

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Metro Manila  
Seventeenth Congress  
Third Regular Session

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Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-third day of July, two thousand eighteen.

RESOLUTION NO. 144

RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NDRRMC) AND ITS AGENCY-MEMBERS TO FORMULATE AND SUBMIT TO CONGRESS THEIR SPECIFIC AND GENERAL PLANS OF ACTION BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE EVENTUALITY OF THE "BIG ONE" OR A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE IN METRO MANILA

WHEREAS, recent strong earthquakes here and abroad serve as a reminder to our government of our country's susceptibility to similar earth movements, making it therefore mandatory for citizens to be made fully aware and prepared for potential risks that will be brought by this type of disaster;

WHEREAS, Metro Manila, unfortunately, sits atop active earthquake fault systems that renders it highly vulnerable to the negative impact of intense ground shaking during and in the aftermath of strong earthquakes;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) conducted a study funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 2004 which identified that the West Valley Fault traversing Metro Manila is ripe for a strong movement of seven point two (7.2) magnitude, known in the media as the “Big One”;

WHEREAS, PHIVOLCS Director Renato U. Solidum, Jr. explained that this fault generates a major earthquake roughly every four hundred (400) years, the last being in 1658 or three hundred sixty (360) years ago; the “Big One” may occur in Metro Manila before or after this period;

WHEREAS, in view of this report, House Resolutions Numbered 451, 788, and 818 were filed and referred to the Committee on Metro Manila Development, which deliberated on the same on 08 May 2017;

WHEREAS, the Committee found that families in Metro Manila are not sufficiently aware and prepared for a strong earthquake or its impact to their lives and properties, indicating the deficiencies in the adequacy of disaster preparedness programs and activities of the concerned agencies under the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), namely: Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of National Defense (DND), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Energy (DOE), Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), among others;

WHEREAS, in the face of an estimated thirty-three thousand (33,000) deaths and one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) injuries that may be sustained given the effects of an earthquake of this magnitude, and the possible destruction of forty percent (40%) of residential buildings and thirty-five percent (35%) of public buildings as reflected in the JICA study, residents of Metro Manila must acquire all the necessary skills and know-how to prepare themselves and their families to mitigate this level and extent of damage and casualty;

WHEREAS, a study by the Australian Government in 2014 estimates that this damage to property and infrastructure after an earthquake of this magnitude may cost P2.4 trillion;

WHEREAS, in line with this, it is necessary that the MMDA and its co-agencies craft a masterplan that will render Metro Manila communities and residents truly prepared and ready for the so-called "Big One" and conduct a massive public information campaign to educate the residents, business and government sectors on how they must prepare for such a phenomenon and its after effects;

WHEREAS, it is also necessary that the DPWH conduct an engineering audit of the structural integrity and reliability of buildings in Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, the DND, through its Office of Civil Defense (OCD), must establish a roadmap for a safe and resilient Metro Manila, to include specific, accurate, and up-to-date information on existing vulnerabilities and risk reduction and management measures;

WHEREAS, the NDRRMC, local government units, private sector, and other stakeholders must initiate and hold an inter-agency conference to formulate a unified and well-coordinated action plan to mitigate the impact of this disaster: Now, therefore, be it


*Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, To urge the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and its agency-members to formulate and submit to Congress their detailed action plans and programs to mitigate and manage the impact of a massive earthquake such as the potential "Big One".*

Adopted,



GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO  
*Speaker*

This Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on September 11, 2018.



DANTE ROBERTO P. MALING  
*Acting Secretary General*

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