Atayde vows action on flood control

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QUEZON City 1st District Rep. Juan Carlos Atayde said that his appointment as Assistant Majority Leader at the House of Representatives will enable him to champion President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s priority initiatives, including holding those behind failed flood control projects accountable.

"This position gives me the opportunity to help advance key measures aligned with the President's agenda, especially on issues that directly impact our constituents in Quezon City — like flooding in Metro Manila," Atayde said in a statement on Wednesday.

He emphasized that a holistic approach to flood management in the National Capital Region (NCR) is long overdue.

"I repeat, flooding is not a QC District 1 problem. It is not just a Quezon City problem. It is a Metro Manila problem. And we cannot solve it piecemeal," Atayde said.

Atayde previously filed House Resolution 81, which mandates the Department of Public Works and Highways, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and Metro Manila local government units to formulate and implement a comprehensive region-wide flood management master plan.

He noted that Metro Manila contributes over 30 percent of the country's gross domestic product, highlighting that the economic costs of recurring floods extend beyond the capital.

Atayde expressed his support for congressional oversight and accountability in the implementation of flood control programs, aiming to ensure public funds are spent properly.

"The President has made it clear: we must hold those in charge of flood projects accountable. We owe that to our people. We can't just keep pouring money into the same projects and expect different results," Atayde said.

He added that he looks forward to consulting with the House Committees on Metro Manila Development, Public Works and Highways, and Climate Change on the issue.

"Let us stop treating floods like weather problems. These are also governance problems. And that means the solutions lie with us," Atayde said.