

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'04 JUN 30 P3:53

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SENATE

S. No. 306

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill provides for the inclusion of the study of natural and man-made disasters in school curricula at all levels of the Philippine educational systems to promote disaster awareness and disaster mitigation in the country. It is our response to the United Nations' program fostered under the INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION (IDNDR), which aims to minimize loss of life, property damage and socio-economic losses caused by natural disasters.

The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world and the need is imminent to promote awareness for the hazards concomitant with it. The Philippine archipelago is particularly prone to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, typhoons, tsunami, floods and droughts because of its geologic and geographical conditions, and yet studies done by the NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION in October 1994, have shown that we, as a people, have been observed to be more reactionary than anticipatory in our disaster-preparedness and hazard awareness. Planning for a disaster is low in the priorities of majority of the population, especially among the low-income bracket whose main preoccupation is daily subsistence and survival. Sadly, data from the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center in Thailand shows that in 1994, the world economy lost more money from natural disasters than it spent on development aid.

The Philippines lies between two major tectonic plates of the world, which makes it a highly seismic area – an earthquake country. At least five earthquakes per day occur in the country. The eastern section of the country comprising of eastern Mindanao, Samar and Leyte is the most seismically active part of the Philippines, averaging sixteen earthquakes a day, with Northern Luzon, Lubang Island and Mindoro a close second. The metropolis, the most heavily populated area in the country, and therefore most vulnerable and at risk has five seismic source zones which is the loci of major earthquakes in the past: Marikina Valley fault System, Philippine Fault Zone, Lubang Fault, Casiguran Fault and Manila trench. Metro Manila has already experienced 28 major earthquakes and is hit by a perceptible (Intensity IV) earthquake every year.

Typhoons enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility on the average of twenty (20) a year and their attendant hazards such as strong winds, storm surges and floods, are some of the most frequent and damaging problems that the country is vulnerable to. Flooding due to typhoons is a chronic problem in Metro Manila with its inadequate drainage system. In low-lying areas, such as the provinces of Davao and Cotabato, flooding causes damage to crops amounting to millions of pesos.

This bill aims to integrate in the curricula of all schools in all levels of the educational system a study of natural and man-made calamities in order to (1) instill disaster awareness; (2) develop simulations to understand the phenomena of natural and man-made disasters, especially earthquakes, as stated in the conference report of UNIC on "Integration of Public Administration and the science of Disasters" (Beijing, China, January 1997); and (4) promote active participation of children, youth, students and schools, to promote disaster mitigation information for disaster reduction.

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



SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

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**AN ACT
REQUIRING THE TEACHING OF DISASTER AWARENESS AND DISASTER
MITIGATION AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF ALL PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. The teaching of disaster awareness and disaster mitigation is hereby required to be a part of the curriculum of all primary and secondary schools in the Philippines.

SEC. 2. The Department of Education (DepEd) shall adopt the necessary rules and regulations to implement the regulations of this Act.

SEC. 3. The funds needed for this purpose shall be taken from the appropriations of the DepEd and/or Economic Support Fund allotted to said Department. Thereafter, such sum which may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. Repealability Clause. All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, proclamations or administrative regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,