

Atayde to MMDA: Fast track flood control measures

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QUEZON CITY First District Rep. Juan Carlos “Arjo” Atayde asked the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Tuesday to continue its constructive efforts to prevent another flooding in Metro Manila.

Atayde, on the other hand, expressed thanks to the MMDA for its upgrading and installing more pumping stations throughout Metro Manila, notably in the Tatalon area of Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

“Let’s not wait for another Ondoy flooding tragedy to happen again in Metro Manila,” Atayde said. “That area is very vulnerable to flooding, and in some cases, it only takes a few hours of intense rains to make it impassable to vehicles,” he explained, referring to the Tatalon area in Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

He also stated that the MMDA “should continue working on identifying additional flooded areas so they can put in place flood mitigation measures before the rainy season begins and typhoons bring forth extreme rainfall.”

In his privilege speech at Congress in November, Atayde requested the government to appoint a “flooding czar” and expedite flood control projects to prevent paralyzing floods in the National Capital Region, particularly in Quezon City.

Atayde stated that he was compelled to give a privileged speech on floods in response to concerns expressed by people and village authorities in many regions, as well as in other parts of his district. He also recommended that the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) allocate P40 million for a study to ascertain the viability of constructing retarding ponds in shopping centers, basketball courts, playgrounds, parks and other open spaces, as well as box culverts beneath Metro Manila roads; relocating informal settlers where retarding ponds will be constructed; building high rise walls and pumping stations at the San Juan River; and evaluating the master plan for flood control in Metro Manila and surrounding areas.

Meanwhile, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) on Tuesday said that the number of residents affected by the shear line weather phenomenon that caused the floodings in Bicol, the Visayas and Mindanao is reaching 600,000.

According to the latest situation report from the NDRRMC, there are 597,858 people or 150,480 families coming from 1,018 Villages in Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan), the Bicol Region, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao Region, Soccsksargen (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos), Caraga, and Bangsamoro Region that were affected by the floodings from the rains brought by the shear line.

The report said the majority of the affected came from Caraga, with 234,108 individuals or 59,739 families affected.

Meanwhile, the NDRRMC said that the reported deaths remained at 51, the missing at 19, and the injured at 16.

The NDRRMC also said that the estimated cost of damage to agriculture is now at P243,029,507. For infrastructure, it is at P1,137,605,000.