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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 277

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator WIN GATCHALIAN

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE BINALIW, CEBU CITY LANDFILL LANDSLIDE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT AND RECOMMENDING MEASURES TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR LANDFILL DISASTERS

1 **WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution declares that the State shall
2 protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in
3 accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

4 **WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 9003, otherwise known as the *Ecological Solid Waste*
5 *Management Act of 2000*, declares it a policy of the State to ensure the protection of
6 public health and the environment through the adoption of a systematic,
7 comprehensive, and ecological solid waste management program;¹

8 **WHEREAS**, on 8 January 2026, a portion of the landfill facility located in Barangay
9 Binaliw, Cebu City collapsed, resulting in multiple fatalities and injuries, and causing
10 significant loss of life and property;²

11 **WHEREAS**, in the days following the Binaliw landfill collapse, subsequent media
12 reports documented a rising death toll prompting the Cebu City Government to
13 declare a state of calamity in affected areas in order to facilitate the immediate release
14 of emergency funds, accelerate rescue and relief operations, and address the urgent

¹ Section 2 (a), R.A. 7638.

² *Search, rescue ops in Cebu City landslide: 1 dead, 30 missing*, GMA Integrated News, 08 January 2026, available at <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/972171/search-rescue-ops-ongoing-amid-landfill-landslide-in-cebu-city/story/>.

15 needs of affected families, underscoring the severity of the incident and its grave
16 human and socio-economic impact;³

17 **WHEREAS**, reports over the weekend of 18–19 January 2026 confirm that authorities
18 have concluded search and rescue operations at the Binaliw landfill site with the
19 recovery of the last missing victim, affirming that all individuals reported missing from
20 the January 8 landslide have been accounted for;⁴ however, the tragedy's toll
21 extended beyond those buried under the garbage as a volunteer responder assisting
22 in the search operations later died of septic shock related to an infected wound
23 sustained during the recovery efforts, highlighting the hazardous conditions faced by
24 responders;⁵

25 **WHEREAS**, in response to the incident, the Department of Environment and Natural
26 Resources (DENR) issued a cease-and-desist order against landfill operations at the
27 site and initiated an investigation into possible violations of environmental and safety
28 regulations;⁶

29 **WHEREAS**, media reports and public commentary have drawn parallels between the
30 Binaliw landfill tragedy and previous landfill disasters in the country, including the
31 Payatas dumpsite collapse in 2000, highlighting persistent risks associated with poorly
32 managed waste disposal facilities;⁷

33 **WHEREAS**, the circumstances surrounding the Binaliw landfill landslide raise serious
34 questions regarding landfill design standards, operational practices, compliance with
35 existing regulations, and the adequacy of government oversight mechanisms intended
36 to ensure public safety;

³ Annie Perez, *Binaliw landfill collapse death toll hits 13; area declared under state of calamity*, ABS-CBN NEWS, 13 January 2026, available at <https://www.abs-cbn.com/news/regions/2026/1/13/binaliw-landfill-landslide-death-toll-now-at-11-1035>.

⁴ *Cebu landfill landslide victims now all accounted for with last missing body found*, GMA INTEGRATED NEWS, 18 January 2026, available at <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/973233/cebu-landfill-landslide-victims-now-all-accounted-for-with-last-missing-body-found/story/>.

⁵ Lyle Andales, Pia Piquero, *Binaliw landfill collapse: Volunteer responder dies of septic shock*, CEBU DAILY NEWS, 19 January 2025 available at <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/690045/binaliw-landfill-collapse-volunteer-responder-dies-of-septic-shock>.

⁶ Department of Environment and Natural Resources, *DENR Central Visayas Official Statement on the Binaliw Landfill Incident 12 January 2026*, available at <https://denr.gov.ph/news-events/denr-central-visayas-official-statement-on-the-binaliw-landfill-incident-12-january-2026/>; Marita Moaje, *DENR shuts down Binaliw landfill after landslide, vows impartial probe*, PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY, 12 January 2026, available at <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1266722>.

⁷ Tita Valderama, *Living and Dying on The Edge of The Dump: Landfill deaths in the Philippines' Cebu City spur calls for reforms*, ASIA SENTINEL, 20 January 2026, available at <https://open.substack.com/pub/asiacentinel/p/living-dying-edge-garbage-dump-philippines>; Earl Kim H. Padronia, *Local probe into 'trash slide' pushed*, SUNSTAR, 19 January 2026, available at <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/cebu/local-probe-into-trash-slide-pushed>.

37 **WHEREAS**, unless thoroughly examined and addressed, similar conditions may exist
38 in other landfill and waste disposal facilities nationwide, exposing communities and
39 workers to comparable risks of catastrophic failure;

40 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the
41 appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the
42 Binaliw, Cebu landfill landslide, with the end in view of:

- 43 1. Determining the **causes and contributing factors** that led to the landfill
44 collapse;
- 45 2. Assessing **compliance with environmental, engineering, and safety**
46 **standards** governing landfill operations;
- 47 3. Evaluating the **roles and actions of concerned national and local**
48 **government agencies** in regulating, inspecting, and monitoring the landfill
49 prior to the incident; and
- 50 4. Recommending **legislative and policy measures** to strengthen landfill safety
51 standards, regulatory oversight, and preventive mechanisms to avoid the
52 recurrence of similar disasters.

53 Adopted,



WIN GATCHALIAN