Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 972

Introduced by Representative FLORIDA “RIDA” P. ROBES

A RESOLUTION
CALLING ON THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DAMAGES FOUND IN BUSTOS DAM IN MALOLOS, BULACAN BARELY TWO YEARS AFTER IT WAS REPAIRED TO PROTECT THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF THE THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS DOWN ITS PATH IN THE LOW-LYING AREAS OF BULACAN

WHEREAS, in 1926, the Bustos Dam in Brgy. Tibagan, Bustos, Bulacan was built as a regulatory dam beneath the Angat Dam. It takes in water from Angat to irrigate around 32,000 hectares of farm land in 17 towns in Bulacan and 4 in Pampanga;

WHEREAS, also called the Angat Afterbay Regulator Dam, Bustos Dam, is the longest rubber dam in Asia at 79 meters and the second largest in the world, servicing more than 20,000 farmers in two provinces;

WHEREAS, Bustos Dam underwent a P1 billion repair and rehabilitation program which started during the time of the Aquino administration in 2016 until 2018 which included among others the replacement of all of this six (6) rubber gates and improvement of apron, training walls and gates, repair and improvement of Main and Lateral Canals and its appurtenant structures, and improvement of its operation and maintenance and support services;
WHEREAS, just in May of this year or barely two years after the end of its rehabilitation, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) reported that one of its flood gates, Gate No. 5, had been found to be not functioning as it was deflated and had leaks;

WHEREAS, the damage in Gate No. 5 endangers the low-lying areas in Bulacan as it can trigger massive flooding and will cause a major catastrophe in Bulacan and nearby areas which are already reeling from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, Bustos Dam has an elevation capacity of 17.50 meters. When Gate No. 5 was damaged, its elevation rose to 14.8 meters. If such continues and with the onset of the rainy season, NIA may not be able to regulate the dam and 3,000 cubic meters of water may come cascading to the towns of Bustos, Bocaue, Bulakan, Calumpit, Hagonoy, Malolos and Pandi, all in Bulacan, endangering the lives of the people in its path;

WHEREAS, there is a compelling need to investigate the damages reported in Bustos Dam in order to protect the lives and property of the thousands of residents in the low-lying areas down the path of the Dam and determine liability in the defects observed considering the amount of taxpayers’ money involved and the short time that elapsed since repairs were made and completed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, TO CALL ON THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DAMAGES FOUND IN BUSTOS DAM IN MALOLOS, BULACAN BARELY TWO YEARS AFTER IT WAS REPAIRED TO AVERT MASSIVE FLOODING AND PROTECT THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF THE THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS DOWN ITS PATH IN THE LOW-LYING AREAS OF BULACAN.

Adopted.

Rep. FLORIDA “RIDA” P. ROBES