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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 67

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE AUDIT AND REVIEW OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS THEREBY ENSURING FULL COMPLIANCE TO THE STANDARDS SET BY THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE ON STRUCTURAL SAFETY AND INTEGRITY WITH THE END IN VIEW TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE AGAINST AVOIDABLE DAMAGES TO PROPERTY AND LOSS OF LIVES AND BUILD BETTER INFRASTRUCTURES AND TO REVIEW THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE FOR POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO CONFORM WITH PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES

1 WHEREAS, the Philippines is located along a typhoon belt and the so-called
2 Ring of Fire, a vast Pacific Ocean region where many of Earth's earthquakes and
3 volcanic eruptions occur. According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and
4 Seismology (PHIVOLCS), around 100-150 earthquakes per year, with magnitude of
5 4.0 and above, have been felt from year 1600s to early 2000;

6 WHEREAS, these earthquakes have devastating effects that result to immense
7 loss of life and property in areas affected. In the last forty-five (45) years since the
8 National Building Code was enacted in 1977, several destructive earthquakes have

1 already occurred that resulted in massive casualties. One of the most notable is the
2 Bohol earthquake in October 2013 measuring 7.2 on the Richter Scale which shook
3 the Philippines. The earthquake affected over 1.2 million people, 222 people died.
4 Over 79,000 structures including homes, roads, churches, schools and public buildings
5 were damaged, of which 14,500 were totally destroyed. Another one is the Laoag
6 earthquake in August 1983, a 5.3 magnitude earthquake that resulted to sixteen (16)
7 people dead and massive damage to structures. The Baguio Earthquake in July 1990,
8 a 7.7-magnitude earthquake that struck the island of Luzon with Baguio City suffering
9 the most devastating effects. Reports indicated that the shaking went on for nearly a
10 full minute. Collapsing buildings were the main cause of damage and deaths, with
11 more than 1,000 fatalities;

12 WHEREAS, on July 27 2022, a 7.3-magnitude earthquake has hit different parts
13 of Luzon, and damaged various infrastructures. According to the Philippine Institute
14 of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), its epicenter was recorded two kilometers
15 north of Lagangilang, Abra at 8:43 a.m.;

16 WHEREAS, Phivolcs classified the incident as a "major earthquake", with a
17 warning that it may cause multiple aftershocks which could last for months;

18 WHEREAS, there have been various reports documenting the damage to
19 buildings and structures in the affected areas. Especially affected are vital structures
20 like bridges, roads and government offices which not only affected government
21 operations but the day-to-day life of the inhabitants in the affected areas. There have
22 been several reports of the provinces in the north in danger of being cut-off because
23 of the heavy damage to roads;

1 WHEREAS, particularly concerning as well is the state of hospitals and schools
2 especially because history would reveal that they are vulnerable to acts of nature.
3 Now that the education sector is gearing up for a school year of face-to-face learning,
4 it is vital for the government to ensure the integrity of the school buildings and
5 structures. The aforementioned Bohol earthquake disrupted hospitals also with
6 healthcare workers and patients alike scrambling to seek refuge when buildings
7 started shaking. It is thus necessary to ascertain the status of our hospital buildings
8 and their capacity to withstand similar occurrences;

9 WHEREAS, the National Building Code is the government’s policy which sets
10 the technical standards in constructing and renovating buildings and structures in the
11 Philippines. The Code was enacted forty-five (45) years ago in 1977 by President
12 Ferdinand Marcos, Sr.;

13 WHEREAS, the Code’s principal policy is, as stated in its Section 1.01.02, is “to
14 safeguard life, health, property, and public welfare, consistent with the principles of
15 environmental management and control; and to this end, make it the purpose of this
16 Code to provide for all buildings and structured, a framework of minimum standards
17 and requirements by guiding, regulating, and controlling their location, siting, design,
18 quality of materials, construction, use, occupancy, and maintenance, including their
19 environment, utilities, fixtures, equipment, and mechanical electrical, and other
20 systems and installations”;

21 WHEREAS, the National Building Code primarily seeks to prevent loss of life and
22 damage to property;

1 WHEREAS, it is imperative to revisit and review existing laws in order to
2 determine whether there is room for improvement, with the welfare of the people as
3 the primordial consideration;

4 WHEREAS, the lives, safety and livelihood of the people which are at risk when
5 acts of nature strike must be upheld and protected in the crafting of meaningful
6 legislation;

7 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to urge the
8 Department of Public Works and Highways and all Local Government Units to conduct
9 an immediate audit and review of existing buildings and structures in their respective
10 jurisdictions thereby ensuring full compliance to the standards set by the National
11 Building Code on structural safety and integrity with the end in view to protect the
12 people against avoidable damages to property and loss of lives and build better
13 infrastructures and to review the National Building Code for possible amendments to
14 conform with present circumstances.

Adopted.


RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.