Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

RESOLUTION NO. 1663

Introduced by REP. JOSE FRANCISCO "KIKO" B. BENITEZ, Ph.D.

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF HOUSING AND RESETTLEMENT OF FAMILIES DISPLACED BY THE ARMED CONFLICT IN MARAWI CITY IN 2017

WHEREAS, on 23 May 2017, the terrorist Maute Group and Abu Sayyaf Group besieged Marawi City, beginning a five-month combat with the armed forces of our Republic;

WHEREAS, by the time Marawi City was liberated on 17 October 2017, a total of 77,170 families have been displaced;

WHEREAS, Administrative Order No. 3, as amended by Administrative Order No. 9, created Task Force Bangon Marawi, to "facilitate and oversee the construction of temporary and/or permanent shelters for displaced persons;"

WHEREAS, Task Force Bangon Marawi was also tasked to develop a Bangon Marawi Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Program (BMCRRP), based on the post-conflict needs of the City and other affected local government units;

WHEREAS, the BMCRRP highlights the need to assist displaced families from the Most Affected Area (MAA, or Ground Zero) of the conflict, as well as affected families in the adjacent Municipality of Butig, through provision of transitional shelters and permanent housing, cash assistance to families with totally damaged houses to finance self-initiated housing construction, provision of housing materials to families with partially damaged houses, among other modalities;

WHEREAS, the BMCRRP indicates the total investment requirement for housing and (re)settlement at 10.23 billion pesos;

WHEREAS, the BMCRRP recognizes the need to ensure the provision of basic utilities (such as water and electricity), livelihood assistance, and other infrastructure such as health centers, schools, and places of worship.

1 According to the DSWD DROMIC Report #94 dated 22 October 2017, as cited in the Bangon Marawi Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Program. However, the number varies in other sources. The Marawi City Master Development Plan puts the number at 78,466 families, citing the Office of Civil Defense. Meanwhile, in a letter to the Committee on Housing and Urban Development dated 10 July 2020, Task Force Bangon Marawi reports that there were 49,785 families displaced by the conflict.

2 The MAA consists of 24 barangays.
WHEREAS, the BMCRRP also concedes that issues on land titling in Marawi City are a major challenge for government authorities in the acquisition and construction of transitional and permanent shelters;

WHEREAS, according to a survey by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 94 percent of displaced residents of Marawi City want to return to the city;

WHEREAS, while the clearing of unexploded ordnances and debris has been completed, the return of residents to the Most Affected Area for self-initiated housing repair or construction is prevented by lack of basic infrastructure and utilities to support normalization of life in the MAA;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement states that national authorities “have the primary duty and responsibility to establish conditions, as well as provide the means, which allow internally displaced persons to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence”;

WHEREAS, construction of temporary and permanent shelters is ongoing, but the number of units completed or under construction may not fully address the housing need;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to fast-track the construction of temporary and permanent shelters, and basic infrastructure and utilities therein and in the MAA, to uplift the living conditions of families affected by the conflict;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of housing and resettlement of families displaced by the armed conflict in Marawi City in 2017.

Adopted,

JOSE FRANCISCO “KIKO” B. BENITEZ

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3 Cited in the Marawi City Master Development Plan