ATAYDE BATS FOR EXTENSIVE METRO MANILA FLOOD PLAN

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QUEZON City 1st District Rep. Juan Carlos "Arjo" Atayde has pushed for a comprehensive flood management strategy in Metro Manila following days of heavy rainfall that left many communities flooded.

"The flooding we've seen in recent days makes one thing very clear: this is not just a QC District 1 problem, this is not just a Quezon City problem — it's a Metro Manila problem," Atayde said in a statement Tuesday.

He said that solving the longrunning flood problem will require close coordination among national agencies and local governments in the region, as well as a substantial investment that considers the long-term benefits instead of the short-term costs.

He urged local government units to work together to find a solution as their streets, canals, and estuaries are interconnected.

Quezon City, according to Atayde, shares its borders with Manila, Caloocan, San Juan,
Marikina, Pasig, and even the municipalities of Rodriguez and San Mateo in Rizal.

"My grandparents faced this problem. Now we're facing this problem. I don't want my grandchildren to live through this problem as well. That's why we need to take bold, unified action now," the lawmaker said.

He emphasized the cost of inaction given the national capital's critical role in the Philippine economy, noting that the National
Capital Region (NCR) accounts for more than 30 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

"When Metro Manila is flooded, the whole country suffers. Productivity drops, businesses lose income, and workers can't get to their jobs. When the capital is paralyzed, the entire nation feels it," he said.

He called on government agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways, Metropolitan Manila Development
Authority, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government to work closely with NCR local government units to align and fast-track flood control efforts.

Atayde said that climate change and continuing urbanization have made flooding a more urgent and complex problem that cannot be addressed with short-term or localized projects alone, stressing the need for a flood master plan for the whole of Metro Manila.

"That means more investment in infrastructure, stricter enforcement of environmental laws, and a unified approach to land use and drainage systems," the secondterm lawmaker said.

He vowed to continue pushing for better flood mitigation measures in Congress, saying that he is open to working with fellow Metro Manila legislators to secure funding for a more ambitious, regionwide approach.