

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

House Resolution No. **1586**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ERWIN T. TULFO, JOCELYN P. TULFO, RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO, EDVIC G. YAP AND ERIC GO YAP, RUWEL PETER GONZAGA

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE LANDSLIDE IN DAVAO DE ORO RESULTING MASSIVE DEATHS DESPITE THE NO BUILD ZONE IMPLEMENTED IN THE AREA, AND REVIEWING EXISTING LAWS REGULATED BY THE MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU

WHEREAS, a devastating landslide occurred in the gold mining village of Barangay Masara in the municipality of Maco, Davao de Oro, resulting in the loss of 54 lives, 63 people remaining missing, numerous injuries, and countless homes buried;¹

WHEREAS, while the landslide was caused by sustained heavy rainfall, the affected area of Masara is notably the location of and within the vicinity of large-scale mining firms and small-scale mining operations;

WHEREAS, the affected area was designated as a "no build zone" due to its susceptibility to landslides and other geological hazards, as per the regulations enforced by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB);²

WHEREAS, devastating landslides have hit the province of Davao de Oro, including the gold-rush villages of Napnapan in 2012 and 2015, and the village of Diwalwal in 2005 to 2007 and earlier this year;

WHEREAS, despite the implementation of the "no build zone" policy, numerous residential structures and establishments were erected within the prohibited area, contributing to the heightened risk and severity of the landslide incident;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to investigate the circumstances surrounding the landslide, including the factors that led to the violation of the no build zone policy and the

¹ Death toll in Davao de Oro landslide climbs to 54, Faith Argosino, 08:11PM February 11, 2024

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1902692/death-toll-in-davao-de-oro-landslide-climbs-to-56>

² Masara landslide area a no-build zone since 2008, Diana Lyhd Suelto, 12:00AM February 11, 2024

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/02/11/2332485/masara-landslide-area-no-build-zone-2008>

enforcement mechanisms employed by the relevant authorities;

WHEREAS, the tragedy underscores the need for a thorough review of existing laws, regulations, and policies governing land use, environmental protection, and disaster risk reduction, particularly those administered by the MGB;

WHEREAS, the MGB plays a crucial role in overseeing mining activities, geological hazard assessments, and land use planning to ensure the safety and welfare of communities residing in geologically sensitive areas;

WHEREAS, there is a need to transform geohazard technical data conducted by the MGB to sound policies on community relocation and livelihood promotion to ensure extensive and prolonged implementation of geohazard-related policies;

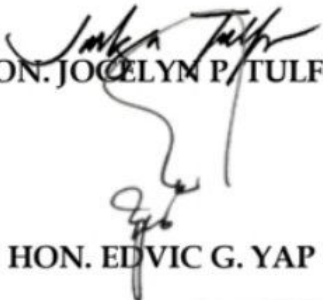
WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of existing laws and regulations enforced by the MGB is necessary to identify gaps, deficiencies, and opportunities for enhancement to prevent similar tragedies in the future;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Congress to conduct inquiries and investigations in aid of legislation to address issues of national significance, promote accountability, and enact appropriate legislative measures to safeguard the welfare and security of the Filipino people;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives directs the appropriate committee to conduct a thorough investigation in aid of legislation into the landslide incident in Davao de Oro, which resulted in 56 deaths, despite the implementation of the no build zone policy in the area.

Adopted,


HON. ERWIN T. TULFO


HON. JOCELYN P. TULFO


HON. RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO


HON. EDVIC G. YAP


HON. ERIC GO YAP


HON. RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA