SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE

S. B. No. 272

Introduced by **Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO**

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1096, THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED, BY MANDATING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONWIDE INSPECTION OF BUILDINGS AND IMPOSING STIFF PENALTIES AGAINST BUILDING OFFICIALS WHO VIOLATE THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF THE SAID CODE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In light of growing public concerns on the impact of geologic hazards to the structural integrity of infrastructures in the country - such as residential houses and buildings - a comprehensive review of the National Building Code is being mulled.

However, anecdotal evidence suggests that the cause of concern should start with the false issuance of building permits, clearances, certificates or certifications awarded to the contractor by government building officials prior to the actual construction of the structure. Consequently, this practice projects a false sense of safety to the residents and tenants of said structures.

In the interest of the public, the urgency of this bill cannot be understated, and thus deserves immediate consideration and approval.

FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Inspection and Clearance.* – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and all leagues of Local Government Units, shall within three (3) years from the *effectivity* of this Act, initiate and conduct a comprehensive inspection of all buildings nationwide, and consequently cause the issuance by the Building Officials concerned the corresponding Certificate of Inspection and Clearance stating, among others, that the building so inspected conforms with the provisions of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1096, as amended.

SEC. 2. *Reportorial Requirement.* – The result of the comprehensive inspection under Section 1 hereof shall be contained in a report to be submitted to the Office of the President and Congress within sixty (60) days from the date of completion of said inspection with recommendations on how to improve and strengthen further PD No. 1096, as amended.

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DPWH, the NDRRMC and the DILG shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Penalty.* -- Buildings Officials, as defined under PD 1096, as amended, who shall falsely issue building permits, clearances, certificates or certifications relative to their functions as such shall suffer the penalty of *reclusion perpetua*, absolute perpetual disqualification to hold office and permanent revocation of professional license.

False issuance shall mean any forms of misrepresentation, deceit, machination or fraudin the inspection of buildings and issuance of permits, clearances, certificates or certifications pursuant to PD 1096, as amended, or this Act.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* -- All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations and/or administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed, however, as repealing or amending the current standards set forth under PD No. 1096, as amended.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or at least three (3) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,