

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

04 SEP -6 AM 104

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S E N A T E

S. No. 1754

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE


The Philippines, being in the so-called Circum-Pacific belt of fire and typhoon, is constantly subjected to disasters and calamities. According to a Philippine National Red Cross statement, the Philippines leads the world in the types and frequency of natural disasters and ranked fourth in the number of people killed or affected by floods, tsunamis, typhoons, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and man-made disaster.

With each disaster comes considerable damage to infrastructure, property and natural resources. Other effects include severe soil erosion, food shortage, and loss of life.

Disaster management encompasses a wide range of disaster-related activities that are undertaken before, during, and after the occurrence of a disaster-causing event, namely: hazards assessment and zoning, disaster protection and risk reduction, monitoring and prediction, contingency planning, emergency response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction or redevelopment. As observed, the most effective strategy to minimize the adverse effect of disasters remains to be mitigation and preparedness. Part of Philippines' preparedness strategy is to strengthen linkages with various volunteer groups nationwide.

The government needs to effectively address the issue of rehabilitation and restoration of the affected areas. A coordinating body, headed by the most authoritative leader of the affected region, is therefore the most logical organization for dealing with disasters. Thus, this bill seeks to amend Section 3 of Presidential Decree No. 1566, also known as "An Act Strengthening the Philippine Disaster Control, Capability and Establishing the National Program on Community Disaster Preparedness" to provide a more responsive Regional Disaster Coordinating Council. It shall act as the central agency in evacuating victims as well as rehabilitating areas affected by the natural disasters.

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


SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

04 SEP -6 AM 10:04

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S E N A T E
S. No. 1754

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

AN ACT
AMENDING SEC. 3 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1566, ALSO KNOWN
AS AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE DISASTER CONTROL,
CAPABILITY AND ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL PROGRAM ON
COMMUNITY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Sec. 3 of Presidential Decree No. 1566 is hereby amended
2 to be read as:

3 *"Sec. 3. Organization of the Regional Rehabilitation Council.*

4 – At the regional level, there shall be constituted a Regional
5 Disaster Coordinating Council [with Regional Commissioner or the
6 official so designated by the President as Chairman]. The Council
7 shall be composed of the [executives of regional offices and field
8 stations at the regional level] DENR REGIONAL DIRECTOR,
9 DPWH REGIONAL DIRECTOR, THE PROVINCIAL
10 ENVIRONMENT OFFICE (PEO), CITY/MUNICIPAL
11 ENVIRONMENT OFFICE, AND CITY/MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING
12 OFFICE. THEY SHALL ELECT AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE
13 REGIONAL REHABILITATION COUNCIL THE CHAIRMAN

1 THEREOF. The Council shall establish an operating facility to be
2 known as the Regional Disaster Operations Center.

3 THE REGIONAL REHABILITATION COUNCIL SHALL
4 APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THREE (3)
5 TECHNICAL STAFF TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE TECHNICAL
6 AND ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS OF THE REGIONAL
7 REHABILITATION COUNCIL.

8 A. *POWERS OF THE REGIONAL REHABILITATION*
9 *COUNCIL.* – IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS AND
10 OBJECTIVES UNDER THIS ACT, THE REGIONAL
11 REHABILITATION COUNCIL SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING
12 POWERS:

13 (1) TO FORMULATE POLICIES AND PLANS FOR THE
14 EVACUATION AND REHABILITATION OF VICTIMS IN THEIR
15 SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN;

16 (2) TO COORDINATE AND CONSULT WITH THE
17 CONCERNED NATIONAL AND LOCAL OFFICIALS, BOTH
18 ELECTIVE AND APPOINTIVE, AS WELL AS ACCREDITED NON-
19 GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) IN THE
20 IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS EVACUATION AND
21 REHABILITATION EFFORTS;

22 (3) TO CALL UPON ANY OFFICE, INSTRUMENTALITY,
23 AGENCY, OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE
24 GOVERNMENT FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE, AS MAY BE
25 NECESSARY FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF
26 THE COMMISSION;

1 (4) TO PERFORM SUCH OTHER
2 FUNCTION/ACTIVITIES TO WILLFULLY CARRY OUT THE
3 OBJECTIVES OF THIS ACT.

4 B. *EFFECT OF RECOMMENDATION.* – THE
5 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REGIONAL REHABILITATION
6 COUNCIL, DULY ADOPTED AND ISSUED, SHALL BE BINDING
7 ON THE REGIONAL REHABILITATION COUNCIL AND OTHER
8 CONCERNED AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

9 C. *CONSTRUCTION OF PROVINCIAL*
10 *REHABILITATION CENTERS.* THERE SHALL BE
11 CONSTRUCTED REHABILITATION CENTERS, IN PROVINCES
12 TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION, WHICH SHALL
13 SERVE AS PRIMARY EVACUATION CENTERS AND
14 REHABILITATION CENTERS IN EVENT OF DISASTERS, BOTH
15 NATURAL AND MAN-MADE CALAMITIES.

16 D. *FUNDING.* – THERE IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED
17 THE APPROPRIATION OF THE SUM AS MAY BE NECESSARY
18 OUT OF ANY FUNDS IN THE NATIONAL TREASURY NOT
19 OTHERWISE APPROPRIATED TO ORGANIZE THE RRC AND
20 SUPPORT ITS INITIAL OPERATIONS. THEREAFTER, THE
21 AMOUNT NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION AND
22 MAINTENANCE OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE INCLUDED IN
23 THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS.

24 E. *RULES AND REGULATIONS.* – THE COUNCIL
25 SHALL ISSUE WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF
26 THIS ACT THE NECESSARY REGULATIONS FOR THE
27 EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.”

1 SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
2 regulations or any part thereof which are inconsistent herewith are hereby
3 deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

4 SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* If for any reason, any section or provision of
5 this Act or any portion of this Act thereof, or the application of such section,
6 provision or portion is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder thereof
7 shall not be affected by such declaration.

8 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,