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Earthquakes and
Megacities Initiative

Challenges in Formulating and Enforcing Seismic Safety Regulations at the Local Level in the Philippines

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An international, not-for-profit, scientific organization dedicated to megacities disaster risk reduction.
A Member of the U.N. Global Platform for Disaster Reduction

Relevance of Policies, Legal, and Institutional Arrangements on Seismic Safety

- Important elements to reduce vulnerability to seismic hazards
- Essential for greater capacities in managing risks and in achieving widespread consensus across all sectors of society (World Conference on Disaster Reduction 2005)
- Serve as solid foundation for society's earthquake risk mitigation and response

Seismic Safety Regulations in the Philippines

Main Seismic Safety Regulations	Responsible Agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Code and Structural Code • Subdivision Regulations • Socialized Housing • EGGA (Engineering, geological and geo-hazard assessment system as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) System Local Ordinances 	<p style="text-align: center;">DPWH/ASEP/LGUs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HLURB/LGUs HLURB/LGUs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DENR/LGUs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LGUs</p>

LGUs: local government units



Why Seismic Safety Regulations

Rapid urbanization and poverty led to development in unsafe places posing danger to inhabitants

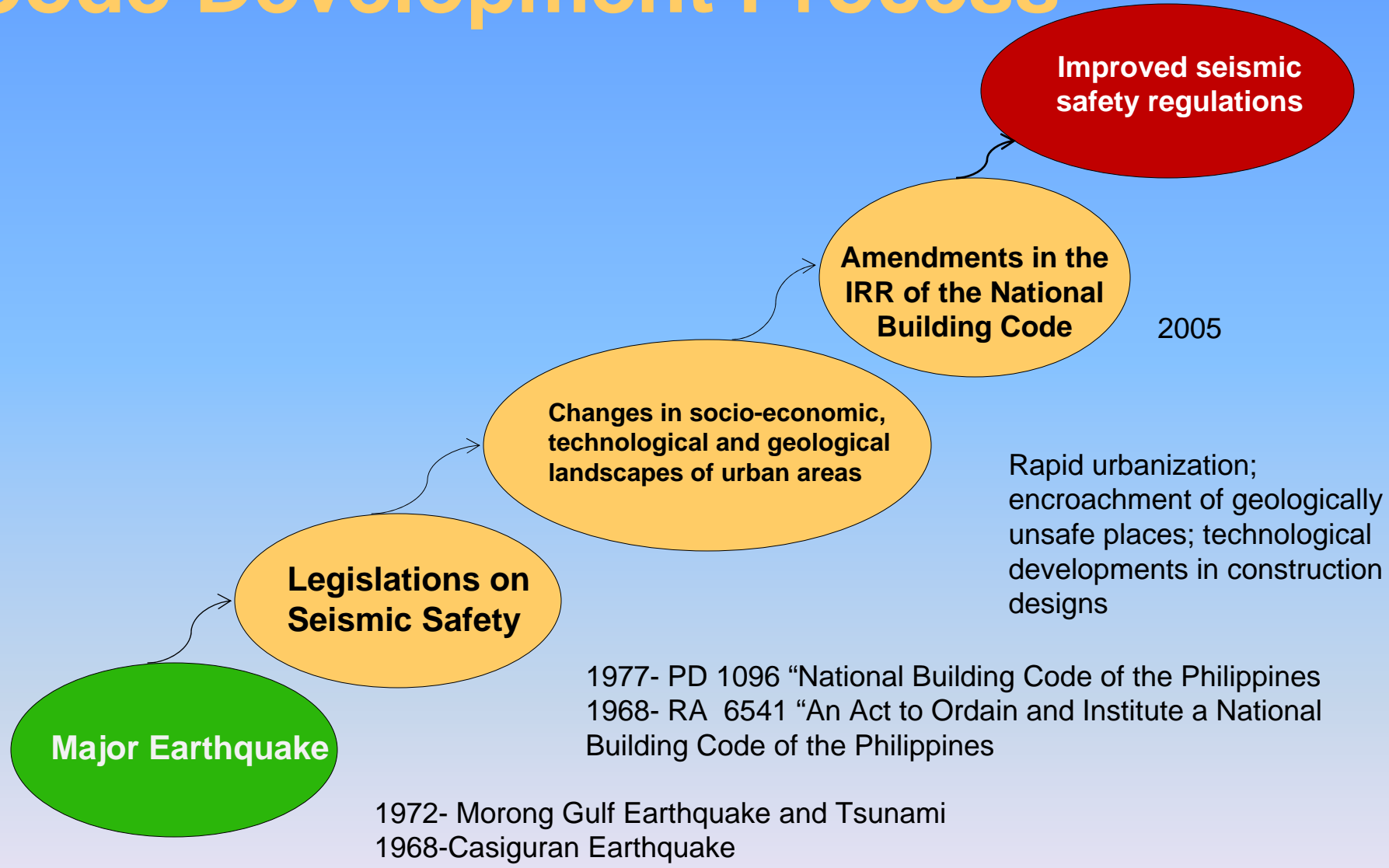


University of Baguio (July 16, 1990)

Objectives of seismic safety regulations

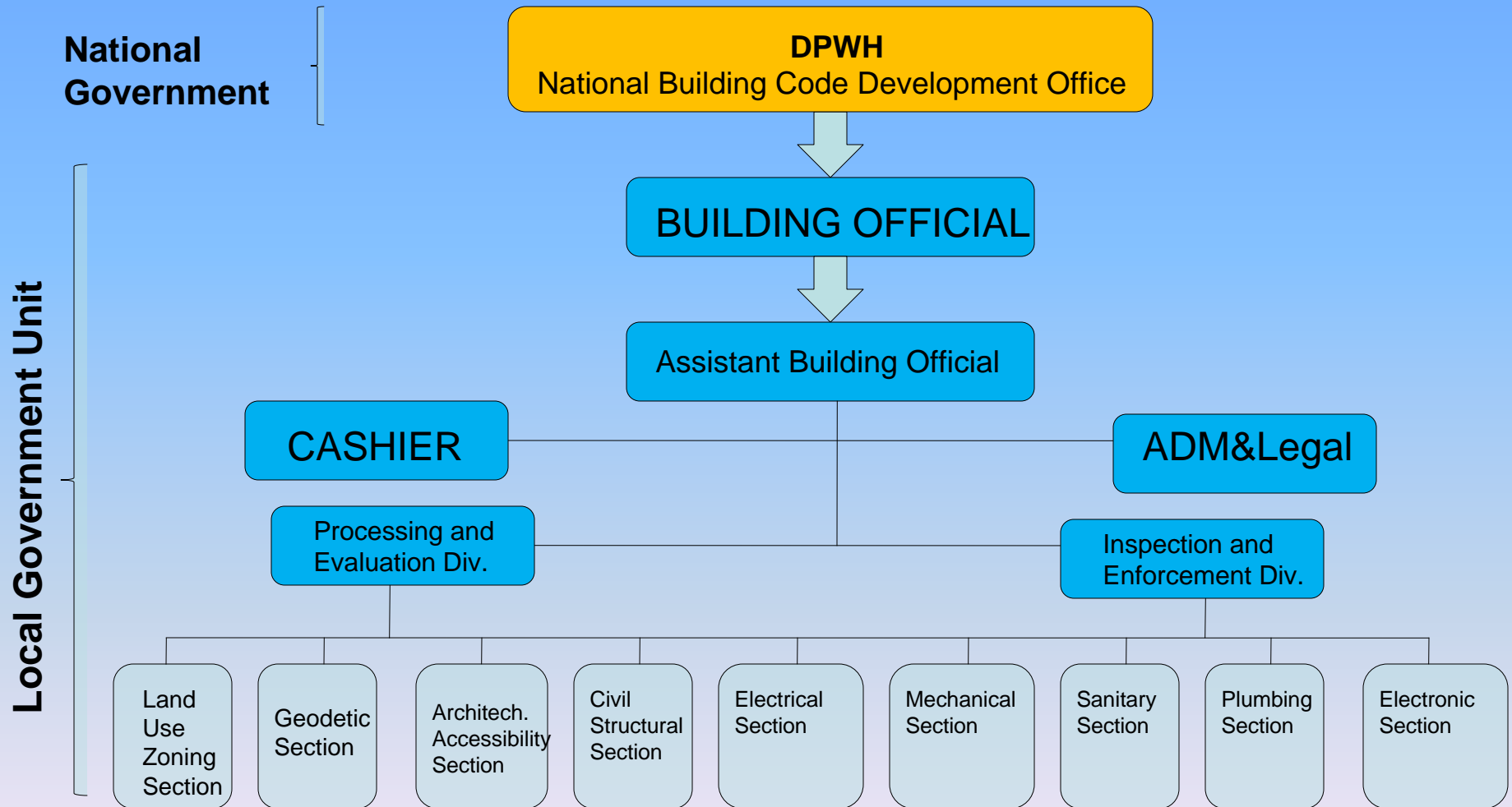
- Save lives and properties of local communities
- Protect critical facilities and vital lifelines
- Support national development goals

Code Development Process



Implementation

Institutional Structures and Mechanisms



Challenges and Recommendations

Challenge	Recommendation
Weak zoning, subdivision, and building control monitoring system	Adequate manpower; partnership with professional organizations and volunteer groups; provide up-to-date seismic risk information; conduct advocacy campaigns
Inadequate competent manpower	Enhance capacities of building officials and staff through trainings, seminars; peer-to-peer sharing; academe to strengthen curriculum on structural engineering
Insufficient financial support	Tapping the private sector; review of Salary Standardization Law

Challenges and Recommendations

Challenge	Recommendation
Weak political will and maintaining a high level of professional ethics	Streamlining of procedures; observing transparency in transactions
Lack of information dissemination of seismic safety regulations among building officials and their staff	Provide seminars and trainings
Lack of comprehensive data banking for buildings and other structures	Provide adequate manpower and financial resources; information technology facilities
Unclear administrative arrangements and varying legal interpretation of the law	More definitive ruling on the power to create Building Office and appoint Building Officials
Difficulty in coordination due to multifarious agencies involved in seismic safety regulations	Better coordinating mechanisms such as a Philippine Seismic Safety Council

Sound Practices at the Local Level

Makati City



- Strict compliance to provisions on seismic safety (soil test; seismic analysis)
- Incorporated Engineering, Geological, and Geohazard Report (EGGAR) in zoning ordinance
- Buildings more than 15 years old to submit structural load test
- Makati Risk Sensitive Urban Redevelopment Planning Project

CONCLUSIONS

Challenges abound but not unfathomable. There is no problem that cannot be solved. Collaboration, partnership, and building synergy among various sectors the national government. local authorities, professional associations, the academe, private sector and NGOs is essential in building safer cities.

But strong institutional , policy and legal arrangements must be put in place to support risk reduction efforts.

Thank you very much!
Maraming salamat!
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