

12 AUG 23 2012

SENATE
S. No. 3259

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In August 2012, the Philippines experienced torrential rains of calamity proportions. It comprised an eight-day period of intense rain and thunder storms. It was not actually a typhoon, but a strong movement of the Southwest Monsoon; however, the damage was almost as massive as that caused by Typhoon Ondoy. Thus, that period from August 1 up to August 8 was termed “Ang Hagupit ng Habagat” (*The Wrath of the Monsoon*), and also “Bagsik ng Habagat” (*Worst of Monsoon*). The heavy rains affected particularly the National Capital Region; the provinces of the CALABARZON Region, namely, Quezon, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal; and the provinces of Region 3, namely, Bulacan, Pampanga and Bataan.

By August 8, more than one million families were affected. The NCR and nine nearby provinces were placed under a state of calamity. 90 percent of Metro Manila was submerged in flooding, with some areas flooding up to 2 storeys.

The floods caused serious damage to homes, farms, vehicles, and other property. It is estimated that the intense flooding and heavy rains left 95 persons dead, 8,428 homes destroyed, and 6,706 homes damaged. Losses throughout the country amounted to at least PhP604.63 million or US\$14.31 million.

In order to recover from the debilitating effects of this catastrophe, many of the victims need additional resources outside from their usual income. Not everyone, however, has access to calamity assistance funding. Hence, this bill seeks to create a Flood Fund, which will provide financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans to those adversely affected by the flood.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
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Sources:

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“More than 1 million battle Philippine flood.” <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-08-08/more-than-1-million-battle-philippine-floods/4186366?section=world>. Retrieved 8 August 2012.

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AUG 20 2012

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1 AN ACT
2 CREATING THE FLOOD RECOVERY FUND ACT

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

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “The Flood Recovery Fund
4 Act.”

5 SECTION 2. *Creation of Disaster Recovery Fund.* – Financial assistance will be
6 available to citizens who have been adversely affected by flooding beginning in August 2012.
7 Financial assistance will be in the form of no-interest loans.

8 SECTION 3. *Disaster Recovery Fund Action Centers.* There shall be established, under
9 the control and supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the
10 Disaster Recovery Fund Action Centers (DRFAC) with offices in all devastated areas to be
11 determined by the DSWD, and the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC). The
12 DRFAC shall process applications for financial assistance from the Fund.

13 SECTION 4. *Issuance of Implementing Rules and Regulations.* -Within ninety (90) days
14 from the approval of this Act, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the
15 NDCC, in consultation with appropriate agencies, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to
16 implement the provisions of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall take effect fifteen (15)
17 days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

18 SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* — To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as
19 may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.
20 Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous operation of the Commission shall be
21 included in the annual appropriation of the DSWD.

1 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
3 valid and subsisting.

4 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
5 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
6 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

7 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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