



20 JAN 20 P12 :48

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 289

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM, THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AND THE HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND TO EXTEND CALAMITY OR EMERGENCY LOANS TO AND/OR IMPOSE A ONE-YEAR MORATORIUM ON LOAN AMORTIZATIONS OF MEMBERS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE TAAL VOLCANO ERUPTION CALAMITY AREAS; THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO BE MORE LENIENT TO AFFECTED BUSINESSES ON THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES, RENEWAL OF BUSINESS PERMITS AND IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES; AND THE PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT BANKS TO DEFER LOAN PAYMENTS OF AFFECTED BORROWERS

1 **WHEREAS**, at 2:30 PM of January 12, 2020, Taal volcano started erupting
2 which prompted the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology
3 (PHIVOLCS) to raise its alert status to Level 2¹;

4 **WHEREAS**, by 7:30 PM of the same day, January 12, 2020, PHIVOLCS
5 raised the status to Alert Level 4, where a hazardous explosive eruption is
6 possible within hours to days, and strongly reiterated total evacuation of the Taal
7 Volcano Island and areas at high risk to pyroclastic density currents and volcanic
8 tsunami within a 14-kilometer radius from the Taal Main Crater²;

¹ Taal Volcano Bulletin 12 January 2020 02:30 PM,
<http://www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph/index.php/taal-volcano-bulletin-menu/9617-taal-volcano-bulletin-12-january-2020-02-30-pm>

² *Ibid.*

1 **WHEREAS**, the Philippine Seismic Network (PSN) plotted a total of six
2 hundred seventy-three (673) volcanic earthquakes since 1:00 PM of January 12,
3 2020 with intensities ranging from Intensity I to V³;

4 **WHEREAS**, as of January 17, 2020, over 70,000 residents of Cavite and
5 Batangas are taking temporary shelter in 300 evacuation centers since Taal
6 Volcano's stream-driven eruption. Nearby provinces, including Metro Manila,
7 were also affected by ashfall⁴;

8 **WHEREAS**, Alert Level 4 still remains in effect over Taal Volcano as of
9 January 18, 2020. Residents around Taal Volcano were advised to guard against
10 the effects of heavy and prolonged ashfall⁵;

11 **WHEREAS**, the widespread ashfall resulted to the blanketing of homes,
12 fields with still planted crops, and business establishments with a heavy layer of
13 ash, which caused the agriculture sector to suffer over Php3 billion worth of
14 damages⁶, and placed the operations of the tourism sector in affected areas to a
15 halt⁷;

16 **WHEREAS**, the Batangas Provincial Government, based on the
17 recommendation of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council
18 (PDRRMC), following the declaration of state of calamity by the municipalities of
19 Balete and Agoncillo through Resolution 004-2020 and Resolution 01-2020,
20 respectively, declared a provincial state of calamity on January 13, 2020⁸;

21 **WHEREAS**, the Cavite Provincial Government also declared a state of
22 calamity for the province on January 15, 2020⁹;

³ Eruption Update for Taal Volcano Alert Level 4 (Hazardous Eruption Imminent): 18 January 2020 06:00 PM, <http://www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph/index.php/taal-volcano-bulletin-menu/9664-eruption-update-for-taal-volcano-alert-level-4-hazardous-eruption-imminent-18-january-2020-06-00-pm>

⁴ CNN Philippines, "Phivolcs: Hazardous eruption will 'definitely' kill anyone in Taal danger zone," 17 January 2020, <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/1/17/taal-volcano-hazardous-eruption.html>

⁵ *Supra* Note 3.

⁶ *Supra* Note 4.

⁷ Philippine Star, "Taal eruption steals livelihoods," 19 January 2020, <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/01/19/1986070/taal-eruption-steals-livelihoods>

⁸ GMA News Online, "Batangas under state of calamity due to Taal Volcano unrest," 13 January 2020, <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/721993/batangas-under-state-of-calamity-due-to-taal-volcano-unrest/story/>

⁹ Rappler, "Cavite declares state of calamity due to Taal Volcano eruption," 15 January 2020, <https://www.rappler.com/nation/249407-cavite-declares-state-calamity-taal-volcano-eruption-january-2020>

1 **WHEREAS**, as of January 17, 2020, the Batangas Provincial Disaster Risk
2 Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) declared lockdowns of the towns
3 of Agoncillo, Alitagtag, Balete, Cuenca, Laurel, Lemery, Malvar, San Nicolas, Sta.
4 Teresita, Taal, Talisay and Mataas na Kahoy, and parts of the cities of Lipa and
5 Tanauan¹⁰;

6 **WHEREAS**, as of January 18, 2020, there are 37,186 families with
7 162,178 individual evacuees coming from various LGUs in the Province of
8 Batangas¹¹;

9 **WHEREAS**, to date, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the
10 Social Security System (SSS) and the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG
11 Fund) have not yet issued a moratorium with a term longer than 6 months on
12 the loan amortizations of their respective members and/or pensioners residing
13 in calamity areas, nor have these agencies extended calamity assistance or
14 emergency loans to affected members;

15 **WHEREAS**, as a form of financial assistance and to ease the burden of
16 those hit by natural calamities, the grant by the GSIS, the SSS and the Pag-IBIG
17 Fund of emergency or calamity loans and/or a moratorium with a term longer
18 than 6 months on loan amortizations of their respective members and/or
19 pensioners residing in calamity areas as well as the deferment of loan payments
20 and debt restructuring by private and governments banks to borrowers, either as
21 individuals or business entities, in affected areas will greatly alleviate the
22 suffering brought about by the Taal volcano eruption and will help them out
23 during their times of need;

24 **WHEREAS**, the suspension of the imposition of penalties by local
25 government units to calamity-affected business establishments which are unable
26 to pay their real property taxes, as well as those unable to renew their respective
27 business permits, will likewise help our affected citizens to recover and rebuild,
28 and will facilitate and reinvigorate the economy of the affected areas, especially
29 the city of Tagaytay and the municipality of Taal which are tourist destinations;

30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,**
31 to urge the GSIS, the SSS and the Pag-IBIG Fund to extend calamity or

¹⁰ Sun Star, "14 Batangas towns on lockdown after Taal eruption," 17 January 2020,
<https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1840326>

¹¹ Tempo, "Number of Taal evacuees swells," 18 January 2020,
<http://tempo.com.ph/2020/01/18/number-of-taal-evacuees-swells/>

1 emergency loans to and/or impose a one-year moratorium on loan
2 amortizations of members who are residents of the Taal volcano eruption
3 calamity areas; the local government units to be more lenient to affected
4 businesses on the payment of real property taxes, renewal of business permits
5 and imposition of penalties; and the private and government banks to defer
6 loan payments of affected borrowers.

7
8

Adopted,



WIN GATCHALIAN