



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE
P.S.R. No. 343

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE COLLECTION, DISSEMINATION, AND USE OF SCIENTIFIC DATA OF THE PHIVOLCS TO GUIDE MITIGATION, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE TO THE HAZARDS AND IMPACTS OF EARTHQUAKES

WHEREAS, Section 10 Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that Science and Technology are essential for national development and progress, and the State shall support their application to the country's productive systems and national life;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) is a service institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) that is principally mandated to mitigate disasters that may arise from volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunami and other related geotectonic phenomena;

WHEREAS, PHIVOLCS operates and maintains a network of 93 seismic stations spread across the Philippines. Data from the seismic stations are used to determine the location of earthquakes, as well as the characteristics of earthquake generated;

WHEREAS, aside from monitoring occurrences of earthquakes, PHIVOLCS also conducts hazards analyses and assessment, and makes this information accessible to the public;

WHEREAS, 11 earthquakes of at least 5.0 magnitude have been experienced across the country in just the month of April;¹

WHEREAS, following recent earthquakes, PHIVOLCS installed earthquake monitoring equipment in the towns of Wao, Lanao del Norte, in April² and San Jose, Dinagat Island, in February³ to enhance observation capabilities on earth movement;

WHEREAS, in recent years, new fault lines have been discovered in the province of Bohol,⁴ and in between the provinces of North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.⁵ In October 15, 2013, Bohol experienced a 7.2-magnitude earthquake;

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that PHIVOLCS is sufficiently funded to adopt and immediately deploy needed instruments and equipment for effective data collection and research;

WHEREAS, PHIVOLCS warned of the high probability of movement in the West Valley Fault, supposedly capable of producing a 7.2-magnitude earthquake;

WHEREAS, false and misleading information have been circulated online, purportedly predicting the exact date and location of the "Big One," the anticipated earthquake that may be triggered by movements in the West Valley Fault. Other articles and posts circulated online tell of signs of impending disasters related to the stranding of animals in local shorelines. There have also been articles circulated that present contradictory safety tips in case of earthquakes and disasters;

WHEREAS, PHIVOLCS has sought to ensure that proper information and immediate clarifications on false and misleading information are effectively disseminated to the citizenry;

WHEREAS, there is a need to build the capacity of government agencies, local government units, and communities in the use of and proper dissemination of information to mitigate, respond, and recover from the damaging effects of earthquakes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Senate Committee on Science and Technology to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the collection, dissemination, and use of scientific data of the PHIVOLCS to guide mitigation, preparedness, and response to the hazards and impacts of earthquakes.

Adopted,



¹ Latest Earthquake Information. (n.d.). Retrieved April 17, 2017, from http://www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph/html/update_SOEPD/EQLatest.html

² ABS-CBN News. (2017, April 15). After temblor, Lanao del Sur town gets quake monitoring device. Retrieved April 17, 2017, from <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/15/17/after-temblor-lanao-del-sur-town-gets-quake-monitoring-device>

³ Crismundo, M. U. (2017, February 25). Earthquake monitoring device installed in Dinagat Island. Retrieved April 17, 2017, from <http://news.mb.com.ph/2017/02/25/earthquake-monitoring-device-installed-in-dinagat-island/>

⁴ Dacanay, B. (2014, September 22). Scientists find new fault-line in southern Philippines. Retrieved April 17, 2017, from <http://gulfnnews.com/news/asia/philippines/scientists-find-new-fault-line-in-southern-philippines-1.1388508>

⁵ GMA. (2013, October 16). Phivolcs: New fault line may have been source of Bohol earthquake. Retrieved April 17, 2017, from <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/331158/scitech/science/phivolcs-new-fault-line-may-have-been-source-of-bohol-earthquake>