strategies and Assessments (PSA), a leading business risk consultancy firm, Metro Manila, with its population of 11 million which rises to 14 million during work hours, will likely be thrown into a state of chaos following a major earthquake event;

Whereas, the PSA Metro Manila Earthquake Vulnerability Assessment builds on the 2004 Metro Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study (MMEIRS) funded by the Japanese government which revealed that a 7.2 magnitude earthquake would destroy 38 percent of homes, one-third of public buildings and cause over 50,000 deaths;

Whereas, the MMEIRS showed that because Metro Manila is surrounded by numerous earthquake generators and that the active phases of the West Valley Fault (formerly called Marikina fault) phase are quickly approaching, the country's existing disaster management systems are insufficient and an earthquake could cause a national crisis;

¹ Katz, Jonathan (12 July 2010) "Fights over land stall Haiti quake recovery" Burlington, Vermont: Burlington Free Press pp 4A

² http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/national_world&id=7549631

Whereas, more specifically, the study said that a 7.2 magnitude earthquake originating from the West Valley Fault would result in 34,000 people killed instantly; 110,000 injured; 13 percent o 170,000 residential building heavily damaged.or collapsed rendering 1.2 million people homeless; around 25 percent of critical public facilities like hospitals and schools moderately damaged and 500 fire breakouts;

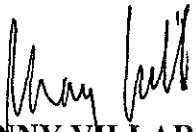
Whereas, the PSA warned that in the aftermath of a major earthquake event, Metro Manila would more closely resemble Port-au-Prince in Haiti than the cities recently affected by the earthquakes in Central Chile and China;

Whereas, PSA further cautioned that it would take several months, if not years, to rehabilitate the metropolis, even citing current estimates that it will take up to 20 years for Port-au-Prince to return to its pre-earthquake socio-economic levels;

Whereas, Metro Manila must be fully prepared in the event of a big quake to avert a disaster like that experienced by Haiti: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committees on Climate Change, Local Government and National Defense to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on Metro Manila's earthquake preparedness plans citing a report stating that the country's existing disaster management systems are insufficient, with the objective of resolving the concerns raised in the said report.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator