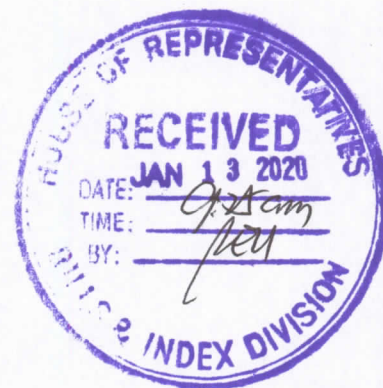


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 643**



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Introduced by Representative Hon. Elpidio F. Barzaga, Jr.

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**RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE  
TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION  
INTO THE RECENT TAAL VOLCANO ERUPTION**

**WHEREAS**, Filipinos were taken by surprise by the recent Taal Volcano eruption wherein the losses in terms of life and property are still unaccounted for.

**WHEREAS**, it cannot be overemphasized that the Philippine Institute of Volcanology (PHILVOLCS) has the duty to assess and timely communicate information about volcanic hazards and make real time warnings of volcanic activity in order to prevent loss of life and property.

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to have a proactive and not a defensive response from the PHILVOLCS, concerned government agencies and local governments with regard to their actions or inactions to the recent Taal Volcano eruption.

**WHEREAS**, although we recognize the challenges of the PHILVOLCS, there should still be an investigation if it has conducted comprehensive monitoring, its use and availability of monitoring equipment and if it has the technical expertise to make a timely forecast of the Taal Volcano eruption.

**WHEREAS**, although PHILVOLCS has stated that it raised a warning of Level 1 since March of 2019, there is clearly a lack of dissemination of information in the hazards of volcanic activity of Taal Volcano to the general public and more particularly to its nearby cities and municipalities of Cavite, Laguna and Batangas.

**WHEREAS**, as early as 11:00 am of 12 January 2020, when the Taal Volcano is already manifesting an increase in volcanic activity there are no news bulletins or SMS alerts from the PHILVOLCS and other concerned government agencies. To be sure, due to lack of information, in the afternoon of the same day, while Taal Volcano is already manifesting increased volcanic activity, people still

travelled towards it, while those who were already near Taal Volcano were shocked to see the smoke spewing from it and had to immediately flee under the dangers of ashfall.

**WHEREAS**, there should also be an investigation on the permanent settlement in Taal Volcano Island when it has already been categorized as a permanent danger zone posing a danger to themselves and the rescue workers who also had to risk their own lives to move them.

**WHEREAS**, appropriate charges need to be filed to those unscrupulous persons who sold face masks and other food and supplies at an unreasonable cost during these times of disaster.

**WHEREAS**, there is also an imperative need to determine the necessary improvements in the responses of the different government agencies such as the PHILVOLCS, Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the NDRRMC (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council) and local governments to reduce the the risks of these natural disasters in order to prevent loss of life and property.

**WHEREAS**, more importantly, in this time of adversity, we should not forget to commend the countless brave and honorable people who are helping those that were adversely affected by the Taal Volcano eruption.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives directing the appropriate committee to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the recent Taal Volcano eruption, and a review of relevant existing laws.

**Done this 13th of January, 2020, Quezon City.**



**HON. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.**  
Representative  
Lone District of the City of Dasmaringas, Cavite