



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIETH (20TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 88

Introduced by KAMANGGAGAWA Partylist
Representative **ELIJAH R. SAN FERNANDO**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PERSISTENT, WIDESPREAD, AND ESCALATING MISMANAGEMENT AND FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FLOOD CONTROL INITIATIVES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF SAFEGUARDING PUBLIC FUNDS AND LIVES

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution enshrines the State's duty under Article II, Section 16 to "*protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them,*" recognizing the duty of government to ensure the **safety** and well-being of its citizens, particularly in the face of disasters and climate-related hazards;

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 1 provides that "*Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities,*" underscoring the urgency of addressing the disproportionate impact of natural disasters and climate-related risks on poor and marginalized communities;

WHEREAS, under Article II, Section 5, the State is likewise enjoined to "*protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology*";

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court, in *Oposa vs. Factoran*, affirmed and expounded on the aforementioned right, emphasizing that although not expressly included in the Bill of

Rights, it is by no means “less important than any of the civil and political rights,” and, in fact, constitutes a “different category of rights altogether for it concerns nothing less than self-preservation and self-perpetuation”;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has been identified as the world’s most disaster-prone country, with the World Risk Index (WRI) of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) ranking it as the highest-risk country globally for natural disasters and extreme climate events from 2022 to 2024¹;

WHEREAS, approximately 60% of the country’s land area and 74% of its population are vulnerable to hazards such as storms and flooding, with recent decades witnessing a rise in extreme events such as heavy rainfall and tropical cyclones—a trend expected to continue due to climate change²;

WHEREAS, flooding in the Philippines, particularly in urban centers such as Metro Manila, is a persistent and worsening issue driven by rapid urbanization, inadequate infrastructure, and the escalating impacts of climate change, resulting in widespread displacement, disruption of education and commerce, and considerable economic losses;

WHEREAS, unabated, the country stands to lose an estimated US\$124 billion (₱6.82 trillion³) as a result of water-related disasters, where flooding alone accounts for US\$42 billion (₱2.31 trillion⁴),⁴ placing an immense burden on the national economy and public welfare;

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), as the primary engineering and infrastructure agency of the government, is responsible for “the planning, design, construction and maintenance of infrastructure facilities, especially national highways, flood control and water resource development systems, and other public works in accordance with national development objectives”⁵;

WHEREAS, the DPWH is further mandated to “ensure the safety of all infrastructure facilities and securing for all public works and highways the highest efficiency and the most appropriate quality in construction,”⁶ and has adopted a quality policy to implement the right projects at the right cost with the right quality, delivered on time by the right people,⁶ thereby setting clear standards of performance, accountability, and public service in the implementation of flood control initiatives;

¹ The World Risk Report. Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/worldriskreport/>

² GFDRR. (2011). Vulnerability, Risk Reduction, and Adaptation to Climate Change: Philippines. <https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/publication/climate-change-country-profile-2011-philippines.pdf>

³ At US\$1=₱55.

⁴ Estimate by GHD, an international services firm. Available at <https://aquanomics.ghd.com/en/index.html>

⁵ Based on Section 3 of Executive Order No. 124, s. 1987

⁶ Based on the DPWH Quality Policy. Available at <https://www.dpwh.gov.ph/dpwh/content/about-dpwh>

WHEREAS, over the past decade, the government has earmarked a cumulative ₱1.35 trillion to the DPWH's Flood Management Program, of which ₱655.74 billion was exclusively directed to Metro Manila⁷;

WHEREAS, in 2025 alone, the government allocated ₱308.32 billion to water resources development and flood control programs—an amount greater than the combined budgets of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Department of Justice (DOJ). If treated as a government department, it would have the third largest appropriation among all cabinet-level agencies, following only the DPWH and the Department of Education (DepEd)⁸;

WHEREAS, despite these substantial allocations, flooding remains a widespread, recurring, and in many areas, an increasingly severe problem across the country⁹, particularly in highly urbanized and densely populated areas such as Metro Manila¹⁰;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Audit (COA) has consistently flagged significant deficiencies in the implementation of flood control programs, including but not limited to project delays and terminations, excessive cost overruns, poor planning and design, and the absence of adequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms^{11, 12};

WHEREAS, the catastrophic consequences of ineffective flood control programs were once more laid bare during the recent July 2025 monsoon and tropical cyclones which affected over 4.67 million persons, displaced more than 309,000 individuals, resulted in 26 reported deaths, and caused widespread devastation across 1,320 flooded areas, with 2,975 homes and 310 infrastructure facilities damaged, amounting to an estimated ₱4.85 billion in infrastructure losses and ₱712.4 million in agricultural damage¹³;

WHEREAS, the President himself in his 2025 State of the Nation Address (SONA) unequivocally acknowledged the widespread failures, irregularities, and corruption in the implementation of government flood control projects, citing many such initiatives either collapsed, were substandard, or were mere “ghost projects,” and further condemned the existence of “kickbacks,” “SOPs,” and other forms of collusion among

⁷ Computation based on the DPWH budget from the 2016-2025 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

⁸ Based on the 2025 GAA.

⁹ See <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/594065/rising-waters-rising-concerns-cebu-citys-worsening-flood-crisis>

¹⁰ See <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/07/22/2459878/mmda-flood-crisis-metro-manila-partly-worsened-trash>

¹¹ See <https://www.abs-cbn.com/news/07/07/23/coa-to-dpwh-address-delays-in-p96-billion-projects>

¹² See <https://www.abs-cbn.com/news/weather-traffic/2024/12/8/lack-of-accountability-costly-mistakes-and-delays-keep-manila-prone-to-flooding-1026>

¹³ Based on a report by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). Available at https://monitoring-dashboard.ndrrmc.gov.ph/assets/uploads/situations/Sit_Rep_No__18_for_the_Combined_Effects_of_Southwest_Monsoon_and_TCcs_CRISING_DANTE_and_EMONG_2025.pdf

public officials and private contractors which resulted in the misuse of public funds, the devastation of homes, and the endangerment of lives¹⁴;

WHEREAS, the clear and consistent failure of existing flood management measures not only reflect a serious breach of both state obligations and public trust in government but also poses a continuing threat to the lives, health, livelihoods, and well-being of millions of Filipinos, particularly those in vulnerable and marginalized communities who continue to bear the brunt of these policy and governance lapses.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, that the Committee on Public Works and Highways and other appropriate House Committees shall immediately conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the systemic failures and chronic ineffectiveness of the government's flood control initiatives, with the end in view of formulating responsive, transparent, and climate-resilient policies and institutional reforms that will ensure the judicious use of public funds and effective, equitable, and sustainable management of flood risks across the country.

Adopted,



ELIJAH R. SAN FERNANDO
Representative
KAMANGGAGAWA PARTYLIST

¹⁴ View full transcript at <https://pbbm.com.ph/2025-state-of-the-nation-address/>