

QC solon calls for flood summit

THE chairman of the House committee on Metro Manila development has called for a flood summit to address the perennial flooding problem in the country.

"Flash floods have once again affected the people of Metro Manila and several areas in Luzon, and this perennial problem underlines the urgent need to call for a flood summit," said Quezon City Rep. Winnie Castelo, who chairs the panel, after visiting various

areas in Quezon City affected by the onslaught of tropical depression "Domeng."

"The regular flooding is not only an inconvenience to Filipinos but is also a major economic burden which the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) said in a study costs the economy P2.4 billion per day of submerged streets," said Castelo.

His proposed summit will bring together members of the Cabinet, local government officials, urban devel-

opment experts, and economists to draft a comprehensive plan to solve the problem which afflicts Filipinos whenever strong rains occur.

Castelo said, "the summit will seek to synchronize flood-control programs of national agencies and local government units."

He said key agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will have a pivotal role in

the summit to draft a master plan as torrential rains and bigger floods are expected to hit the country due to the effects of climate change. He added that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Education (DepEd), as well as the National Housing Authority (NHA), shall also be included in the summit.

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