

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2135



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**Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This instant proposed measure seeks to institutionalize the "Shake Drill" that makes the people prepared for strong earthquakes. The concept is to closely simulate the occurrence of a big earthquake and get everyone mentally alert and instinctively aware of what he should do during an actual seismic episode.

"The tremendous reach the exercise generated, the observance of command protocols, and the creative earthquake scenarios performed are hopefully translated into actions that would pave the way for a more prepared and resilient society in facing an earthquake of this magnitude," a former MMDA chair was quoted as saying.

Phivolcs released the Valley Fault System Atlas containing detailed maps of the areas near the earthquake faults – the East Valley Fault, which runs through Rizal and the West Valley Fault from Bulacan to Rizal, Metro Manila, Cavite and Laguna. The agency said a strong movement, or the equivalent of a magnitude 7.2 quake, from the fault was possible and could kill more than 30,000 people and destroy 170,000 houses based on its studies.

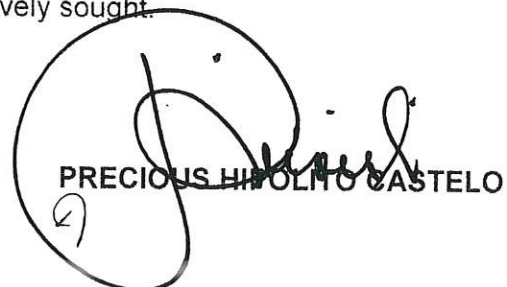
The atlas also showed that 72 barangays in the cities of Pasig, Quezon, Marikina, Makati, Taguig and Muntinlupa are sitting on the fault line.

Joshua Emerson, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader who took part in a "Shake Drill" was quoted as saying, "It helps us to be ready for a real earthquake, so we're ready and alert. We always duck, cover and hold."

"Awareness is very important for students, teachers and the community. Students should be aware of what to do in case of disasters," Ma. Pilar Capalongan, a school principal, said.

Regular earthquake drills that instill readiness and awareness among the people form part of life-saving routines that are worth the effort, time and attention.

Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is imperatively sought.

  
**PRECIOUS HIPOOLITO CASTELO**

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING EARTHQUAKE DRILLS IN ALL WORKPLACES AND SCHOOLS**  
**THEREBY MAKING THEM AN ANNUAL OBSERVATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Earthquake Preparedness Act."

SEC. 2. There is hereby established an annual observation of Earthquake Drills in all workplaces and schools nationwide in order to minimize risk to life and limb and property when an actual earthquake strikes.

SEC. 3. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) in coordination with local government units, shall issue appropriate rules, regulations, and guidelines to effectively carry out the intent of this Act.

SEC. 4 This Act shall take effect after its approval and publication in the Official Gazette.

*Approved,*