



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. 1100
Tel Nos. (632) 8929-6626 to 29; VOIP Trunkline (632) 8755-3300/ 8755-3330
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph>

MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Policy and Planning Service
Legal Affairs Service
Climate Change Service
Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service

The Bureau Directors
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau

The Administrator
National Mapping Resource and Information Authority

The Officer-in-charge
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

The Executive Directors
Manila Bay Coordinating Office
National Water Resources Board
River Basin Control Office
Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office

All Regional Executive Directors

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)
MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND
HIGHWAYS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO
DISCUSS HOUSE BILL NOS. 492, 3148, 6559, AND HOUSE
RESOLUTION 614 REGARDING FLOOD MANAGEMENT**

DATE : 27 July 2023

In reference to the electronic mail as received by our Office, the Committee on Public Works and Highways is inviting the Department to the Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting on **31 July 2023 (Monday), 1:00 P.M., at Speaker Villar Hall, South Wing Annex., House of Representatives, Quezon City**, to discuss the following House Bills:

1. **HOUSE BILL NO. 492** – AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A 10-YEAR MASTERPLAN FOR FLOOD MANAGEMENT, INCREASING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
2. **HOUSE BILL NO. 3148** – AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MANILA BAY INTEGRATED FLOOD CONTROL COASTAL DEFENSE AND EXPRESSWAY, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR
3. **HOUSE BILL NO. 6559** – AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED FLOOD PREVENTION, CONTROL, DEFENSE, AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE
4. **HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 614** – ISANG RESOLUSYONG HUMIHILING NA MABIGYANG PRAYORIDAD ANG PAGBIBIGAY NG AGARAN AT KOMPREHENSIBONG SOLUSYON SA DEKA-DEKADA NANG PROBLEMA NG PAGBAHA SA PROBINSYA NG BULACAN, LALO'T HIGIT DAHIL SA NAPIPINTONG PAGBUKAS NG BULACAN AIRPORT, AT MAGSAGAWA NG INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION UKOL RITO

In this regard may we request your attendance at the said meeting. Kindly inform us of the name/s of the representative/s from your office who will participate in the meeting so we may include him/her/them as resource person/s, as requested by the Committee.

Attached herewith are the copy of House Bill Nos. 492, 3148, 6559, House Resolution No. 614, and an excerpt of Privilege Speech No. 82, for your reference.

Your attendance is highly encouraged.


ROMIROSE B. PADIN

Cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS & HIGHWAYS

3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra Building, CTSS-I, Committee Affairs Department
House of Representatives, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, Philippines 1126
Telefax: 9310200, TrunkLine:9315001local7135

26 July 2023

HON. MANUEL M. BONOAN

Secretary

Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
City of Manila

HON. MARK LLANDRO L. MENDOZA

Secretary

Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO)
City of Manila

HON. ARSENIO M. BALISACAN

Secretary

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
Pasig City

HON. BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO

Secretary

Department of Finance (DOF)
City of Manila

HON. AMENAH F. PANGANDAMAN

Secretary

Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
City of Manila

HON. BENJAMIN "BENHUR" DE CASTRO ABALOS, JR.

Secretary

Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
Quezon City

HON. RENATO U. SOLIDUM, JR.

Secretary

Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
Taguig City

HON. MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Quezon City

HON. VICENTE B. MALANO, Ph. D.

Administrator

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
Quezon City

HON. ALLEN A. CAPUYAN

Chairperson

National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
Quezon City

HON. DANIEL FERNANDO

Governor

Province of Bulacan

HON. REYNALDO S. TAMAYO JR.

Governor - South Cotabato

National President, League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP)
Pasig City

HON. MICHAEL L. RAMA

Mayor - Cebu City

National President, League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)
Quezon City

HON. JOSEPH SANTO NIÑO “JB” BERNOS

Mayor - La Paz, Abra

National President, League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)
Quezon City

Your Honors:

Please be informed that the Committee on Public Works and Highways will hold a Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting (face-to-face) on the date, time, venue, and agenda indicated hereunder:

<p>DATE: 31 July 2023</p> <p>TIME: 1:00 PM</p> <p>VENUE: Speaker Villar Hall, South Wing Annex House of Representatives Complex, Batasan Hills, Quezon City</p> <p>AGENDA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. House Bill No. 492 entitled: “An Act Institutionalizing a 10-Year Master Plan for Flood Management, Increasing Penalties for Violations of Environmental Laws, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes” by <i>Rep. Stella Luz A. Quimbo</i>2. House Bill No. 3148 entitled: “An Act Establishing a Manila Bay Integrated Flood Control Coastal Defense and Expressway, and Providing Funds Therefor” by <i>Rep. Ambrosio “Boy” C. Cruz, Jr.</i>3. House Bill No. 6559 entitled: “An Act Establishing a Comprehensive and
--

Integrated Flood Prevention, , Control, Defense and Management System for the Province of Bulacan and Appropriating Funds Thereof” by *Rep. Florida "Rida" P. Robes*

4. **House Resolution No. 614** entitled: *“Isang Resolusyong Humihiling na Mabigyang Prayoridad ang Pagbibigay ng Agaran at Komprehensibong Solusyon sa Dekada-Dekada nang Problema ng Pagbaha sa Probinsya ng Bulacan, Lalo’t Higit Dahil sa Napipintong Pagbubukas ng Bulacan Airport, at Magsagawa ng Inquiry in Aid of Legislation Ukol Rito”* by *Reps Danny A. Domingo, Augustina Dominique C. Pancho and Lorna C. Silverio*

5. **Privilege Speech No. 82** delivered last 22 November 2022 by *Rep. Juan Carlos “Arjo” C. Atayde*

For your reference, attached are copies of House Bills 492, 3148 and 6559; House Resolution No. 614; and excerpt of Privilege Speech No. 82.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

FOR THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN ROMEO S. MOMO, SR.:



AILEEN UY DAPURAN
Committee Secretary



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS & HIGHWAYS

3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra Building, CTSS-I, Committee Affairs Department, House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City, Philippines 1126. Telefax: 9310200, TrunkLine:9315001 local 7135

**19th Congress
First Regular
Session**

**31 July 2023 (Monday), 1:00 P.M.
Speaker Villar Hall, South Wing
Annex House of Representatives
Complex Batasan Hills, Quezon City**

A G E N D A

A

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. INVOCATION**
- III. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**
- IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMBERS AND RESOURCE PERSONS**
- V. OPENING REMARKS OF THE HON. VICE CHAIRPERSON FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES**
- VI. DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING HOUSE MEASURES**
 - 1. House Bill No. 492** entitled: "An Act Institutionalizing a 10-Year Master Plan for Flood Management, Increasing Penalties for Violations of Environmental Laws, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes" by *Rep. Stella Luz A. Quimbo*.
 - 2. House Bill No. 3148** entitled: "An Act Establishing a Manila Bay Integrated Flood Control Coastal Defense and Expressway, and Providing Funds Therefor" by *Rep. Ambrosio "Boy" C. Cruz, Jr.*;
 - 3. House Bill No. 6559** entitled: "An Act Establishing a Comprehensive and Integrated Flood Prevention, Control, Defense and Management System for the Province of Bulacan and Appropriating Funds Thereof" by *Rep. Florida "Rida" P. Robes*;
 - 4. House Resolution No. 614** entitled: "*Isang Resolusyong Humihiling na Mabigyang Prayoridad ang Pagbibigay ng Agaran at Komprehensibong Solusyon sa Dekada-Dekada nang Problema ng Pagbaha sa Probinsya ng Bulacan, Lalo't Higit Dahil sa Napipintong Pagbubukas ng Bulacan Airport, at Magsagawa ng Inquiry in Aid of Legislation Ukol*

Rito by Representatives Danny A. Domingo, Augustina Dominique C. Pancho, and Lorna C. Silverio; and

5. **Privilege Speech No. 82** delivered last 22 November 2022 by *Representative Juan Carlos "Arjo" C. Atayde*

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Invited Guests/Resource Persons:

- Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
- Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO)
- Department of Finance (DOF)
- Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
- National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
- Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- DENR, Region III
- Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
- National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
- Public-Private Partnership Center (PPPC)
- Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA)
- League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP)
- League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)
- Leagues of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)
- Hon. Daniel Fernando, Governor of the Province of Bulacan
- Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO)
- UP Diliman-National Institute for Geological Sciences
- Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE)
- Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (AGHAM)
- SMC Infrastructure Business

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 492



Introduced by Representative Stella Luz A. Quimbo

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A 10-YEAR MASTERPLAN FOR FLOOD
MANAGEMENT, INCREASING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF
ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Due to its geographic location, the Philippines is often considered as one of the most susceptible countries to disasters. The World Economic Forum ranked the Philippines 8th out of 181 countries in disaster risk in 2021, with a World Risk Index of 21.39.¹ This ranking went as high as 3rd in 2018, with a World Risk Index of 25.14. The country consistently scores high in the components of the World Risk Index, namely, Exposure, Vulnerability, Susceptibility, Coping, and Adaption to disasters. Both the statistics and lived experience have shown that the country is ill-equipped to deal with natural disasters, despite their frequent occurrences.

Amongst the most common natural disasters that the Philippines experiences are of the meteorological type, in particular typhoons and the subsequent flooding they bring about. An ADB study stated that over 80% of the natural disasters experienced by the Philippines in the last half-century meteorological in nature.² Indeed, from 2010 to 2019, meteorological disasters posted the highest number of major incidents, at 120.³

These events can and often occur within close proximity with one another. In November 2020, for example, a series of typhoons hit the country, killing and injuring hundreds of Filipinos, displacing thousands of victims, and destroying millions-worth of properties. Typhoon Rolly, eventually joined by Typhoon Quinta, wreaked havoc in the Bicol Region, with Signal No. 5 raised in Albay and Camarines Sur provinces. As expected, their rivers overflowed and flash floods were the result.

Two weeks after, Typhoon Ulysses brought massive destruction and inundated provinces, cities, and towns in Luzon. Flood levels were unusually high, and lethal, with some areas still under water even after the typhoon was well beyond the Philippine area of responsibility. Most notably, in Marikina City, Pasig City, and the provinces of Rizal,

¹ [World Economic Forum, World Risk Report 2021](#).

² [Natural Disasters, Public Spending, and Creative Destruction: A Case Study of the Philippines \(adb.org\)](#)

³ [Damages Due to Natural Extreme Events and Disasters Amounted to PhP 463 Billion | Philippine Statistics Authority \(psa.gov.ph\)](#)

Cagayan, and Isabela, people were forced to climb up the roofs of their houses and await rescuers. Worse, some drowned during the onslaught.

After the weather calmed and the floods subsided, evacuees returned to their homes, which lay in shambles, to find their hard-earned properties destroyed, their livelihoods uprooted. Some do not even know how to begin the process of recovery or where to get pecuniary assistance to rebuild their lives.


Perhaps the worst of it is that such tragedies could have been avoided with proper mitigation measures in place. Over a decade after Typhoon Ondoy battered the Philippines, we have failed to learn from our experience. Long-term reforms have to be instituted now to build a disaster-resilient country. There is a need to institutionalize a long-term masterplan for flood management. The government has to reverse the environmental degradation that spurred these intense floodings. An institutionalized and comprehensive plan, coupled with timely and adequately funded implementation, can realize such an objective, thereby saving lives.

The origin of these problems lies not only in natural processes. Human activities worsened the climate that Filipinos experience now. A case in point is the continued unpermitted quarrying and illegal logging at the Marikina Watershed. Since that protected area in Rizal drains in the Marikina River, its ability or inability to hold water will translate to disastrous effects in low-lying areas like Marikina City. The destructive activities reported in the Watershed have literally shaved off its trees thus, large volumes of waters from upstream flow mercilessly to the lowlands. This behooves Congress, as a representative of disaster-stricken Filipinos, to increase penalties against these violations as a means to provide the law more teeth in curbing the illegal activities.

To prevent further deaths and damage to property, the necessary flood management infrastructure must also be constructed. Because of the continued degradation of natural land features such as the Sierra Madre and the Marikina Watershed that lessens its capacity to protect those in the lowlands, artificial structures like dams and retention basins are needed alongside environmental restoration for our improved resilience to natural disasters. Such multi-year projects that meet international standards have to be institutionalized to ensure expedient, efficient, and continued implementation spanning successive administrations.

To materialize, these infrastructure projects have to be adequately funded. The country must take advantage of its credit rating, financial expertise, and economic potential to ensure sufficient funding for the programs under the Masterplan. One life lost to flooding is one too many as the Filipino life is priceless. To avert losses and prevent ever more deaths, willed and aggressive financing has to take place so that the Masterplan can succeed.

In view of the foregoing, and the urgency of the climate crisis, the expedient passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO, PhD
Representative
Second District, Marikina City

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 492

Introduced by Representative Stella Luz A. Quimbo

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A 10-YEAR MASTERPLAN FOR FLOOD
MANAGEMENT, INCREASING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF
ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Flood Management Act of
2 2022".

3 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby a declared policy of the State to uphold
4 the constitutional rights of people to life and property by identifying and addressing the
5 main causes of vulnerabilities to disasters and reinforcing the institutional capacity of
6 the country to withstand calamities.

7 Furthermore, it is the policy of the State to provide necessary public goods, like flood
8 control infrastructure, to curb the water-related risks that come from natural disasters.

9 SECTION 3. *Establishment of a National Flood Management Masterplan* - There is
10 hereby established a National Flood Management Masterplan. Within two (2) months
11 from the effectivity of this Act, the Infrastructure Committee of the National Economic
12 and Development Authority (NEDA) Board is hereby directed to review and assess the
13 current Flood Management Masterplan for Metro Manila and Surrounding Areas (the
14 "Masterplan") approved by the NEDA board in 2012 and identify targets and reforms,
15 as needed, for the purpose of ensuring its expedient and efficient implementation.

16 The Committee is likewise directed to expand the Masterplan to cover other areas of
17 Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

18 SECTION 4. *Inter-Agency Task Force for Flood Management.* - There is hereby
19 created an Inter-Agency Task Force for Flood Management (the "Task Force") which
20 shall ensure oversee the implementation of the adopted Masterplan and coordinate
21 the programs and activities of its member-agencies.

22 The Task Force shall be headed by the NEDA Director General as Chairperson, with
23 the Secretary of Public Works and Highways, Secretary of Environmental and Natural
24 Resources, Chairperson of the National Commission in Indigenous Peoples, Director
25 of the University of the Philippines Diliman-National Institute for Geological Sciences,

1 Administrator of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services
2 Administration (PAGASA), and the chief executives of concerned LGUs as members.

3 The Task Force is hereby directed to coordinate with national government agencies
4 and local government units for the efficient implementation of the Masterplan. It shall
5 also submit an annual report to the Oversight Committee referred to in Section 12
6 hereof regarding the status of the structural and non-structural interventions in the
7 Masterplan.

8 SECTION 5. *Duties and Functions of the DPWH.* - The Department of Public Works
9 and Highways (DPWH) is hereby designated as the lead implementing agency of the
10 Masterplan. As such, it shall:

- 11 a.) Implement the Masterplan immediately after the NEDA Board Infrastructure
12 Committee has established the same;
- 13 b.) Propose a budget for the implementation of the Masterplan, in coordination with
14 the Task Force;
- 15 c.) Submit a quarterly report to the Task Force regarding the progress of the
16 implementation of the Masterplan; and
- 17 d.) Coordinate and consult with concerned agencies, including but not limited to
18 the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and PAGASA,
19 regarding complementary activities within the purview and the technical
20 expertise of the said agencies which are necessary for the effective
21 implementation of the Masterplan.

22 SECTION 6. *Panel of Experts.* - The Task Force shall engage a panel of international
23 and local experts for technical support and to ensure that projects implemented under
24 the Masterplan adhere to international quality standards.

25 SECTION 7. *The Increased Penalty for Illegal Quarrying.* - Section 108 of Republic
26 Act No. 7942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

27 **"Section 108. Violation of the Terms and Conditions of the Environmental**
28 **Compliance Certificate.** – Any person who willfully violates or grossly neglects
29 to abide by the terms and conditions of the environmental compliance certificate
30 issued to said person and which causes environmental damage through
31 pollution **OR QUARRYING** shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of ~~six (6)~~
32 ~~months to six (6) years~~ **FOR A MINIMUM OF SIX (6) YEARS TO A MAXIMUM**
33 **OF TWELVE (12) YEARS** ~~or AND a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00)~~
34 ~~to Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00), or both,~~ **FIVE HUNDRED**
35 **THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00) TO FIVE MILLION PESOS**
36 **(P5,000,000.00),** at the discretion of the court."

37 Section 77 of Presidential Decree No. 705 is hereby amended to read as follows:

38 "SECTION 77. Cutting, Gathering and/or collecting Timber, or Other Forest
39 Products Without License. – Any person who shall cut, gather, collect, removed
40 timber, or other forest products from any forest land, or timber from alienable or
41 disposable public land, or from private land, without any authority, or possess
42 timber or other forest products without the legal documents as required under
43 existing forest laws and regulations, shall be punished with the penalties

1 imposed under Articles 309 and 310 of the Revised Penal Code **AND A FINE**
2 **OF AT LEAST FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00) BUT NO**
3 **MORE THAN TWO MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00):** Provided, That in the
4 case of partnerships, associations, or corporations, the officers who ordered
5 the cutting, gathering, collection or possession shall be liable, and if such
6 officers are aliens, they shall, in addition to the penalty, be deported without
7 further proceedings on the part of the ~~Commission on~~ **BUREAU OF** Immigration
8 and Deportation.

9 xxx"

10 SECTION 8. *Exclusive Authority to Issue Permit to Quarry.* - Notwithstanding any law
11 to the contrary, the DENR is hereby granted the exclusive authority to issue and revoke
12 permits to extract sand, gravel, and other quarry resources.

13 SECTION 9. *Authority of the President to Suspend the Requirements for National and*
14 *Local Permits, Licenses and Certifications, and to Streamline and Expedite the*
15 *Process for the Issuance thereof.* - Notwithstanding any law, decree, order or
16 ordinance to the contrary, the President shall have the authority to:

17 (a) Accelerate and streamline regulatory processes and procedures for
18 applications for permits, licenses, clearance, certifications or authorizations for
19 constructing flood management infrastructures, including fixing or shortening
20 the periods provide under existing laws, regulations, issuances, and
21 ordinances; and

22 (b) Suspend or waive the requirements in securing such permits, licenses,
23 clearance, certifications or authorizations.

24 SECTION 10. *Upgrading the Salary of Forest Rangers.* - The entry level salary of the
25 forest ranger position shall be at Salary Grade 18. In coordination with the Department
26 of Budget and Management, the DENR shall create additional positions where
27 augmentation of its enforcement manpower is necessary.

28 SECTION 11. *Creation of an Oversight Committee.* - For this purpose, Congress shall
29 establish a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee composed of four (4) members
30 of each House to be appointed by the Senate President and the House Speaker,
31 respectively. This Committee shall determine whether such acts, orders, rules, and
32 regulations are within the restrictions provided herein.

33 SECTION 12. *Appropriations.* - The corresponding amount required for the
34 construction and maintenance of flood management infrastructure nationwide
35 pursuant to the Masterplan shall be appropriated on a multi-year basis and included
36 in the General Appropriations Act each year following the effectivity of this Act.

37 The DPWH may also tap the Official Development Assistance (ODA) of the
38 Philippines' Donor countries and institutions for concessional loans on a long-term
39 repayment basis for additional funding as needed to implement the provisions of this
40 Act.

41 SECTION 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The NEDA and DPWH shall,
42 within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and
43 regulations for its effective implementation.

1 SECTION 14. *Separability Clause.* – If any provisions or part of this Act is held invalid
2 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected
3 shall remain valid and subsisting.

4 SECTION 15. *Repealing Clause.* – Section 138 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise
5 known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", is hereby amended insofar as the
6 provision thereof is inconsistent with this Act.

7 All other laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders,
8 rules, or regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
9 hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

10 SECTION 16. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
11 publication in at least (2) newspapers of general circulation.

12

Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3148



Introduced by Representative Ambrosio "Boy" C. Cruz, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

With the onset of climate change, sea levels are expected to rise progressively in the near future, endangering low coastal areas around the world. In the Philippines, the northern shores of the Manila Bay are already frequently flooded during heavy rainfall. This is because the Manila Bay is also the catch basin of the waters that flow downstream from the Pasig, Tullahan, and Pampanga Rivers. The northern Metro Manila cities of Valenzuela, Malabon, and Navotas, and the municipalities of Obando, Bulakan, Paombong, and Hagonoy in the Province of Bulacan, Masantol, Macabebe, Minalin, Guagua, Sasmuan, and Lubao in the Province of Pampanga, and Hermosa, Orani, Samal, Abucay, Balanga, and Pilar in the Province of Bataan, all situated at the northern shore of the Manila Bay, are susceptible to flooding and are the most dangerously exposed areas as the sea level rises. This danger is exacerbated by land subsidence caused by excessive groundwater extraction and rapid urban development, which has extended out of Metro Manila and into the nearby provinces of Regions III and IV-A.

In order to address this danger, plans have already been made to establish a coastal defense system in the Manila Bay to protect the shoreline from future rises in the sea level. In 2013, the New San Jose Builders, Inc. suggested a project involving a combination of flood control barriers in the northern shores of the Manila Bay and a Metro Manila to Bataan toll road, with a 50-year concession period, to be pursued by the private sector through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement. In 2015, the San Miguel Corporation Holdings entered the project. Unfortunately, this project did not materialize.

In the previous administration, the unsolicited proposal to build a coastal defense system in the northern shoreline of the Manila Bay was brought up again. According to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), such a project required massive resources, and a thorough study of the project's technical requirements and environmental impact. The enormity of the project's scope may cause some hesitation on the part of both the private sector investors and the implementing agencies in the executive department.

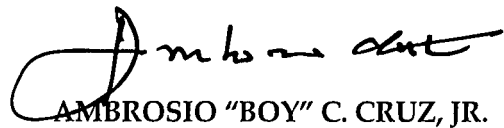
As such, it is time for government to take action by taking the lead in the pursuance of the project which will not only shield the coastal areas of the northern Manila Bay from

typhoon waves and flooding, but will also spur development in Metro Manila and the neighboring provinces, as well as unclog highways that connect these regions, through the construction of a new highway that will connect all of them through the Manila Bay.

This is made even more imperative by the fact that these regions have been undergoing rapid growth in the past decade, necessitating the construction of new infrastructure to accommodate the transport of people and goods in these areas, and to protect coastal dwellers from the dangers caused by climate change.

This bill seeks to establish the Manila Bay Integrated Flood Control Coastal Defense and Expressway and provide funds therefor, to kickstart its planning and construction.

Considering the rationale stated above, urgent passage of this bill is sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ambrosio Cruz, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

AMBROSIO "BOY" C. CRUZ, JR.
Representative, Fifth District of Bulacan

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3148

Introduced by Representative Ambrosio "Boy" C. Cruz, Jr.

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MANILA BAY INTEGRATED FLOOD CONTROL
COASTAL DEFENSE AND EXPRESSWAY, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared national policy to establish flood control systems in heavily-populated coastal areas to mitigate flooding caused by climate change.

Section 2. Flood Control Coastal Defense System. – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall undertake the construction of a flood control coastal defense system in the northern shoreline of the Manila Bay: Provided, That any such construction is based on a program prepared by the DPWH and upon consultation with the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and local chief executives, as well as civil society groups representing residents of the said area.

Section 3. Metro Manila to Bataan Expressway. – The DPWH shall also commence the construction of an expressway connecting Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, and Bataan, on top of the flood control coastal defense system.

Section 4. Submission of Reports. – Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, and at the end of every calendar quarter thereafter, the Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall submit progress reports to each House of Congress on the implementation of this Act.

Section 6. Funding. – The amount needed for the implementation of the construction of the flood control coastal defense system and expressway shall be included in the appropriations of the DPWH under the General Appropriations Act. Such funds may be augmented through loans, in accordance with the provisions of the law on government borrowing from financial institutions.

This project may also be funded through a Public-Private Partnership in accordance with the rules and regulations governing such partnerships.

Section 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 8. 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 are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

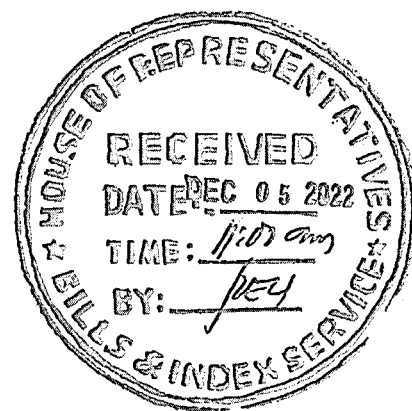
Section 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 614



Introduced by Representatives **DANILO A. DOMINGO, AUGUSTINA DOMINIQUE "DITSE TINA" C. PANCHO, LORNA C. SILVERIO, LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA, AMBROSIO C. CRUZ, JR., SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR., AND FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES**

ISANG RESOLUSYONG HUMIHILING NA MABIGYANG PRAYORIDAD ANG PAGBIBIGAY NG AGARAN AT KOMPREHENSIBONG SOLUSYON SA DEKA-DEKADA NANG PROBLEMA NG PAGBAHA SA PROBINSYA NG BULACAN, LALO'T HIGIT DAHIL SA NAPIPINTONG PAGBUBUKAS NG BULACAN AIRPORT, AT MAGSAGAWA NG *INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION* UKOL RITO

SAPAGKAT, ang pagbaha ay nagpapahirap sa buhay ng maraming Bulakenyo hindi lamang sa panahon ng tag-ulan kundi maging kahit tag-araw nang matagal nang panahon;

SAPAGKAT, ang pagbaha na ito ay sanhi kung bakit maraming palayan at palaisdaan ang hindi na mapakinabangan ng mga magsasaka at mangingisdang pangunahing bumubuhay sa atin;

SAPAGKAT, nito lamang Setyembre 2022, kinailangang ilikas ang mga residente ng San Miguel, Bulacan mula sa panganib ng tumataas na baha na dala ng Super Typhoon Karding, kaya dagliang tumugon sina Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) Personnel George E. Agustin, Troy Justin P. Agustin, Marby B. Bartolome, Narciso Calayag, Jr, at Jerson L. Resurrecion na humantong sa pagbubuwis ng kanilang mga buhay;

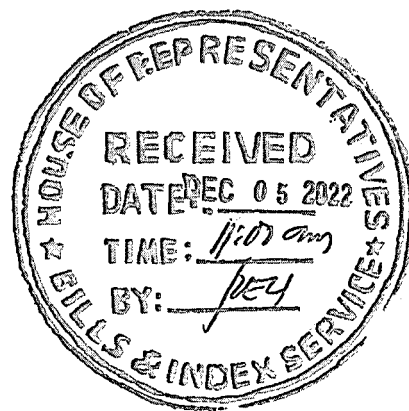
SAPAGKAT, ang konstruksyon ng Bulacan Airport ng San Miguel Aerocity, Inc., bagama't kinikilang magdudulot ng higit kaunlaran at karangalan sa probinsya, ay pinangangambahan na maging sanhi ng higit na paglubog ng ibang lugar dahil sa gagawing pagtatambak at pagtataas ng bahaging sakop ng Airport at Aerocity;

SAPAGKAT, sa kabila ng panawagan ng mga Bulakenyo, at ilang dayalogo ng mga Kongresista ng Bulacan, sa pangunguna nina House Committee on Transportation Chairman Romeo M. Acop at Vice Chairman Augustina Dominique "Ditse Tina" C. Pancho, kasama ang Department of Transportation, Department of Public Works and Highways, at San Miguel Aerocity, Inc., WALA pa ring: (1) Flood Management Master Plan para sa Probinsya ng Bulacan katulad ng sa Caloocan, Malabon, at Navotas (CAMANAVA) noon; (2) Ahensya ng Gobyerno na nagsisilbing Lead Agency sa usapin ng pagbaha sa Bulacan; at (3) isinasagawang flood mitigation measure, katulad ng pagpapalalim at pagpapalapad ng mga daanang tubig, ang San Miguel Aerocity, Inc.

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 614



Introduced by Representatives **DANILO A. DOMINGO, AUGUSTINA DOMINIQUE "DITSE TINA" C. PANCHO, LORNA C. SILVERIO, LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA, AMBROSIO C. CRUZ, JR., SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR., AND FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES**

ISANG RESOLUSYONG HUMIHILING NA MABIGYANG PRAYORIDAD ANG PAGBIBIGAY NG AGARAN AT KOMPREHENSIBONG SOLUSYON SA DEKA-DEKADA NANG PROBLEMA NG PAGBAHA SA PROBINSYA NG BULACAN, LALO'T HIGIT DAHIL SA NAPIPINTONG PAGBUBUKAS NG BULACAN AIRPORT, AT MAGSAGAWA NG INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION UKOL RITO

SAPAGKAT, ang pagbaha ay nagpapahirap sa buhay ng maraming Bulakenyo hindi lamang sa panahon ng tag-ulan kundi maging kahit tag-araw nang matagal nang panahon;

SAPAGKAT, ang pagbaha na ito ay sanhi kung bakit maraming palayan at palaisdaan ang hindi na mapakinabangan ng mga magsasaka at mangingisdang pangunahing bumubuhay sa atin;

SAPAGKAT, nito lamang Setyembre 2022, kinailangang ilikas ang mga residente ng San Miguel, Bulacan mula sa panganib ng tumataas na baha na dala ng Super Typhoon Karding, kaya dagliang tumugon sina Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) Personnel George E. Agustin, Troy Justin P. Agustin, Marby B. Bartolome, Narciso Calayag, Jr, at Jerson L. Resurrecion na humantong sa pagbubuwis ng kanilang mga buhay;

SAPAGKAT, ang konstruksyon ng Bulacan Airport ng San Miguel Aerocity, Inc., bagama't kinikilang magdudulot ng higit kaunlaran at karangalan sa probinsya, ay pinangangambahan na maging sanhi ng higit na paglubog ng ibang lugar dahil sa gagawing pagtatambak at pagtataas ng bahaging sakop ng Airport at Aerocity;

SAPAGKAT, sa kabila ng panawagan ng mga Bulakenyo, at ilang dayalogo ng mga Kongresista ng Bulacan, sa pangunguna nina House Committee on Transportation Chairman Romeo M. Acop at Vice Chairman Augustina Dominique "Ditse Tina" C. Pancho, kasama ang Department of Transportation, Department of Public Works and Highways, at San Miguel Aerocity, Inc., WALA pa ring: (1) Flood Management Master Plan para sa Probinsya ng Bulacan katulad ng sa Caloocan, Malabon, at Navotas (CAMANAVA) noon; (2) Ahensya ng Gobyerno na nagsisilbing Lead Agency sa usapin ng pagbaha sa Bulacan; at (3) isinasagawang flood mitigation measure, katulad ng pagpapalalim at pagpapalapad ng mga daanang tubig, ang San Miguel Aerocity, Inc.

sa kabila ng kanilang deklarasyon na parte ito ng kanilang plano hinggil sa Airport at Aerocity;

SAPAGKAT, wala nang ibang panahon kundi ngayon upang magsama-sama ang yaman, talino, kakayahan, at malasakit ng pamahalaang nasyunal at lokal, San Miguel Aerocity, Inc., at mga mamamayan upang sugpuin at mapagtagumpayan ang problema ng pagbaha sa Probinsya ng Bulacan na sagabal sa kaunlaran, kabuhayan, kaligtasan, at kalusugan ng buong bansa.

NGAYON, DAHIL RITO, IPINASIYA, ng **KAPULUNGAN NG MGA KINATAWAN** ng Pilipinas, na hilingin at himukin ang mga kinauukulan upang mabigyang prayoridad ang pagbibigay ng agaran at komprehensibong solusyon sa deka-dekada nang problema ng pagbaha sa Probinsya ng Bulacan, at magsagawa ng isang *inquiry in aid of legislation* ang Committee on Transportation ukol rito.

Pinagtitibay,



DANILO "DANNY" A. DOMINGO
1ST District - Bulacan

LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA
4th District - Bulacan



**AUGUSTINA DOMINIQUE "DITSE
TINA" C. RANCHO**
2nd District - Bulacan

AMBROSIO C. CRUZ, JR.
5th District - Bulacan



LORNA C. SILVERIO
3rd District - Bulacan

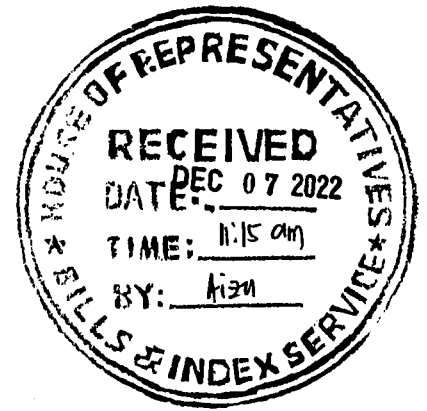
SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.
6th District - Bulacan

FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES
Lone District of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6559



Introduced by Hon. Representative Florida "Rida" P. Robes
Lone District of the City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

By the third quarter of 2022, the Province of Bulacan became the epicenter of a flood caused by a super typhoon that devastated thousands of lives and livelihood. Some municipalities in Bulacan, which were not otherwise prone to flooding, were ravaged by floods. This sounds off a wake-up call to set up a comprehensive and integrated flood prevention, control, defense, and management system in the Province of Bulacan.

Flooding brings with it catastrophic effects that throw a wrench to years of blood, sweat and toil of the people of Bulacan in ensuring the prosperity and development of the entire province. Floods do not only bring deaths and destruction of livelihood, but they also pose a threat in destroying cultural and natural heritage that have been passed on by our forebearers.

Nested in the province of Bulacan are numerous historical and cultural heritage of the Filipino people, such as, among others, the Barasoain Church which has been dubbed as the "Cradle of Democracy in the East" where the first Philippine Republic was established; the Casa Real which served as the National Printing Press of the revolutionary government in 1899; the Camestisuhan or Pariancillo District where the Spanish and American-era houses and government structures remain tall throughout the centuries; and churches and museums that hosts the significant relics of our distinct and unique Filipino heritage.

The vulnerability analysis conducted by Perez et. al. in 1999, as reported in the journal of *Climate Research*, revealed that majority of the areas along the coast of Manila Bay specifically Cavite, Metro Manila, and Bulacan could succumb to a one (1) meter sea level rise by year 2100.¹ Areas near riverbanks will also experience flooding when sea level rise reaches a height of two (2) meter.²

When compared to the global average of nineteen (19) centimeters, the Philippines has the largest observed sea level rise at sixty (60) centimeters.³ Owing to the archipelagic configuration of our country, an unabated increase in sea water level further puts at risk 60% of Local Government Units;

¹ Perez, R. T., Amadore, L. A., & Feir, R. B. (1999). Climate change impacts and responses in the Philippines coastal sector. *Climate Research*, 12(2/3), 97-107. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24866004>

² Perez, R. T., Amadore, L. A., & Feir, R. B. (1999). Climate change impacts and responses in the Philippines coastal sector. *Climate Research*, 12(2/3), 97-107. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24866004>

³ Perez, R. T., Amadore, L. A., & Feir, R. B. (1999). Climate change impacts and responses in the Philippines coastal sector. *Climate Research*, 12(2/3), 97-107. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24866004>

64 coastal provinces; 822 coastal municipalities; 25 coastal cities; and an estimated 13.6 million Filipinos who would need to relocate.

The same study also predicted that the most economically-depressed and densely-populated, as well as already flood-prone areas, may withstand a gradual rise in sea level but not when combined with the more powerful storm surges that strike the nation year in and out.⁴

In 2020, the World Bank estimated direct losses of 3.5 billion US dollars per year or over 1.0% of the country's GDP to public and private assets from earthquakes and typhoons. According to a 2022 study of the Philippine Institute of Developmental Studies, the average temperature in the Philippines has been increasing by 0.011 Celsius per year.

Karding alone killed six (6) people in Bulacan. Ironically, five (5) of whom were trained volunteer-rescuers. No less than 5,239 Bulakeños, 1,571 families, including 1,447 children and 231 senior citizens were displaced and forced to evacuate to escape the onslaught of Karding.⁵

According to the Department of Agriculture (DA), as Karding devastated Central Luzon – the nation's top rice-producing region – the agriculture sector lost at least P160.1 million⁶ comprising of rice, corn, vegetables and other high value crops. The economic devastation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic sent many families starving. The last thing that our nation needs is a crisis in food security.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) predicted in its *2021 Climatic Change and Food Security Analysis (CCFSA)* that the confluence of climate risks including typhoons, floods, and drought would pose major concerns to food security. Price volatility of food products resulting from the disruption of food production in regions impacted by climate-related risks becomes a pressing concern.

We cannot stop natural disasters but we can arm ourselves with preparation. This measure aims to equip the Province of Bulacan with sufficient defense and strongholds that will mitigate against the catastrophic impacts of floods on the provinces. Ultimately, this measure aims to protect its people and its bustling economy, preserve its cultural and natural heritage, and promote inclusive growth and sustainable development that the Bulakeños have worked hard all throughout the centuries.


FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES

⁴ Perez, R. T., Amadore, L. A., & Feir, R. B. (1999). Climate change impacts and responses in the Philippines coastal sector. *Climate Research*, 12(2/3), 97–107. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24866004>

⁵ Silverio, F. (2022 September 27). 5,239 displaced by 'Karding' in Bulacan. *The Manila Times*. <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/09/27/news/regions/5239-displaced-by-karding-in-bulacan/1859912>

⁶ Rubio, P. (2022, September 27). Groups urge govt to declare 'climate emergency' as Karding leaves millions in losses. *Yahoo! News*. <https://ph.news.yahoo.com/karding-leaves-millions-losses-groups-urge-government-declare-climate-emergency-083838691.html>

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6559

Introduced by Hon. Representative Florida "Rida P. Robes"
Lone District of the City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED FLOOD
PREVENTION, CONTROL, DEFENSE AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE
PROVINCE OF BULACAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Comprehensive and Integrated Bulacan Flood Prevention, Control, Defense and Management System*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy and Objective.* – It shall be the policy of the State to:

- (a) Protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;
- (b) Protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among our people to effectively carry out the programs and projects of the government essential for the growth and health of the nation, especially in times where the country experiences natural or manmade disasters, calamities, risks and security threats;
- (c) Adopt disaster risk reduction and management approach that is holistic, comprehensive, integrated and proactive in lessening the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of disasters including climate changes, and promote the involvement and participation of all sections ad all stakeholders concerned, at all levels, especially the local community;
- (d) Recognize and strengthen the capacities of LGUs and communities in mitigating and preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the impact of disasters;

- (e) Institutionalize the policies, structures, coordination mechanisms and programs with continuing budget appropriation on disaster risk reduction from national down to local levels towards building a disaster-resilient nation and communities;

Towards this end, this Act aims to establishing a comprehensive and integrated flood prevention, control, defense and management system in the province of Bulacan to mitigate flooding caused by climate change and other factors.

SEC. 3. *Flood Control, Prevention, Management and Defense System.* - The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination and consultation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Local and Interior Government (DILG), Department of Transportation (DOTr), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), local government units within the Province of Bulacan, and accredited civil society groups and indigenous peoples groups and/or communities representing residents of the province of Bulacan, shall undertake the construction of a flood prevention, control, defense and management system in the Province of Bulacan.

SEC. 4. *Operating and Guiding Principles* – In establishing the Bulacan flood prevention, control, defense and management system, the DPWH, in coordination and consultation with the aforementioned government agencies, local government units and civil society and indigenous peoples group, shall adhere to the following principles of safety, resilience and sustainability.

As far as practicable, the Bulacan flood prevention, control, defense and management system shall secure the residents of Bulacan from floods while –

- (i) ensuring the residents' access to adequate, affordable and safe housing and resettlement;
- (ii) providing residents access to safe, affordable, accessible, ecofriendly and sustainable transport systems and improving road safety;
- (iii) enhancing inclusive, ecofriendly and sustainable urbanization;
- (iv) protecting and safeguarding the cultural and natural heritage of the province in a manner consistent with Republic Act No. 10066 ("*National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009*");
- (v) significantly reducing the number of deaths and the number of people affected by floods and water-related disasters;
- (vi) substantially decreasing the direct economic losses caused by flood and water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations;
- (vii) supporting positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning;

- (viii) supporting local government units and indigenous communities within the province of Bulacan, through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable, ecofriendly and resilient flood prevention, control and defense infrastructures; and
- (ix) Respecting the rights of the indigenous peoples communities to their ancestral domains/lands, to free and prior consent, to indigenous knowledge systems and political structures, and such other rights as provided under Republic Act No. 8371 ("*Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997*") where infrastructure projects of the DPWH undertaken to give effect to this shall directly or indirectly affect or involve areas inhabited by indigenous peoples/communities.

SEC. 5. *Funding.* – The amount needed for the implementation of the construction of the Bulacan flood prevention, control, defense and management system shall be included in the appropriations of the DPWH under the General Appropriations Act. Such funds may be augmented through loans, in accordance with the provisions of the law on government borrowing from financial institutions.

This project may also be funded through a Public-Private Partnership in accordance with laws, rules and regulations governing such partnerships.

SEC. 6. *Transfer or Geographical Reassignment of Public Health Workers.* – (a) A disaster risk and emergency responder shall not be transferred and/or reassigned, except when made in the interest of public service or exigencies of service, in which case, the employee concerned shall be informed of the reasons therefore in writing.

(b) If the public health worker believes that such transfer and/or reassignment lacks justification, he/she may appeal his/her case to the Civil Service Commission, which shall cause his/her transfer and/or reassignment to be held in abeyance: *Provided*, That no transfer and/or reassignment whatsoever shall be made three (3) months before any local, national or special elections: *Provided, further*, That the necessary expenses of the transfer and/or reassignment of the public health worker and his/her immediate family shall be paid for by the Government.

(c) For the purposes of this Act, a "transfer" is a movement from one position to another which is of equivalent rank, level or salary without break in service; while a "geographical reassignment" (hereinafter referred to as "reassignment") is a movement from one geographical location to another.

SEC. 7. *Submission of Reports.* – Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, and at the end of every calendar quarter thereafter, the Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall submit progress reports to each House of Congress on the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and their implementing rules, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,



**Journal
of the
House of Representatives**

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2022 - 2023**

**JOURNAL NO. 31
Tuesday, November 22, 2022**

Prepared by the
JOURNAL SERVICE
Plenary Affairs Bureau

PRIVILEGE HOUR

With leave of the House, on successive motions of Rep. Francisco Paolo P. Ortega V, there being no objection, the Chair declared a Privilege Hour; and thereafter recognized Rep. Juan Carlos “Arjo” C. Atayde for his privilege speech.

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF REPRESENTATIVE ATAYDE**

Representative Atayde spoke about the urgent concern of flooding in the National Capital Region which he said directly affects the lives of his constituents and the millions of Filipinos in Metro Manila and which, if not addressed, may derail the aspirations for the Philippines to become “Asia’s Fastest Rising Star.”

Citing statistics, he discussed the substantial cost of damage caused by flooding and how it had regularly paralyzed many parts of Metro Manila especially in his district. While he commended city and barangay officials and national government agencies for providing help and support during typhoons, he stressed that they are just stopgap measures that would not address the roots of the perennial flooding problem.

As nothing can be done about the climate and the weather, Representative Atayde then pushed to fast track the implementation of the Metro Manila Flood Management Project (MMFMP). Approved in 2012 and launched in 2017, he said MMFMP was funded by the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to improve flood management in selected areas in Metro Manila by modernizing drainage areas, minimizing solid waste in waterways, implementing participatory housing and resettlement of affected families, and promoting project management and coordination between the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

However, Representative Atayde lamented that while the project is scheduled to be completed by 2024, its accomplishment status indicators are very low, and thus to fast track its implementation, he proposed that a “Flooding Czar” be designated; urged that DPWH allocate funds to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing retarding

ponds and box culverts, relocating informal settlers, constructing high-rise walls and pumping stations at the San Juan river, and to assess the flood control master plan for Metro Manila and its surrounding areas.

He then sought the support of his colleagues to finally solve the flooding problems in Metro Manila.

**REFERRAL OF PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF REPRESENTATIVE ATAYDE**

On motion of Representative Ortega, there being no objection, the Body referred the privilege speech of Representative Atayde to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Reps. Marie Bernadette G. Escudero, Aniela Bianca D. Tolentino, Jefferson F. Khonghun, and Sancho Fernando “Ando” F. Oaminal, one after the other, acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Khonghun, Jude A. Acidre, and Jose “Bong” J. Teves Jr.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Keith Micah “Atty. Mike” D.L. Tan, the Chair recognized Rep. France L. Castro for her privilege speech.

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF REPRESENTATIVE CASTRO (F.)**

Representative Castro denounced the baseless and malicious red tagging, illegal profiling, and harassment of teachers especially those affiliated with the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) by State forces; the alleged attempts of disaffiliation of teachers as members of ACT; the issuance of a memorandum circular by the Department of the Interior and Local Government labeling ACT and the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees as fronts of communist terrorist groups; and the continuous webinars and face-to-face information drives against ACT and other progressive organizations including the Representatives of Makabayan bloc, which she said were attempts to silence women, who comprise the majority of teachers in the public and private schools, and the society as a whole.

As she recalled that the upcoming International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women