



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. (632) 929-66-26/28; 929-6635/929-3618/929-4028
IP Phone Trunkline No. 988-3367
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph/> E-mail: web@denrgov.ph



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Undersecretary**
Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change

The Directors
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

The Bureau Directors
Environmental Management Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

The Executive Director
National Water Resources Board

The Chairperson
DENR National Gender and Development Focal Point System

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FOR THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER RESILIENCE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 14 September 2022

In reference to the Memorandum from the Undersecretary and Chief of Staff received by our Office on 13 September 2022, the Committee on Disaster Resilience of the House of Representatives will be holding a regular meeting on Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 1:00 PM at the Conference Rooms 1 and 2, Ramon V. Mitra Building, House of Representatives. The meeting will deliberate on disaster resilience bills as provided in the attached invitation.

In this regard, may we **request your comments and recommendations** on the bills for the preparation of the briefer for the Honorable Secretary **on or before September 14, 2022, 5PM.**

Attached herewith are the memorandum from the OSEC, invitation letter, agenda, instructions, and copies of the House Bills for your reference.

For information and action, please.

ROMIROSE B. PADIN

*cc: Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs
Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs
Assistant Secretary for Administration and Legislative Affairs*



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

TO : **THE DIRECTOR**
Legislative Liaison Office

THE OIC DIRECTOR
Policy, Planning and Service

FROM : **THE UNDERSECRETARY**
Office of the Secretary

SUBJECT : **REQUEST OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER
RESILIENCE FOR COMMENTS ON HEREIN PROPOSED
MEASURES**

DATE : **SEP 13 2022**

This pertains to the letter dated 8 August 2022 of Hon. Alan B. Ecleo, Chairperson, Committee on Disaster Resilience, House of Representatives, requesting the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) comments/position paper on the following proposed Bills:

A. Establishment of Evacuation Centers

House Bill Nos. 16, 1091, 1714, 2256, 2542 entitled "An Act Establishing Evacuation Centers in Every City and Municipality, and Appropriating Funds Therefor;

B. National Disaster Resilience Act/Fund and National Flood Control

House Bill Nos. 832, 860, 863 or an Act Providing for National Disaster Resilience Fund, and Act Providing for a Comprehensive National Flood Control Act.

C. Disaster-Related Information in Accessible Language

House Bill 1090 entitled, "An Act Requiring Disaster-Related Information to be Stated in Accessible Language to Ensure Public Understanding Thereof"

D. Relief and Financial Assistance to Individuals, Families, and business Establishments Affected by the 7.3 Magnitude earthquake in North Luzon

House Resolution No. 94, entitled "Resolution Urging the National Government to Provide Relief and Financial Assistance to Individuals, Families, and Business Establishments that have been Severely Affected by the 7.3 Magnitude Earthquake in North Luzon"

We are referring the matter to your office for your information and appropriate action. Please inform the party/ies concerned of any action taken on this matter.


MARILOU G. ERNI

Cc:

Undersecretary Jonas R. Leones
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

Undersecretary Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr.
Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs



Committee on Disaster Resilience

3rd Floor, RV Mitra Building, Batasang Pambansa Complex, Quezon City
Telephone: (+632) 8931-5001 local 8131/E-mail: committee.disasterresilience@house.gov.ph

08 August 2022

SECRETARY MARIA ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DENR Building, Visayas Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City, MM 1100

Dear Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga:

The Committee on Disaster Resilience is set to consider the following measures, namely:

- Establishment of Evacuation Centers
 - House Bill No. 16, entitled, “An Act Establishing Evacuation Centers in Every City and Municipality, and Appropriating Funds Therefor”, authored by Reps Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre;
 - House Bill No. 1091, entitled, “An Act Establishing a Mandatory Evacuation Center in All Cities, Provinces, and Municipalities Appropriating Funds Therefor”, authored by Reps. Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Jr., Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony G. Horibata, and Nicolas Enciso VIII;
 - House Bill No. 1714, entitled, “An Act Establishing a Mandatory Evacuation Center in All Cities, Provinces and Municipalities, Appropriating Funds Therefor”, authored by Rep. Anthony Rolando T. Golez, Jr.;
 - House Bill No. 2256, entitled, “An Act Establishing a Mandatory Evacuation Center in Every Province, City, and Municipality in the Country and Appropriating Funds Therefor”, authored by Rep. Franz S. Pumaren; and
 - House Bill No. 2542, entitled, “An Act Establishing Evacuation Centers in Every City and Municipality, and Appropriating Funds Therefor”, authored by Rep. Keith Micah “Atty. Mike” D.L. Tan;
- National Disaster Resilience Act/Fund and National Flood Control
 - House Bill No. 832, entitled, “An Act Providing for a National Disaster Resilience Act, to Foster and Maintain Life-Saving Mechanisms, to Augment the Demands for Support, and for Other Purposes”, authored by Rep. Michael L. Romero, PhD.;
 - House Bill No. 860, entitled, “An Act Providing for a National Disaster Resilience Fund, to Maintain the Necessary Balance of Funding, to Meet the Requests and Demands for Support, and for Other Purposes”, authored by Rep. Michael L. Romero, PhD.; and
 - House Bill No. 863, entitled, “An Act Providing for a Comprehensive National Flood Control Act, to Promote and Extend Life-Saving Mechanisms to Augment the Demands for Support, and for Other Purposes”, authored by Rep. Michael L. Romero, PhD.;

- Disaster-Related Information in Accessible Language
 - House Bill No. 1090, entitled, "An Act Requiring Disaster-Related Information to be Stated in Accessible Language to Ensure Public Understanding Thereof", authored by Reps. Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Jr., Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony G. Horibata, and Nicolas Enciso VIII; and
- Relief and Financial Assistance to Individuals, Families, and Business Establishments Affected by the 7.3 Magnitude Earthquake in North Luzon
 - House Resolution No. 94, entitled, "Resolution Urging the National Government to Provide Relief and Financial Assistance to Individuals, Families and Business Establishments that have been Severely Affected by the 7.3 Magnitude Earthquake in North Luzon", authored by Reps. Lani Mercado-Revilla, Bryan B. Revilla, and Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III.

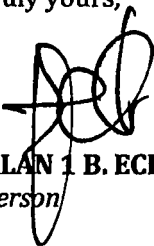
In this regard, may we respectfully request for your comments on the bills; a copy of each is attached for your reference. We would greatly appreciate receiving your official position paper on or before 30 August 2022 to enable the Committee Secretariat to organize and distribute the materials to our Members for their review.

Should you have any question or need clarification, kindly contact the Committee Secretariat at telephone number +63 2 8931-5001 local 8131, or at cellular phone numbers +63 998 970-6414 for Ms. Jennifer Joan C. Estella, Committee Secretary, and +63 917 862-6326 for Ms. Consuelo T. Alcid. You may also send us an email at committee.disasterresilience@house.gov.ph.

We look forward to a most productive collaboration with you and your agency.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



REP. ALAN B. ECLEO
Chairperson



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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NAME OF ACTIVITY/EVENT
(EVENT, MEETING, CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP, ETC.)

AFTER ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE AND TIME	
VENUE	
OBJECTIVE/S	
DENR ATTENDEES/ PARTICIPANTS BACKGROUND	
HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS AGREEMENTS/ CONCLUSION WAYS AHEAD	
ATTACHMENTS	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity Photos <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify)

---end---

PREPARED BY:

NAME OF ACTION OFFICER
POSITION
OFFICE

APPROVED BY:

NAME OF SUPERVISING OFFICIAL
POSITION
OFFICE

Tayo ang kalikasan!



SEPT 15 INVITATION: CDR ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

1 message

House Committee on Disaster Resilience <committee.disasterresilience@house.gov.ph>
To: Office of the Secretary <osec@denr.gov.ph>, ohea@denr.gov.ph

Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 5:38 PM

Dear Secretary Loyzaga:

The Committee on Disaster Resilience invites you to its Organizational Meeting on 15 September 2022 (Thursday), 1:00PM at Conference Rooms 1 and 2, Ramon V. Mitra Building, House of Representatives, Quezon City. Attached herein, is our formal letter of invitation.

Should you have any question or need clarification, kindly contact the Committee Secretariat at telephone number +63 2 8931-5001 local 8131, or at cellular phone numbers +63 998 970-6414 for Ms. Jennifer Joan C. Estella, Committee Secretary, or +63 917 862-6326 for Ms. Consuelo T. Alcid. You may also send us an email at committee.disasterresilience@house.gov.ph.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

We look forward to a productive and successful collaboration with you.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Rep. Alan 1B Ecleo
Chairperson, Committee on Disaster Resilience

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denr 15 sept 2022 org meeting.pdf
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Committee on Disaster Resilience

3rd Floor, RV Mitra Building, Batasang Pambansa Complex, Quezon City
Telephone: (+632) 8931-5001 local 8131/E-mail: committee.disasterresilience@house.gov.ph

18 August 2022

SECRETARY MARIA ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DENR Building, Visayas Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City 1100

Dear Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga:

The Committee on Disaster Resilience invites you to its Organizational Meeting on 15 September 2022 (Thursday), 1:00 in the afternoon, at Conference Rooms 1 and 2, Ramon V. Mitra Building, House of Representatives, Quezon City.

In adherence to the health protocols of the House of Representatives, we require our guests to present a negative antigen test result taken at and certified by any DOH-accredited laboratory at least 24 hours prior to the meeting date. Further, we are constrained to limit the number of guests to a maximum of three (3) persons per agency. Additionally, may we respectfully request your office to submit your and your associates' names to the Committee Secretariat one day prior to the date of the meeting so that we could facilitate your access pass to avoid delays.

Should you have any question or need clarification, kindly contact the Committee Secretariat at telephone number +63 2 8931-5001 local 8131, or at cellular phone numbers +63 998 970-6414 for Ms. Jennifer Joan C. Estella, Committee Secretary, or +63 917 862-6326 for Ms. Consuelo T. Alcid. You may also send us an email at committee.disasterresilience@house.gov.ph.

We look forward to a mutually favorable cooperation with your agency.

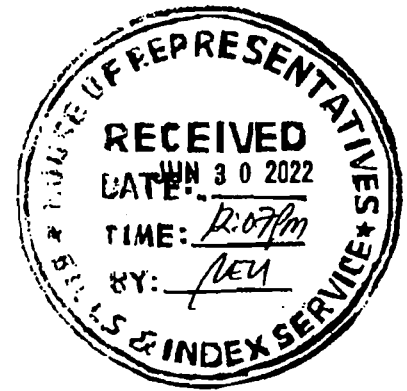
Thank you.

Very truly yours,

REP. ALAN B. ECLEO
Chairperson



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 16

Introduced by Representatives FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ,
YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ and JUDE A. ACIDRE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Global Climate Risk Index 2014 published by Berlin-based environmental organization German watch places the Philippines in the top 3 countries most affected by climate-related weather catastrophes. According to the ninth annual Global Climate Risk Index, the Philippines came in second to Haiti in terms of “relative and absolute number of human victims, and relative and absolute economic damage” caused by natural disasters.

The country is prone to disasters and hazards due to its geography and geology. In an analysis of natural disaster hotspots by the Hazard Management Unit of the Worldbank in 2005, the Philippines is among the countries where large percentages of population reside in disaster prone areas. In the 2011 World Risk Report published by United Nations University and the Institute of Environment and Human Security, looking into the four components of risk (exposure, susceptibility, coping and adapt capacities), the Philippines is the third most disaster risk country worldwide.

Schools have traditionally been utilized as default evacuation centers in times of calamities, disasters, conflicts and emergencies. Schools, however, are not well-equipped to accommodate evacuees since these lack the necessary facilities for displaced families.

The use of schools as evacuation centers for displaced families also gives rise to another group of displaced individuals: the students. The education of children is adversely affected when displaced families cannot immediately vacate school premises because their houses have not yet been repaired or reconstructed.



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 16

Introduced by Representatives **FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ,**
YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ and **JUDE A. ACIDRE**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND
MUNICIPALITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SEC. 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It shall be the policy of the State to uphold the
2 constitutional right of the people for the protection of their life and property and the promotion
3 of the general welfare. Towards this end, the State, shall establish and maintain a fully-equipped
4 and fully-operational evacuation center, responsive to environmental or climatic events, in
5 recognition of the vulnerability of the Philippines to climate change, the occurrence of severe
6 floods, typhoons, and other natural or human-induced disasters, illnesses, diseases and other
7 factors that affect the environment.

8
9 **SEC. 2. Establishment of Evacuation Centers.** – There shall be established an
10 evacuation center in every city and municipality in the country which shall provide immediate and
11 temporary accommodation for people who have been evacuated or displaced from their homes
12 due to emergency events such as typhoons, floods, storm surges, drought and other severe climate
13 disturbances, as well as fire, and the outbreak of illnesses and diseases that present imminent
14 danger to life and property.

15 Existing structures that would meet the minimum requirements or could be upgraded to
16 effectively serve as evacuation centers could be designated as such in compliance with the local
17 government unit concerned.

18
19 **SEC. 3. Requirements.** – The following shall be the minimum requirements for every
20 evacuation center that will be established under this Act:

21 a. **Location Designation.** Each location for every evacuation center shall be
22 determined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in close
23 coordination with the LGUs concerned.

24 The location shall be determined based on the following criteria:

25 1. It must be centrally located in the community;

1 be used for such other activities or purposes that involve the use of collapsible amenities ~~only~~ and
2 those that shall not in any way compromise the serviceability of the evacuation center or impede
3 the use thereof when a disaster occurs: *Provided further*, That the LGU shall impose such penalties
4 as may be deemed proper on the organizers of authorized activities when the evacuation center
5 suffers any damage, defacement, or loss during or as a result of such activities.

6 The mandatory audit of infrastructures used as evacuation centers shall be conducted by
7 the City or Municipality at least once every year and immediately after the occurrence of a hazard
8 or disaster.

9
10 **SEC. 5. Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council**
11 **(NDRRMC).** – The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC)
12 shall be the lead implementing agency of this Act. It shall give utmost priority to those areas of the
13 country that (a) are identified as disaster prone; (b) are financially incapable to establish their own
14 evacuation centers; and (c) do not have existing evacuation centers of their own.

15 It shall enter into memoranda of agreement (MOA) with the concerned LGUs for the
16 maintenance, operation, and management of a permanent evacuation center in their respective
17 areas of jurisdiction. It shall provide technical assistance and support services to these LGUs in
18 the management of the facility.

19 Local chief executives concerned shall evaluate and provide suitable sites for evacuation
20 centers to determine their geographical stability, and public accessibility in times of disasters. They
21 shall provide for the maintenance, operation, and management of the facility taking into
22 consideration the goal of life preservation and meeting the basic subsistence needs of affected
23 population based on acceptable standards during or immediately after a disaster.

24
25 **SEC. 6. Coordination Among Agencies.** – The NDRRMC shall coordinate with the
26 DPWH and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) with regard to the design
27 specifications, cost estimates, and construction details of the evacuation centers that will be
28 constructed pursuant to this Act.

29 Concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, when necessary, shall provide
30 assistance to the NDRRMC to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of this Act.

31
32 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from the
33 effectivity of this Act, the NDRRMC shall, in consultation with the DPWH, DOST, League of
34 Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and other concerned
35 government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the
36 provisions of this Act.

37
38 **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation to fund
39 the construction and maintenance of multi-purpose gyms to serve as evacuation centers shall be
40 charged against the budget provided for this purpose under the DPWH. Thereafter, such amounts
41 necessary for the construction of multipurpose gyms as evacuation centers shall be included in the
42 annual General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall provide the continued
43 maintenance, operation and management of the facility.

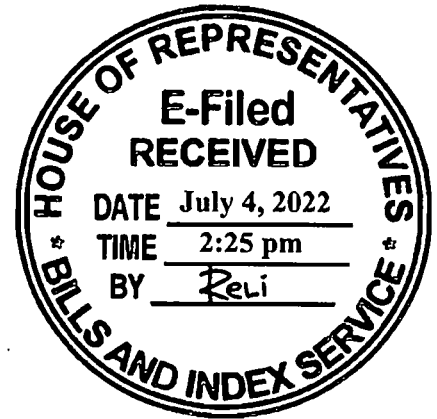
44
45 **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or
46 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain
47 valid and subsisting.

48
49 **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,
50 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the
51 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1091



Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.,
HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G.
HORIBATA AND HON. NICOLAS ENCISO VIII

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Philippines is susceptible to natural hazards, unforeseen disasters and other calamities because of its location along the so-called "Pacific Ring of Fire; an area where earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are more recurring than in any other areas of the world. The country fronts the Pacific Ocean, making it vulnerable to frequent typhoons and related weather disturbances regularly especially at the onset of climate change.

These catastrophic incidences create a disastrous state in the lives of the Filipino. Among the Filipinos, the underprivileged are the ones who suffer the most during these times. They have lost their shelters; they have no food to eat; sometimes, even lives are taken by these calamities. Indeed the country cannot avoid these natural hazards, but the government can reduce the effects to the lives and living of the Filipinos. Thus, there is an urgent need for the State to establish evacuation centers in all cities, provinces, and municipalities.

These mandatory evacuation centers will be able to provide them temporary shelters even before the forecasted disaster actually happens. Further, while the victims are temporarily staying in the evacuation centers, the government can not only cater to their basic needs, but can also guarantee their safety, promote their social wellbeing, and guard their welfare while they recover and rebuild their homes and their lives.

To emphasize, this bill seeks to establish the availability of mandatory evacuation centers not only in some chosen areas of the archipelago but in all cities, provinces and municipalities ensuring equal protection among the citizens.

While the State cannot control the indefinite occurrence of these calamities, it can however control the preparedness of the government and its people in facing such unfortunate incidents. The more prepared we are, the less impact these disasters can leave in the lives of the people.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1091



Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.,
HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G.
HORIBATA AND HON. NICOLAS ENCISO VIII

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MANDATORY EVACUATION CENTER IN ALL CITIES,
PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It shall be the policy of the State to uphold the constitutional right of the people for the protection of their life and property and the promotion of the general welfare. Towards this end, the State, shall establish and maintain a fully-equipped and fully-operational evacuation center, responsive to environmental or climatic events, in recognition of the vulnerability of the Philippines to climate change, the occurrence of severe floods, typhoons, and other natural or human-induced disasters, illnesses, diseases and other factors that affect the environment.

SECTION 2. Establishment of Evacuation Centers. – There shall be established an evacuation center in every city and municipality in the country which shall provide immediate and temporary accommodation for people who have been evacuated or displaced from their homes due to emergency events such as typhoons, floods, storm surges, drought and other severe climate disturbances, as well as fire, and the outbreak of illnesses and diseases that present imminent danger to life and property.

Existing structures that would meet the minimum requirements or could be upgraded to effectively serve as evacuation centers could be designated as such in compliance with the local government unit concerned.

1. The structure must be elevated, in such a manner that is safely above the reach of a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;
2. The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average flood level in the area where the same shall be built; and
3. The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and shall be designed in accordance with earthquake load standards.

c. ***Amenities and Accessibility.*** – The evacuation centers shall be well ventilated and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large number of evacuees.

The evacuation center shall have the following minimum amenities:

1. Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;
2. Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females, with one (1) facility for every twenty (20) persons;
3. Amenities to enable access thereto by persons with disabilities;
4. Emergency exit doors;
5. Food preparation areas with adequate ventilation;
6. Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
7. Health care areas which shall include an isolation or quarantine area for potentially infectious persons;
8. Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and
9. Other facilities as may be prescribed by the appropriate authorities.

SECTION 4. *Operation and Management.* – The LGUs concerned shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of evacuation centers established under this Act. They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations on their proper use and maintenance.

The local *sanggunian* shall promulgate guidelines and procedures for the use and operation of the evacuation center under its jurisdiction. The guidelines shall prescribe rules on the utilization of the evacuation center when it is not used as such. *Provided*, That the evacuation center may only be used for such other activities or purposes that involve the use of collapsible amenities only and those that shall not in any way compromise the serviceability of the evacuation center or impede the use thereof when a disaster occurs: *Provided further*, That the LGU shall impose such penalties as may be deemed proper on the organizers of authorized activities when

other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation to fund the construction and maintenance of multi-purpose gyms to serve as evacuation centers shall be charged against the budget provided for this purpose under the DPWH. Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the construction of multipurpose gyms as evacuation centers shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall provide the continued maintenance, operation and management of the facility.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 1714

Introduced by Rep. Anthony R.T. Golez Jr. MD, MBAH

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MANDATORY EVACUATION CENTERS
IN ALL CITIES, PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Title of the Act. – This Act shall be known as the “Mandatory Evacuation Center Act of 2022.”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the people’s right to life and property that is rooted and embedded in our Constitution, and to promote their general welfare. It is for this reason that the establishment of an evacuation center shall be undertaken in all cities, provinces, and municipalities to address the vulnerability of the Philippines to the impacts of climate change and other human-made disasters. This is also to strengthen the country’s institutional capacity for building the resilience of local communities to adhere and adopt the universal standards of humanitarian assistance.

Section 3. Establishment/Construction of Evacuation Centers. – There shall be an established evacuation center in every city, province and municipality throughout the country which shall provide basic needs and assistance to all evacuees, and shall serve as their temporary shelter that will guarantee the safety and wellbeing of all who have become victims of natural calamities or any other hazards/emergency events such as, typhoons, floods, fire, storm surges, weather disturbances and outbreak of illnesses/diseases that may cause imminent danger to their life and property.

Section 4. Evacuation Center Requirements. – The following shall be the minimum requirements for every evacuation center that will be established under this Act:

A. *Location/Designation* – each location for every evacuation center shall be determined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in close coordination with the LGUs concerned. The location shall be determined based on the following criteria:

- 1) It must be centrally located in the community;

- 2) Separate Shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females, with a facility-to-user ratio of 1:20 persons;
- 3) Amenities to enable access thereto by and accommodation of the disabled;
- 4) Provisions for emergency/exit doors;
- 5) Food preparation areas which are provided with adequate ventilation;
- 6) Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
- 7) Health care areas which shall include an isolation and/or quarantine area for potentially infectious persons;
- 8) Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and
- 9) Other facilities prescribed in DSWD-DILG-DOH-DepED Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1 Series of 2013, entitled "Guidelines on Evacuation Center and Management."

Section 5. *Operations and Management of the Evacuation Center.* – The LGUs concerned shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of evacuation centers established under this Act. They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations on the proper use and maintenance of the evacuation centers.

The mandatory audit of infrastructures used as evacuation centers shall be conducted by Provincial/City/Municipal Engineer and/or the building official at least once every year and immediately after the occurrence of a hazard or disaster event.

Section 6. *Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.* – The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), through the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), shall be the primary lead agency which shall oversee the implementation of this act.

Section 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to fund the construction and maintenance of evacuation centers under this Act shall be sourced from a portion of the general appropriations of the DPWH. Every year thereafter, the amounts necessary for the construction and maintenance of evacuation centers shall be included in the list of programs as part of annual budget in the General Appropriations Act.

The appropriations necessary for the operation and management of the evacuation centers shall be charged against the funds of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Council (LDRRMC).

Section 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety days (90) after the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Local Interior and Local Government (DILG), DPWH, and OCD, in coordination with the appropriate government agencies concerned, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2256**



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE FRANZ S. PUMAREN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Due to its geographical location, the Philippines is highly vulnerable to numerous natural disasters, including tropical cyclones, earthquakes, and flooding. Located at the "Pacific Ring of Fire" and possessing twenty-two (22) active volcanoes, the country experiences a considerable number of tectonic activities. Similarly, as the country is situated in the Northwestern Pacific Basin, the Philippines experiences an average of 20 tropical cyclones annually, the most destructive and strongest of which are Typhoons Yolanda in 2013 and Rolly in 2020.

The Philippines ranked eighth (8th) in disaster risk among all countries with the highest risks worldwide (second rank in Asia, next to Brunei Darussalam), according to the 2021 World Risk Report, with an index value of 21.39%.¹ According to the report, the country's exposure (determined by geographical characteristics) and vulnerability (determined by social, physical, economic, and environmental factors that make people vulnerable to hazards) are rated Very High (at 42.30%) and High (at 49.55%) respectively. Similarly, the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery estimated that "at least 60% of the country's total land area is exposed to multiple hazards, and 74% of the population is susceptible to their impact."²

Damages due to the country's exposure to several natural disasters are massive. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, damages to agriculture, infrastructure, communications, and private properties incurred by natural events and disasters from 2010 to 2019 alone, amounted to Php 463 Billion. Since 1990, according to a publication by the Asian Development Bank, an estimated \$23 Billion or Php 1.4 Trillion in damages was lost due to the more than 500 disaster events that affected the country.

¹ World Risk Report 2021, World Economic Forum.

² Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery 2017, World Bank.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2256**

Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE FRANZ S. PUMAREN

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MANDATORY EVACUATION CENTER IN
EVERY PROVINCE, CITY, AND MUNICIPALITY IN THE COUNTRY
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Mandatory Evacuation Center Act of 2022”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the people’s right to life and property that is rooted and embedded in our Constitution, and to promote their general welfare. It is for this reason that the establishment of an evacuation center shall be undertaken in all cities, provinces, and municipalities to address the vulnerability of the Philippines to the impacts of climate change and other human-made disasters. This is also to strengthen the country’s institutional capacity for building the resilience of local communities to adhere and adopt the universal standards of humanitarian assistance.

SECTION 3. *Establishment/Construction of Evacuation Centers.* – There shall be an established evacuation center in every city, province, and municipality throughout the country which shall

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be in charge of the construction of evacuation centers and formulating the building specifications therefor based on standards, issuances, and other guidelines set by the DPWH.

The DPWH shall also ensure that the construction of such evacuation centers is in accordance with the abovementioned requirements during its construction phase.

The specifications of the evacuation centers shall be periodically reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three (3) years.

The structural capacity should at least meet the following parameters:

- a. The structure must be elevated in such a manner that it will withstand likely impact from a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;
- b. The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average flood level in the area where the same shall be built; and
- c. The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and designed in accordance with earthquake load standards.

C. Amenities and Accessibility of the Evacuation Center. – The evacuation centers shall be well-ventilated and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large number of evacuees. The centers shall have the following minimum amenities:

- a. Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;
- b. Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females, with a facility-to-user ratio of 1:20 persons;
- c. Amenities to enable access thereto by and accommodation of the disabled;
- d. Provisions for emergency/exit doors;
- e. Food preparation areas which are provided with adequate ventilation;
- f. Trash and waster segregation and collection areas;
- g. Health care areas which shall include an isolation and/or quarantine area for potentially infectious persons;

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, other issuances, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

- In an analysis of natural disaster hotspots by the Hazard Management Unit of the World Bank in 2005, the Philippines is among the countries where large percentages of population reside in disaster prone areas. In the 2011 World Risk Report published by United Nations University and the Institute of Environment and Human Security, looking into the four components of risk (exposure, susceptibility, coping and adapt capacities), the Philippines is the third most disaster risk country worldwide.

- Aside from natural causes, the country also experiences human-induced disasters. These are brought about by hazards that are of political and socio-economic origins, among others. Many are forced to evacuate during times of conflict. Violence continues to plague the country, with most of the fighting in the South. Intense fighting between government forces and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) during the first half of year 2009 resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians. The government and the MILF decided to lay down their arms and work toward peace accord that had failed in 2009 in Malaysia. On the other hand, the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), labelled a terrorist organization, continued to carry out bombings and rebels were killed during clashes with the military in the latter part of 2009. These human-induced disasters caused by armed fightings in the South continue to threaten the security of civilian communities which result into the displacement of thousands of civilians. So long as there is no peace settlement mechanism in Mindanao, internally displaced civilians will remain a given collateral damage of every armed conflict. Such disasters consequently cause public anxiety, lost of lives, destruction of properties and sometimes socio-political stability.

In view of the foregoing, this measure aims to establish standard-based relief shelters and sites throughout the country with the end in view of decongesting temporary evacuation centers in public schools and private facilities. The bill addresses the need to prioritize the needs of vulnerable individuals and groups. Congestion in most evacuation centers usually puts at risk senior citizens, the disabled, children and pregnant women who are more vulnerable to diseases. Moreover, this proposal can minimize the loss of lives by bringing the evacuation centers nearer to the populace and at the most accessible and safe areas.

Due to the country's vulnerability to natural disasters, it is imperative to devise long-term response to this unpleasant situation by establishing permanent evacuation centers throughout the country consistent with the identified outcomes of the NDRRMP, particularly in providing adequate temporary shelters.

The NDRRMP specifically states that, "Disasters leave many people homeless. Temporary shelters in some ways provide a measure of comfort safety for victims. The provision of adequate temporary shelters is of invaluable importance during cataclysmic times. It is about a temporary "home" where people, their sources of livelihoods and important valuables find refuge in times of disasters. Temporary shelters are not just about structures – a lot of things need to be considered both before, during and after a disaster happens."

In view thereof, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan
4th District, Quezon

power plants, factories, and other areas where the occurrence of human-induced disasters are very high.

b. **Structural and Building Capacity** - The evacuation centers shall be constructed and designed to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of at least three hundred kilometers per hour (300 kph) and seismic activity of at least 8.0 magnitude. The structure must be calamity-resilient, built with sturdy materials, and in accordance with the specifications of Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the "National Building Code of the Philippines" or shall be at par with the standards set by the International Building Code.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be in charge of the construction of evacuation centers, including the formulation of building specifications and shall ensure that the same are based on standards, issuances, and other guidelines set by the DPWH, and are compliant with the provisions of the National Building Code. The DPWH shall also ensure that the construction of such evacuation centers is in accordance with the abovementioned requirements during its construction phase.

The specifications of the evacuation centers shall be periodically reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three (3) years.

The evacuation center must at least meet the following parameters:

1. The structure must be elevated, in such a manner that is safely above the reach of a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;
 2. The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average flood level in the area where the same shall be built; and
 3. The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and shall be designed in accordance with earthquake load standards.
- c. **Amenities and Accessibility.** - The evacuation centers shall be well-ventilated and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large number of evacuees.

The evacuation center shall have the following minimum amenities:

1. Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;
2. Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females, with one (1) facility for every twenty (20) persons;
3. Amenities to enable access thereto by persons with disabilities;
4. Emergency exit doors;
5. Food preparation areas with adequate ventilation;
6. Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
7. Health care areas which shall include an isolation or quarantine area for potentially infectious persons;
8. Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and
9. Other facilities as may be prescribed by the appropriate authorities.

SEC. 4. Operation and Management. - The LGUs concerned shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of evacuation centers established under this Act. They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations on their proper use and maintenance.

The local sanggunian shall promulgate guidelines and procedures for the use and operation of the evacuation center under its jurisdiction. The guidelines shall prescribe rules on the utilization of the evacuation center when it is not used as such: Provided, That the evacuation center may only be used for such other activities or purposes that involve the use of

letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 832

Introduced By Honorable Michael L. Romero

AN ACT

**PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE ACT,
TO FOSTER AND MAINTAIN LIFE-SAVING MECHANISMS,
TO AUGMENT THE DEMANDS FOR SUPPORT, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY - It is hereby a declared policy of the state to provide immediate response to restore life-saving services to affected populations following a declared disaster.

SECTION 2. NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE ACT - The State shall hereby create a National Disaster Resilience Act to expand and establish continuity to the aid and support provided in times of natural crisis and disaster. **SECTION 3. DETERMINING FACTORS AND CONDITIONS** -

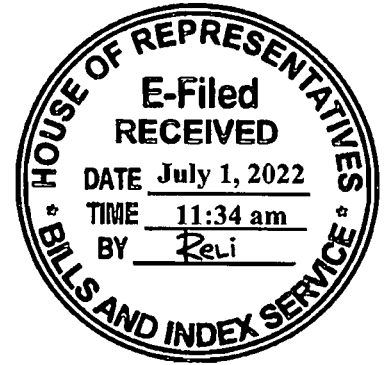
Factors that may influence the size of the operations to be conducted:

- A. Ecological and environmental extent of the damage;
 - B. Preliminary estimate of death, injuries, and displaced persons;
 - C. The reaction response capacity of key agencies; and
-

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 863



Introduced by Honorable Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The republic of the Philippines recognizes the occurrence of floods throughout the whole year. Without knowledge, awareness or beyond the local region in which they occur, these flooding often do not receive the entry of efficient and urgent support that can follow large-scale emergencies or disasters.

To support these flooding-disasters and to provide initial frontline services before such emergency appeals are launched for large-scale flooding, it is imperative that the national government establishes a **National Flood Control Act**.

This House Bill seeks to create and establish urgent Flood Control measures and mechanisms. To enable all concerned and affected personnel, organizations to carry out their unique role after a flooding-disaster.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Romero".

MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.

SECTION 3. DETERMINING FACTORS AND CONDITIONS – Factors that may influence the size of the control operations to be conducted:

- A. Ecological and environmental extent of the damage;
- B. Preliminary estimate of death, injuries, and displaced persons;
- C. The reaction response capacity of key agencies; and
- D. The date and magnitude of the last flood that affected the country (*taking into account the cumulative effect of flooding on ability to respond*).

Each Flood will be regarded as a separate event and hence be eligible for assistance, irrespective of whether it is issued for the same disaster-affected or in the same calendar year.

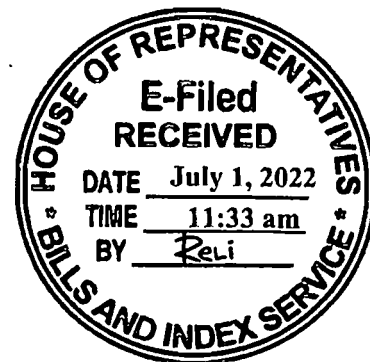
SECTION 4. TRANSITORY PROVISION – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 6. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



19TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 860

Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The state recognizes that small and medium-sized disasters often occur in silence throughout the whole year, without the attention of the mainstream media. Without visibility or awareness beyond the local region in which they occur, these silent disasters often do not receive the entry of financial support that can follow large-scale emergencies or disasters.

To support these emergencies or disasters and to provide initial funding before such emergency appeals are launched for large-scale disasters, it is imperative that the national government allocates grants from its **Disaster Resilience Funding**.

This House Bill seeks to provide immediate financial support, enabling all concerned and affected personnel, organizations to carry out their unique role after a disaster.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Romero".

MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.

The State is hereby authorized to re-align its appropriations, along with its supplemental and additional funding in the current year of the date of the effectivity of this Act to conform with its mandate and requirements.

Thereafter, such sum as may be needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (**GAA**).

SECTION 3. DETERMINING FACTORS AND CONDITIONS – Factors that may influence the size of the grant/funding can be:

- A. Ecological and environmental extent of the damage;
- B. Preliminary estimate of death, injuries, and displaced persons;
- C. The reaction response capacity of key agencies; and
- D. The date and magnitude of the last disaster that affected the country (*taking into account the cumulative effect of disasters on ability to respond*).

Each nationally-declared disaster will be regarded as a separate event and hence be eligible for assistance, irrespective of whether it is issued for the same disaster-affected or in the same calendar year.

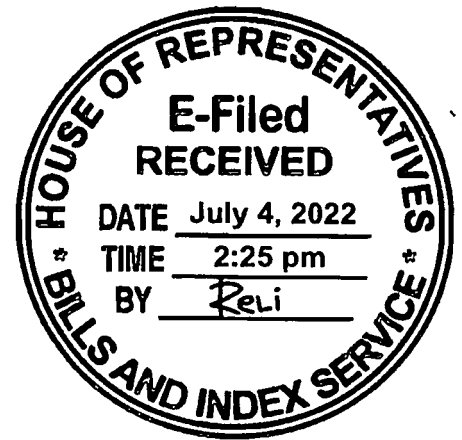
SECTION 4. TRANSITORY PROVISION – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six (**6**) months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty (**60**) days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1090



Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.,
HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G.
HORIBATA AND HON. NICOLAS ENCISO VIII

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The world is experiencing unprecedented environmental transformations. Disaster preparedness especially with a vulnerable country like ours is an important part of any nation's plan in the long term.

It is obvious to anyone that a well-informed public is a well-prepared public. However, information goes beyond dissemination. It should be accessible and easy to understand. In a linguistically diverse nation as ours, English and Tagalog may not be sufficient to effectively communicate the risks posed by natural disasters. Those who do not fully understand are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters and emergency due to unfamiliarity and lack of literacy and fluency in the dominant language.

This bill proposes to require all government agencies and local government units to convert in an easily understandable form and translate to Filipino and any other appropriate regional language or dialect all their announcements, advisories, press releases, issuances and any other information relevant to a local or national disaster or emergency.

The translation of the information shall be to (1) Filipino and (2) other regional language/s or dialect/s, as deemed necessary by the government agency and local government unit concerned considering the geographical location. This information shall be disseminated as widely as possible through all available means.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is most earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.


TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA


MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE


NICOLAS ENCISO VIII

impacts may include loss of life, injury, disease and other negative effects on human, physical, mental and social well-being, together with damage to property, destruction of assets, loss of services, social and economic disruption and environmental degradation;

b. *Emergency* – unforeseen or sudden occurrence, especially danger, demanding immediate action;

c. *State of Calamity* – a condition involving mass casualty and/or major damages to property and roads, disruption of means of livelihoods, and normal way of life of people in the affected areas as a result of the occurrence of a natural or human induced hazard.

SECTION 4. *Scope of Application.* – This Act shall cover disasters and other kinds of emergencies which are (1) national in scope, as declared through a State of Calamity or State of National Emergency by the President of the Philippines and (2) provincial, city, or municipal in scope, as declared through a State of Calamity or Emergency by the appropriate local government unit.

SECTION 5. *Language Accessibility of Disaster-Related Information.* – In relation to disasters and other emergencies covered by Section 4 of this Act, it shall be mandatory for all government agencies and local government units to convert in an easily understandable form and translate to Filipino and any other appropriate regional language/s or dialect/s all their announcements, advisories, press releases, issuances, and any other information relevant to such disaster or emergency, including:

a) Tropical Cyclones, signals, and other advisories by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA);

b) Volcano, Earthquake, tsunami, and landslide advisories and bulletins by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS);

c) Announcements, bulletins, and other advisories of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (LDRRMCs) and network of Disaster Risk Reduction

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,