

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Metro Manila  
Seventeenth Congress  
Second Regular Session

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Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fourth day of July, two thousand seventeen.

RESOLUTION NO. 117

RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO CONDUCT THE MANDATORY REVIEW OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING CURRICULUM TO INTEGRATE THERETO RELEVANT ACADEMIC SUBJECTS ON EARTHQUAKE DESIGN SAFETY, SPECIALLY NEW ENGINEERING AND STRUCTURAL STANDARDS THAT WILL ENSURE THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF PHILIPPINE BUILDINGS AND CIVIL WORKS, AND THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION TO INCLUDE EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING DESIGN AS A TOPIC IN THE CIVIL ENGINEERING LICENSURE EXAMINATION

WHEREAS, the Committee on Higher and Technical Education (CHTE) conducted an inquiry, pursuant to House Resolution No. 1217, into the appropriateness and

relevance of the civil engineering curriculum in offering a long-term response to the threats of earthquakes and seismic magnitudes greater than intensity 7, to henceforth ensure the increased integrity and safety standards of buildings and civil works structures in the country, and thereby avert massive loss of human lives and unquantifiable damage to infrastructure and property;

WHEREAS, the spate of recent strong earthquakes that hit many parts of the world in series, which include Haiti, New Zealand, Japan, and areas within the Pacific Ring of Fire, all the more raised the fear of a looming earthquake far beyond the intensity 7 magnitude that threatens to strike the country, being located within the seismic-prone Pacific Ring of Fire Region;

WHEREAS, the devastating effects and consequences to human lives and property of these recent strong earthquakes that plummeted vulnerable countries across the globe should now set out the urgent call to action for the Philippines, which is also reeling from its own share of earthquakes and natural calamities, to learn from these experiences and immediately employ appropriate structural engineering designs to buttress its buildings and civil works suitable for seismic-prone areas;

WHEREAS, relevant engineering interventions should now be put in place to ensure the structural integrity of existing structures to enable them to withstand strong earthquakes with magnitudes greater than 7 on the Richter Scale, in view of a probable 7.7 to 9 projected earthquake intensity that is projected to occur any day now, and considering that the current factor of safety for building designs is pegged to withstand a 7.2 magnitude only, it being the design standard currently observed in the country;

WHEREAS, upgraded safety standards are utilized in current infrastructure engineering design to ensure the structural soundness of buildings in the event of strong earthquakes beyond the current safety factor design standard;

WHEREAS, emphasis and comprehensive efforts by all stakeholders to institute new methods of construction and to

come up with new building regulations to ensure that, henceforth, building designs can withstand strong earthquakes with magnitudes greater than the intensity 7 magnitude on the Richter Scale;

WHEREAS, strict compliance with and integration of the National Structural Code of the Philippines 2010 (NSCP), and the National Building Code of the Philippines (NBCP) in the civil engineering curriculum should be enforced;

WHEREAS, preferential importance should be given to the integration of earthquake engineering design in the civil engineering curriculum as a major course and not merely as an elective;


WHEREAS, the aptitude of civil engineering graduates in earthquake engineering design must be duly measured through the licensure examination conducted for civil engineering professionals by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) to ensure that the quality of Filipino civil engineers and the integrity of the buildings and structures they design and build are beyond reproach: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives, To urge the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to conduct the mandatory review of the civil engineering curriculum to integrate thereto relevant academic subjects on earthquake design safety, specially new engineering and structural standards that will ensure the structural integrity of Philippine buildings and civil works, and the PRC to include Earthquake Engineering Design as a topic in the Civil Engineering Licensure Examination.*

*Resolved, further, That the CHED-PRC joint curriculum review determine, as applicable and necessary, whether: (a) current infrastructure design standards need to be upgraded; (b) existing structures need to be reinforced to ensure their structural soundness; (c) there is strict compliance with the NBCP; (d) new methods of construction should be instituted; and (e) new building regulations should be integrated in the civil engineering curriculum to ensure that, henceforth, the country's infrastructure, including buildings and civil works, can withstand strong earthquakes with magnitudes greater than intensity 7.*

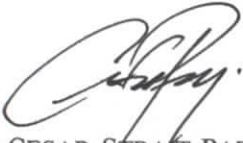
*Resolved, finally,* That copies of this Resolution, together with the report of the Committees's findings and recommendations, be transmitted to the CHED and the PRC for their respective cognizance of their course of action.

Adopted,



PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ  
*Speaker*

This Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on March 14, 2018.



CESAR STRAIT PAREJA  
*Secretary General*

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