

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. **1159**

Submitted by the Committee on Disaster Resilience on August 6, 2024

Re: House Resolutions Numbered 1586 and 1587 and PS 292

Informing the House of its findings and recommendations.

Sponsors: Representatives Zia Alonto Adiong and Erwin T. Tulfo

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Disaster Resilience, to which were referred House Resolution No. 1586, introduced by Representatives Erwin T. Tulfo, Jocelyn P. Tulfo, Ralph Wendel P. Tulfo, Edvic G. Yap, Eric Go Yap, and Ruwel Peter Gonzaga, entitled:

“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”

House Resolution No. 1587, introduced by Representatives Arlene D. Brosas, France L. Castro, and Raoul Danniell A. Manuel, entitled:

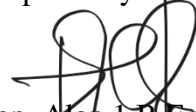
“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEVASTATING LANDSLIDE IN BRGY. MASARA, MACO, DAVAO DE ORO WHICH CLAIMED THE LIVES OF AT LEAST 54 MINERS AND RESIDENTS WHILE 63 OTHERS REMAIN MISSING DUE TO THE LARGE-SCALE MINING OPERATIONS OF APEX MINING CORPORATION”

and Privilege Speech No. 292, by Rep. Erwin T. Tulfo, entitled:

“PROBE ON THE RECENT LANDSLIDE IN MACO, DAVAO DE ORO”

has considered the same and has the honor to submit to the House the attached report on its findings and recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan I B. Ecleo', written over the printed name below.

Rep. Alan I B. Ecleo

Chairperson

Committee on Disaster Resilience

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

PREFATORY STATEMENT

“The prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people...”

“The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy.”

“The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.”

No less than the Philippine Constitution is replete with provisions stating the State’s duty to protect the life and ecology of the people.

Thus, it is logical for people to have reasonable expectations of protection from their leaders. When natural disasters and vulnerabilities threaten a community’s homeland, it is the duty of that community’s elected and appointed leaders to implement policies and rules designed to protect the people from the imminent disaster that may strike at any given moment.

When that duty is disregarded, as it is suspected in the present case, lives that ought to be protected are lost.

There were two (2) House Resolutions and one (1) Privilege Speech referred to the Committee on Disaster Resilience.

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS:

- 1. House Resolution No. 1586** – “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”, introduced by **REPRESENTATIVES ERWIN T. TULFO, JOCELYN P. TULFO, RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO, EDVIC G. YAP, ERIC GO YAP, AND RUWEL PETER GONZAGA**
- 2. House Resolution No. 1587** – “RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEVASTATING LANDSLIDE IN BRGY. MASARA, MACO, DAVAO DE ORO WHICH CLAIMED THE LIVES OF AT LEAST 54 MINERS AND RESIDENTS WHILE 63 OTHERS REMAIN MISSING DUE TO THE LARGE-SCALE MINING OPERATIONS OF APEX MINING CORPORATION”, introduced by **REPRESENTATIVES ARLENE D. BROSAS, FRANCE L. CASTRO, AND RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL**

PRIVILEGE SPEECH:

Privilege Speech No. 292 by REP. ERWIN T. TULFO (delivered on 13 FEBRUARY 2024), ENTITLED:

“PROBE ON THE RECENT LANDSLIDE IN MACO, DAVAO DE ORO”

The Committee conducted two (2) public hearings, on 12 March 2024 and 14 May 2024, with the following resource persons:

1. Mr. Luis Ramos Sarmiento - APEX Mining Co, Inc.
2. Mayor Voltaire Rimando - Municipality of Maco, Davao de Oro
3. Barangay Chairperson Douglas Dumalagan, Jr. - Brgy. Masara, Maco Municipality
4. Atty. Danilo U. Uykieng - Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB)
5. Ms. Beverly Mae M. Brebante - DENR-MGB Region XI
6. Mr. Alnulfo M. Alvarez - DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Region XI
7. Director Ednar G. Dayanghirang - Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Region XI
8. Mr. Warren Lucas - OCD Central Office
9. Usec. Diana Rose S. Cajipe - Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
10. Director Michael Christopher R. Mathay - DSWD-Disaster Response Management Bureau
11. Engr. Ronald Cariaga - Department of Public Works and Highways, Davao de Oro
12. Ms. Cristy C. Epe - Superintendent, Department of Education Region XI
13. Ms. Maria Luisa T. Tengco - National Housing Authority (NHA)
14. Atty. Roberto Mauro Miguel T. Palma Gil - Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD)
15. Director Abdullah V. Matalam - Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
16. Matikado Archel Gasal-Onlos - CALICACOM Tribe, Brgy. Masara
17. Matikado Cristante Malinab-Alfonso - CALICACOM Tribe, Brgy. Masara
18. Ms. Cecille Sumbague-Timogtimog - CALICACOM Tribe, Brgy. Masara
19. Ms. Rosecience Ann Herda - Sanitary Inspector, Brgy. Masara

FACTS

On 6 February 2024, at around 7:30 PM, torrential rains caused a landslide in Zone 1, Brgy. Masara, Municipality of Maco, Davao de Oro. The mountain of soil, rocks, and trees buried a barangay hall, three private buses, one public utility jeepney, and several residential structures. As of 21 February 2024, 93 were confirmed dead, three remained in critical condition, 32 were injured, and 63 were reported missing.

The majority of those who lost their lives were miners and residents of Brgy. Masara, an area that has been identified by the MGB as a No-Build Zone since 2008.

The following reports were submitted as reference materials in the conduct of the inquiry:

- 1) Sangguniang Bayan of Maco, Compostela Valley Province - Resolution No. 119, series of 2009: A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY FOR THE RELOCATION OF INHABITANTS OF BARANGAYS MASARA AND MAINIT TO A SAFER AREA TO BE RECOMMENDED BY THE MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU, REGION XI
- 2) Sangguniang Barangay of Masara - Resolution No. 04, series of 2011: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR-DEPED R-XI THRU THE SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT OF COMPOSTELA VALLEY PROVINCE AND THE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR-MACO SOUTH DISTRICT TO RE-OPEN MASARA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 3) MGB report entitled, “Geohazard Re-assessment of Masara Elementary School Located in Brgy. Masara, Maco, Compostela Valley Province” dated 11 June 2012
- 4) MGB Certification granting clearance for temporary re-opening of Masara Elementary School at Brgy. Masara, Municipality of Maco, Province of Compostela Valley, dated 23 March 2017
- 5) Sangguniang Bayan of Maco, Compostela Valley Province - Resolution No. 59, series of 2017: A RESOLUTION FAVORING THE REQUEST OF THE BARANGAY COUNCIL OF MASARA, MACO, COMPOSTELA VALLEY PROVINCE FOR THE TEMPORARY RE-OPENING OF MASARA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 6) MGB Geohazard Certification at the location of the proposed Masara Integrated School dated 14 August 2019

ISSUES

In the course of the Committee hearings on the subject of House Resolutions, the Committee extensively deliberated and discussed primarily on the following issues:

- a. Barangay Masara has been designated a “No-Build Zone” due to its high susceptibility to landslides and other geological hazards, as per the regulations enforced by the MGB. Yet despite the declaration of the “no-build zone”, numerous residential structures and establishments have been erected within the prohibited area, contributing to the heightened risk and severity of landslide accidents.
- b. Inconsistencies in the issuance of geohazard certificates by MGB.
- c. Emphasis on the resettlement of residents in geohazard areas through the NHA.

DISCUSSION

During the 12 March 2024 and 14 May 2024 meetings on the subject House Resolutions and Privilege Speech of Rep. Tulfo, several agencies were invited and attended said hearings. They provided statements and positions on the situation.

- MGB Central Office OIC Director Atty. Danilo U. Uykieng expressed the utmost importance of disaster resilience in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change on the environment. He explained that this is why the MGB has constantly provided information on geohazard risks in Masara as early as 2007. Further, he reassured the Committee of DENR's commitment to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to evaluate the situation, identify the root causes of landslides, and recommend actionable measures to enhance safety in the area exposed to geohazards. As a recommendatory agency, the MGB assesses and issues geohazard certificates to areas and communities concerned. However, the respective local government units (LGU) enforce these recommendations.
- Maco Mayor Voltaire Rimando maintained that they maximized the resources of Maco LGU to respond to the situation promptly and efficiently. Further, he claimed they immediately responded to the disaster and coordinated with other concerned government agencies to manage the crisis. Mayor Rimando briefly narrated the relevant events that transpired from classifying areas in Brgy. Masara, as no-build zones by the DENR-MGB to the active campaign of the barangay council to allow its constituents to return to the landslide area. He also cited legal issues such as Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as "The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997," that limit the power of Maco LGU to classify and impose the no-build zone in the landslide area.
- Usec. Diana Rose S. Cajipe of the DSWD shared the figures of affected persons and relief efforts provided to the four barangays in Region XI. As of 12 March 2024, the DSWD extended assistance to 8,343 individuals, or 2,211 families. This assistance included family food packs, sleeping kits, hygiene kits, modular tents, family tents, and cash assistance.
- Acting Division Manager & Corporate Planning Chief Maria Luisa Tengco expressed NHA's support for the House Resolution's intention to comprehensively review existing laws and regulations to identify gaps that shall prevent similar tragedies in the future. Further, she informed the Committee that the concerned NHA regional and district offices have already coordinated with Maco LGU for any assistance they can extend to affected families.
- Rep. Ernesto Dionisio urged the MGB to refrain from issuing certificates that allow the temporary use of facilities in no-build zones since it is conflicting and may give residents the wrong impression that it is safe to stay in the area. Rep. Tulfo agreed with Rep. Dionisio and reminded the concerned agencies that disasters strike without

warning. Rep. Tulfo emphasized that allowing the temporary operation of a school in a hazardous area is risky, especially for the children.

- OIC-Director Alnuflo Alvarez of DENR-EMB Region XI admitted that there are gaps in the agency's online system for applying for a Certificate of Non-Coverage (CNC).
- Rep. Rufus Rodriguez emphasized the resettlement of residents in geohazard areas through NHA as a viable approach to preventing massive disaster casualties. He reiterated the LGU's responsibility in enforcing this, especially now that tragedy befell the Municipality of Maco, Davao de Oro.
- Rep. Tulfo also called on APEX to assist in the relocation of the residents since most of them are there as company employees. He added that perhaps APEX could provide housing and livelihood opportunities as part of its corporate social responsibility.

FINDINGS

Ms. Rosecience Ann Herda, Sanitary Inspector of Brgy. Masara and a resident of the community for 37 years, recounted her experience during the days leading up to the landslide. She cited heavy rainfall and the creek that swelled in Zone 1 of the barangay as the most probable causes of the landslide. Ms. Herda explained that residents continue to return to their homes despite geohazard warnings in the area because their livelihood source is there.

The MGB had already issued a geohazard certificate declaring Brgy. Masara as a no-build zone. However, due to the barangay council's petitions, the MGB granted clearance certification for the temporary re-opening of Masara Integrated School (formerly Masara Elementary School) while awaiting a permanent relocation site.

Negligence on the part of the LGU officials, as well as their active campaign to get the residents to return to the landslide area despite the obvious safety risks, contributed to the disastrous landslide in Brgy. Masara, Maco, Davao de Oro.

APEX constructed temporary tent cities in its properties in Brgy. Malamodao and Brgy. Elizalde. Further, a joint effort by the DHSUD and NHA through the initiative of APEX is underway to provide housing assistance to the calamity victims and the indigenous people of Brgy. Masara.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Enforcement of No-Build Zone Declaration

The Committee underscored to Mayor Rimando of the Municipality of Maco, Davao de Oro, that the Local Government Code gives the LGU police powers to enforce the implementation of no-build zones, which they can employ through ordinances and impose penalties.

Strict Implementation of the Issuance of Geo-hazard Pronouncements and Certifications through the MGB

The Committee firmly reminded that the MGB shall strictly implement the issuance of geohazard pronouncements or certification and that the LGUs shall strictly follow the MGB's recommendations about geohazard mapping.

Resettlement, Long-Term Relocation, and Housing for Landslide-affected Families of Brgy. Masara, Municipality of Maco, Davao de Oro

The Committee reiterated the need to relocate the affected community in Brgy. Masara that NHA shall undertake with the assistance of APEX.

Suspension by DILG of Maco Municipal Mayor Voltaire Rimando and Barangay Masara Chairperson Douglas Dumalagan, Jr.

The Committee strongly recommends to the DILG the one-month suspension of Maco Municipal Mayor Voltaire Rimando and Barangay Masara Chairperson Douglas Dumalagan, Jr. This suspension will ensure that persons are held accountable for decisions and actions. It shall also underscore the importance of diligent oversight and proactive leadership in preventing such tragedies.

Inquiry in aid of legislation on the subject matter is therefore terminated.

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;

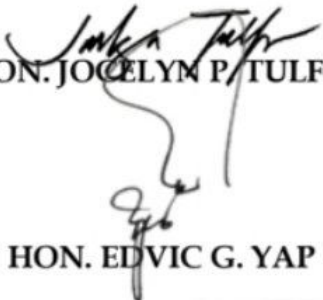
WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of existing laws and regulations enforced by the MGB is necessary to identify gaps, deficiencies, and opportunities for enhancement to prevent similar tragedies in the future;

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

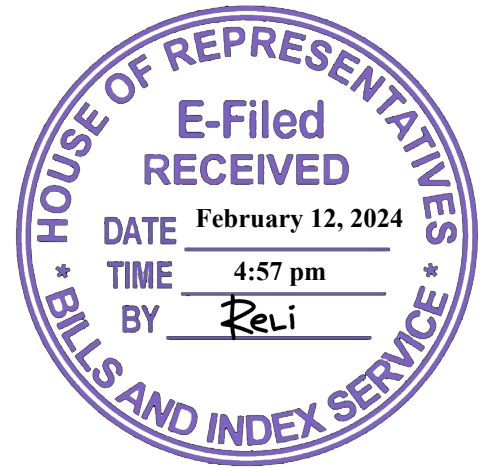

HON. EDVIC G. YAP


HON. ERIC GO YAP


HON. RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1587

Introduced by Honorable Representatives
ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party),
FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers Partylist),
and **RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL (Kabataan Partylist)**

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEVASTATING LANDSLIDE IN BRGY. MASARA, MACO, DAVAO DE ORO WHICH CLAIMED THE LIVES OF AT LEAST 54 MINERS AND RESIDENTS WHILE 63 OTHERS REMAIN MISSING DUE TO THE LARGE-SCALE MINING OPERATIONS OF APEX MINING CORPORATION

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2024, a massive landslide hit Brgy. Masara, Maco, Davao de Oro, which claimed the lives of 54 miners and residents and 63 others still missing;

WHEREAS, over 700 meters (2,300 feet) of rocks, mud, and trees cascaded down a steep mountainside close to the Apex Mining Co. concession, owned by billionaire businessman Enrique Razon Jr., engulfing an 8.9-hectare (22-acre) portion of the Masara community;

WHEREAS, the landslide buried a bus terminal for employees of Apex Mining Co. and 55 nearby houses, leaving 32 other people injured;

WHEREAS, according to disaster response officials, more than 1,100 families¹ have been moved to evacuation centers for their safety;

WHEREAS, former President Duterte signed Executive Order (EO) 130, lifting a 9-year ban on new mining agreements, resulting in an increase in mining activities, with Apex Mining Co. being one of the large-scale mining companies permitted to operate in Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the majority of the landslide casualties are workers of Apex Mining Corporation, which operates an open-pit mine extracting gold in the area;

WHEREAS, in 2022, Apex Mining's two operating mines, Maco and Sangilo, increased their milling capacity by 250 tons per day or 11 percent, and 200 tpd (up 100 percent), respectively.

¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/2/11/death-toll-rises-to-54-in-southern-philippines-landslide>

This resulted in the Maco mine's average milling capacity reaching 2,330 tpd, resulting in a total tonnage milled of 815,910 tonnes, a 15 percent increase from the previous year.

WHEREAS, the gold feed grades during the same year rose by six percent to 3.96 gpt, leading to a 23 percent increase in gold production to 91,072 ounces, while silver production rose by five percent to 377,729 ounces. This potentially corresponds to a massive expansion and intensification of mining operations by the said company at the expense of the environment;

WHEREAS, the enduring link between large-scale mining in the nation and environmental ruin and crises is a direct result of opening the mining sector to foreign exploitation for minerals export, relegating the Philippine economy to a mere supplier of raw materials;

WHEREAS, over two decades since the enactment of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, the country has been marred by numerous mining controversies, inflicting severe and irreversible damage on ecosystems, displacing communities, destroying livelihoods, encroaching upon ancestral lands, and violating human rights;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Natural Resources to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the devastating landslide in Brgy. Masara, Maco, Davao De Oro which claimed the lives of at least 54 miners and residents while 63 others remain missing due to the large-scale mining operations of Apex Mining Corporation.

Adopted,



ARLENE D. BROSAS

Gabriela Women's Party



FRANCE L. CASTRO

ACT Teachers Partylist



RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL

Kabataan Partylist

(PO – Deputy Speaker Suarez)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Suarez). ... presidents and 10 staff from the Municipal Federation of San Marcelino, malugod po namin kayong tinatanggap sa Mababang Kapulungan. *(Applause)* Siguradong-sigurado po akong aalagaan po kayo ng napakasipag at napakahusay po ninyong mambabatas. *(Applause)*

Majority Leader. *(Gavel)*

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Suarez). The Privilege Hour is hereby open. *(Gavel)*

Majority Leader.

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Representative Erwin Tulfo of ACT-CIS Party-List to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Suarez). The honorable Congressman from the Party-List ACT-CIS is hereby recognized for your privilege speech. You may proceed. *(Gavel)*

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. TULFO (E.)

REP. TULFO (E.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader, distinguished colleagues, good afternoon.

As of 8:00 a.m. today, 68 bodies have been retrieved so far in Maco Town, Davao de Oro due to a landslide caused by torrential rains in that area several days ago.

Many more are believed trapped or buried under the debris as rescue workers are racing against time.

Mr. Speaker, what I cannot understand at this point is that this catastrophe could have been avoided if only laws were strictly implemented by the authorities.

Ginoong Speaker, 2008 nang ideklarang “no-build zone” ang naturang lugar dahil gumuguho po ang bundok doon kung saan nang mga panahong ‘yon may 30 ang namatay.

Ang tanong, Ginoong Speaker, Majority Leader, at mga kasamahan ko sa Kongreso, bakit may mga tao pa rin doon at hinayaan lang sila na manirahan sa lugar kahit na gumuguho ang lupa dito?

Somebody has to take responsibility over this tragic incident.

How many more lives, Mr. Speaker, must perish before our local government leaders and government agencies realize that life is more valuable than income for the family or community or even the State?

Unfortunately, it seems that we are already used to investigations after every tragedy where lives were lost.

But when the smoke is clear, life moves on, and the unfortunate incident will just be recorded as another sad part in our history.

Mr. Speaker and Members of this august Body, enough is enough, senseless loss of lives because of catastrophes or disasters that could have been prevented if only authorities did their jobs.

Thus, I am filing a resolution in aid of legislation to immediately investigate the incident in Maco, Davao de Oro, why it happened, and who is to blame, and how can we avoid such tragic incident in the future which could have been prevented after all.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to everyone.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Suarez). Majority Leader.

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Congresswoman France Castro of ACT Teachers Party-List for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Suarez). Would the—Congressman France Castro, you're recognized.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Ah, maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Nagpapasalamat po tayo kay Deputy, ah, Deputy Speaker, um, Erwin Tulfo, 'no, sa pag-break ng silence kaugnay dito sa nangyari. So, be it one or 68 ay—na namatay ay talagang, ah, uncompromising, 'no. Hindi dapat nangyayari ito, Mr. Speaker, considering na nangyari na ito no'ng 2007, na nagkaroon din po ng landslide na nag-claim din po ng, ah, ilang—ilang buhay, so, dito. So, tama po s'ya na kailangan, ah, Mr. Speaker, may managot at ayon po ay, ah, dapat ay makita natin. Kasi, ah, Mr. Speaker, ah, kung talagang ito ay declared na "no-build zone," ah, kung talaga po ito ay declared na "no-build zone," ...

/jrbl