

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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Senate
Office of the Secretary

'19 JUL -2 P6:12

SENATE
S. No. 211

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

AN ACT
CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT, DEFINING ITS
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is located at the West Pacific Rim which is the most active tropical cyclone basin. At the same time, it sits in the Pacific Ring of Fire, characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes. Due to the country's location, approximately twenty tropical cyclones enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility annually, with about eight or nine crossing the archipelago. The Philippines also regularly experiences earthquakes, landslides, flash floods and other disasters.

Recently, the country experienced a number of largescale and devastating natural and man-made disasters, such as deadly earthquakes, catastrophic fires, far-reaching floods, damaging storms and armed conflicts such as the Marawi siege in 2017.

The threats of natural and man-made disasters are expected to continue because climate change is making weather patterns less predictable and more extreme. Given our disaster risk profile, Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the "Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010" (PDDRM), was enacted on 27 May 2010.

The PDRRM Act of 2010 paved the way for the institutionalization of the proactive Disaster Risk Reduction and Management or “DRRM” approach, which is the systematic process of using administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills and capacities to implement strategies, policies and coping capacities in order to lessen the adverse impacts of hazards and the possibility of disaster. It strengthened the Philippines’ implementation of actions and measures for direction and mitigation in times of catastrophes which is a very important step towards achieving an enhanced response program for disaster risk reduction.

This is in line with the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (DRRF) adopted by the members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in 2015 to facilitate collective work in building adaptive and disaster resilient economies supporting inclusive and sustainable development in the phase of the “new normal.” This opens up institutional capacity to bolster good relationships among response operations key players that may result to institutional interoperability. Corollary to the DRRF, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) endorsed in 2015 and 2016, respectively, by the United Nations General Assembly also acknowledge the necessity to address climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk by fostering collaboration among national and local governments as well as other stakeholders including nongovernment organizations (NGOs), international organizations, the academe and the private sectors.

In view of the abovementioned international frameworks that recognize the need for the creation of a single entity that will oversee a comprehensive and coordinated approach in dealing with disasters, this bill aims to open the policy examination on revolutionizing the current DRRM institutions.

This bill proposes to create the Department of Disaster Management which shall be the lead agency for all disaster and rehabilitation management programs, policies and activities in the country. It shall be responsible for policy-making, planning, coordinating, integrating, supervising, implementing, monitoring and evaluating with regard to disaster awareness, resilience and emergency management.

Given the increasing regularity and severity of natural and man-made disasters, the Philippine Government has recognized that a national, coordinated and cooperative effort is required to enhance the country's capacity to withstand and recover from emergencies and disasters.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this bill is respectfully requested.

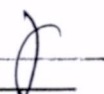


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Senator

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

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "The Department of Disaster Management Act."

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- (a) Uphold the people's constitutional rights to life and property by addressing the root causes of vulnerabilities to disasters, strengthening the country's institutional capacity for disaster and rehabilitation management and building the resilience of local communities to disasters including climate change impacts and human-man disasters;
- (b) Inculcate a culture of awareness, resilience and preparedness, and rehabilitation for natural and man-made disaster at the national, regional, and local levels;
- (c) Adopt a disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation management approach that is holistic, comprehensive, integrated, and proactive in lessening the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of disasters including climate

- 1 change, and promote the involvement and participation of all sectors and all
2 stakeholders concerned, at all levels, especially the local community;
- 3 (d) Adhere to and adopt the universal norms, principles and standards of
4 humanitarian assistance and the global effort on risk reduction as concrete
5 expression of the country's commitment to overcome human sufferings due to
6 recurring disasters;
- 7 (e) Incorporate internationally accepted principles of disaster risk and vulnerability
8 reduction and management, and climate change adaptation, including universal
9 principles and standards for humanitarian assistance, developing and
10 implementing national, regional and local sustainable development and poverty
11 reduction strategies, policies, plans and budgets, incorporating the ASEAN
12 Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response;
- 13 (f) Develop, promote, and implement a comprehensive National Disaster
14 Management Plan (NDMP) that aims to strengthen the capacity of the national
15 government and the local government units (LGUs), together with partner
16 stakeholders, to build disaster resilient communities, and to institutionalize
17 arrangements and measures for reducing disaster risks, including projected
18 climate risks, and enhancing disaster preparedness and response capabilities
19 at all levels;
- 20 (g) Adopt and implement a coherent, comprehensive, integrated, efficient and
21 responsive disaster risk reduction program incorporated in the development
22 plan at various levels of government adhering to the principles of good
23 governance such as transparency and accountability within the context of
24 poverty alleviation and environmental protection;
- 25 (h) Adhere to the principle of "Build Forward Better" in recovery and rehabilitation
26 efforts by applying standards, programs, technologies, and techniques which
27 enhance resilience against future hazards;
- 28 (i) Mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change in development
29 processes such as policy formulation, socioeconomic development planning,
30 budgeting, and governance, particularly in the areas of environment,
31 agriculture, water, energy, health, education, poverty reduction, land-use and
32 urban planning, and public infrastructure and housing, among others;

- 1 (j) Institutionalize the policies, structures, coordination mechanisms and programs
2 with continuing budget appropriation on disaster risk reduction from national
3 down to local levels towards building a disaster-resilient nation and
4 communities;
- 5 (k) Mainstream disaster risk reduction into the peace process and conflict
6 resolution approaches in order to minimize loss of lives and damage to property,
7 and ensure that communities in conflict zones can immediately go back to their
8 normal lives during periods of intermittent conflicts;
- 9 (l) Recognize the local risk patterns across the country and strengthen the capacity
10 of LGUs for disaster risk reduction and management through decentralized
11 powers, responsibilities, and resources at the regional and local levels;
- 12 (m) Recognize and strengthen the capacities of LGUs and multiple
13 stakeholders in the communities in mitigating and preparing for, responding to,
14 and recovering from the impact of disasters through identification of local risk
15 patterns and decentralized powers, responsibilities and resources at the
16 regional and local levels;
- 17 (n) Engage the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector
18 and volunteers in the government's disaster risk reduction programs towards
19 complementation of resources and effective delivery of services;
- 20 (o) Involve children and youth in disaster risk and vulnerability reduction, in
21 accordance with legislation, national practice, and educational curricula;
- 22 (p) Develop and strengthen the capacities of vulnerable and marginalized groups
23 to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of disasters;
- 24 (q) Ensure that the best possible assistance and services are delivered to
25 individuals and families affected by disaster and emergency rehabilitation
26 projects to guarantee the resumption of normal social and business activities;
27 and
- 28 (r) Provide maximum care, assistance and services to individuals and families
29 affected by disaster, implement emergency rehabilitation projects to lessen the
30 impact of disaster, and facilitate resumption of normal social and economic
31 activities.

1 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall
2 mean:

3 a) *Adaptation* – the adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual
4 or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits
5 beneficial opportunities;

6 b) *Build Forward Better* - an approach to building and/or reconstructing an area
7 or community, which entails a shift from simple recovery and restoration to safer,
8 more adaptive, resilient, and inclusive communities;

9 c) *Business Continuity Plan* - a plan describing the policy, systems and procedures
10 by which enterprises can avoid suspension of their critical business or can recover
11 the critical business quickly if it is interrupted, even when contingencies arise,
12 including natural disasters such as major earthquakes, communicable disease
13 pandemics, terrorist acts, serious accidents, disruption of supply chains and abrupt
14 changes in business environment, or they can recover business quickly if their
15 business is interrupted.

16 d) *Capacity* - a combination of all strengths and resources available within a
17 community, society or organization that can reduce the level of risk, or effects of
18 a disaster. Capacity may include infrastructure and physical means, institutions,
19 societal coping abilities, as well as human knowledge, skills and collective attributes
20 such as social relationships, leadership and management. Capacity may also be
21 described as capability;

22 e) *Civil Society Organizations Or CSOs* - non-state actors whose aims are neither
23 to generate profits nor to seek governing power. CSOs unite people to advance
24 shared goals and interests. They have a presence in public life, expressing the
25 interests and values of their members or others, and are based on ethical, cultural,
26 scientific, religious or philanthropic considerations. CSOs include nongovernment
27 organizations (NGOs), professional associations, foundations, independent
28 research institutes, community-based organizations (CBOs), faith-based
29 organizations, people's organizations, social movements, and labor unions;

30 f) *Climate Change* – a change in climate that can' be identified by changes in the
31 mean and/or variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period

1 typically decades or longer, whether due to natural variability or as a result of
2 human activity;

3 g) *Crisis* – also known as emergency; a threatening condition that requires urgent
4 action or response;

5 h) *Department* – the Department of Disaster Management;

6 i) *Department proper* – the offices, agencies, bureaus, and services under the
7 authority of the Secretary of the Department of Disaster Management;

8 j) *Disaster* – a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society
9 involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and
10 impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope
11 using its own resources. Disasters are often described as a result of the
12 combination of: the exposure to a hazard; the conditions of vulnerability that are
13 present; and insufficient capacity or measures to reduce or cope with the potential
14 negative consequences, Disaster impacts may include loss of life, injury, disease
15 and other negative effects on human, physical, mental and social well-being,
16 together with damage to property, destruction of assets, loss of services, Social
17 and economic disruption and environmental degradation;

18 k) *Disaster Management* - the organization and management of resources and
19 responsibilities for addressing all aspects of emergencies, in particular
20 preparedness, response and initial recovery steps;

21 l) *Disaster Management Information System* - a specialized database which
22 contains, among others, information on disasters and their human material,
23 economic and environmental impact, risk assessment and mapping and vulnerable
24 groups;

25 m) *Disaster Mitigation* - the lessening or limitation of the adverse impacts of
26 hazards and related disasters. Mitigation measures encompass engineering
27 techniques and hazard-resistant construction as well as improved environmental
28 policies and public awareness;

29 n) *Disaster Preparedness* - the knowledge and capacities developed by
30 governments, professional response and recovery organizations, communities and
31 individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the Impacts of
32 likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions. Preparedness action is

1 carried out within the context of disaster risk reduction and management and aims
2 to build the capacities needed to efficiently manage all types of emergencies and
3 achieve orderly transitions from response to sustained recovery. Preparedness is
4 based on a sound analysis of disaster risk and good linkages with early warning
5 systems, and includes such activities as contingency planning, stockpiling of
6 equipment and supplies, the development of arrangements for coordination,
7 evacuation and public information, and associated training and field exercises.
8 These must be supported by formal institutional, legal and budgetary capacities;

9 o) *Disaster Prevention* - the outright avoidance of adverse impacts of hazards and
10 related disasters. It expresses the concept and intention to completely avoid
11 potential adverse impacts through action taken in advance such as construction of
12 dams or embankments that eliminate flood risks, land-use regulations that do not
13 permit any settlement in high-risk zones, and seismic engineering designs that
14 ensure the survival and function of a critical building in any likely earthquake;

15 p) *Disaster Response* - the provision of emergency services and public assistance
16 during or immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce health impacts,
17 ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected.
18 Disaster response is predominantly focused on immediate and short-term needs
19 and is sometimes called "disaster relief";

20 q) *Disaster Risk* - the potential disaster losses in lives, health status, livelihood,
21 assets and services, which could occur to a particular community or a Society over
22 some specified future time period;

23 r) *Disaster Risk Reduction* - the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks
24 through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters,
25 including through reduced exposures to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people
26 and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved
27 preparedness for adverse events;

28 s) *Disaster Risk Reduction and Management* - the systematic process of using
29 administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills and capacities to
30 implement strategies, policies and improved coping capacities in order to lessen
31 the adverse impacts of hazards and the possibility of disaster. Prospective disaster
32 risk reduction and management refers to risk reduction and management activities

1 that address and seek to avoid the development of new or increased disaster risks,
2 especially if risk reduction policies are not put in place;

3 t) *Early Warning System* - the set of capacities needed to generate and
4 disseminate timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals,
5 communities and organizations threatened by a hazard to prepare and to act
6 appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss. A
7 people-centered early warning system necessarily comprises four (4) key
8 elements: knowledge of the risks; monitoring, analysis and forecasting of the
9 hazards; communication or dissemination of alerts and warnings; and local
10 capabilities to respond to the warnings received. The expression "end-to-end
11 warning system" is also used to emphasize that warning systems need to span all
12 steps from hazard detection to community response;

13 u) *Emergency* - unforeseen or sudden occurrence, especially danger, demanding
14 immediate action;

15 v) *Exposure* - the degree to which the elements at risk are likely to experience
16 hazard events of different magnitudes;

17 w) *Geographic Information System* - a database which contains, among others,
18 geo-hazard assessments, information on climate change, and climate risk reduction
19 and management;

20 x) *Hazard* - a process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life,
21 injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption
22 or environmental degradation. Hazards may be natural, anthropogenic or
23 socionatural in origin;

24 y) *Human-Induced Hazard* - human-induced significant incidents resulting in acts
25 of terrorism, destabilization, criminal activities, and disruption of normal day-to-
26 day economic activities that require prompt intervention to contain the incident,
27 mitigate the effects, and normalize the situation;

28 z) *Land-Use Planning* - the process undertaken by public authorities to identify,
29 evaluate and decide on different options for the use of land, including consideration
30 of long-term economic, social and environmental objectives and the implications
31 for different communities and interest groups, and the subsequent formulation and
32 promulgation of plans that describe the permitted or acceptable uses;

1 aa) *Mitigation* - structural and non-structural measures undertaken to limit the
2 adverse impact of natural hazards, environmental degradation, and technological
3 hazards and to ensure the ability of at-risk communities to address vulnerabilities
4 aimed at minimizing the impact of disasters. Such measures include, but are not
5 limited to, hazard-resistant construction and engineering works, the formulation
6 and implementation of plans, programs, projects and activities, awareness raising,
7 knowledge management, policies on land-use and resource management, as well
8 as the enforcement of comprehensive land-use planning, building and safety
9 standards, and legislation;

10 bb) *National Disaster Management Framework or NDMF* - provides for
11 comprehensive, all hazards, multi-sectoral, inter-agency and community-based
12 approach to disaster risk reduction and management;

13 cc) *National Disaster Management Plan or NDMP* - the document to be formulated
14 and implemented by the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) that sets out goals and
15 specific objectives for reducing disaster risks together with related actions to
16 accomplish these objectives. The NDMP shall provide for the identification of
17 hazards, vulnerabilities and risks to be managed at the national level; disaster risk
18 reduction and management approaches and strategies to be applied in managing
19 said hazards and risks; agency roles, responsibilities and lines of authority at all
20 government levels; and vertical and horizontal coordination of disaster risk
21 reduction and management in the pre-disaster and post-disaster phases. It shall
22 be in conformity with the NDMF;

23 dd) *NERC* - the National Emergency Response Corps created under this Act;

24 ee) *Preparedness* - pre-disaster actions and measures being undertaken within the
25 context of disaster risk reduction and management and are based on sound risk
26 analysis as well as pre-disaster activities to avert or minimize loss of life and
27 property such as, but not limited to, community organizing, training, planning,
28 equipping, stockpiling, hazard mapping, insuring of assets, and public information
29 and education initiatives. This also includes the development/enhancement of an
30 overall preparedness strategy, policy, institutional structure, warning and
31 forecasting capabilities, and plans that define measures geared to help at-risk

1 communities safeguard their lives and assets by being alert to hazards and taking
2 appropriate action in the face of an Imminent threat or an actual disaster;

3 ff) *Private Sector* - the key actor in the realm of the economy where the central
4 social concern and process are the mutually beneficial production and distribution
5 of goods and services to meet the physical needs of human beings. The private
6 sector comprises private corporations, households and nonprofit institutions
7 serving households;

8 gg) *Rehabilitation* - measures that ensure the ability of affected communities/areas
9 to restore their normal level of functioning by rebuilding livelihood and damaged
10 infrastructures and increasing the communities' organizational capacity;

11 hh) *Resilience* - the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards
12 to resist, absorb, accommodate and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely
13 and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its
14 essential basic structures and functions;

15 ii) *Response* - any concerted effort by two (2) or more agencies, public or private,
16 to provide assistance or intervention during or immediately after a disaster to meet
17 the life preservation and basic subsistence needs of those people affected and in
18 the restoration of essential public activities and facilities;

19 jj) *Risk* - the combination of the probability of an event and its negative
20 consequences;

21 kk) *Risk Assessment* - a methodology to determine the nature and extent of risk
22 by analyzing potential hazards and evaluating existing conditions of vulnerability
23 that together could potentially harm exposed people, property, services, livelihood
24 and the environment on which they depend. Risk assessments with associated risk
25 mapping include: a review of the technical characteristics of hazards such as their
26 location, intensity, frequency and probability; the analysis of exposure and
27 vulnerability including the physical, social, health, economic and environmental
28 dimensions; and the evaluation of the effectiveness of prevailing and alternative
29 coping capacities in respect to likely risk scenarios;

30 ll) *Risk Management* - the systematic approach and practice of managing
31 uncertainty to minimize potential harm and loss. It comprises risk assessment and
32 analysis, and the implementation of strategies and specific actions to control,

1 reduce and transfer risks. It is widely practiced by organizations to minimize risk
2 in investment decisions and to address operational risks such as those of business
3 disruption, production failure, environmental damage, social impacts and damage
4 from fire and natural hazards;

5 mm) *Risk Transfer* - the process of formally or informally shifting the financial
6 consequences of particular risks from one party to another whereby a household,
7 community, enterprise or state authority will obtain resources from the other party
8 after a disaster occurs, in exchange for ongoing or compensatory social or financial
9 benefits provided to that other party;

10 nn) *Secretary* – to the Secretary of the Department of Disaster Management;

11 oo) *State of Calamity* - a condition involving mass casualty and/or major damages
12 to property, disruption of means of livelihoods, roads and normal way of life of
13 people in the affected areas as a result of the occurrence of natural or human-
14 induced hazard;

15 pp) *Sustainable Development* - development that meets the needs of the present
16 without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It
17 contains within it two (2) key concepts: (1) the concept of "needs", in particular,
18 the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be
19 given; and (2) the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social
20 organizations on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs. It is
21 the harmonious integration of a sound and viable economy, responsible
22 governance, social cohesion and harmony, and ecological integrity to ensure that
23 human development now and through future generations is a life-enhancing
24 process;

25 qq) *Vulnerability* - the characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or
26 asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard. Vulnerability
27 may arise from various physical, social, economic, and environmental factors such
28 as poor design and construction of buildings, inadequate protection of assets, lack
29 of public information and awareness, limited official recognition of risks and
30 preparedness measures, and disregard for wise environmental management; and

1 rr) *Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups* - those that face higher exposure to
2 disaster risk and poverty including, but not limited to, women, children, elderly,
3 differently-abled people, and ethnic minorities.

4 THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT.

5 Sec. 4. *Creation of the Department of Disaster Management.* – There is hereby
6 created a Department of Disaster Management, hereinafter referred to as the
7 Department. The powers and functions of the National Risk Reduction and
8 Management Council established under Republic Act No. 10121 are hereby transferred
9 to, absorbed and assumed by the Department.

10 Sec. 5. *Mandate.* – The Department shall be the primary government agency
11 responsible for policy-making, planning, coordinating, integrating, supervising,
12 implementing, monitoring and evaluation with regard to disaster preparedness,
13 resilience and emergency management in the country.

14 The Department shall exercise the powers, in addition to those granted to it,
15 essential to the promotion of the general welfare, such as the imposition of emergency
16 measures including preemptive and forced evacuation, in anticipation of, during and
17 after emergencies, hazards and disasters and only when there is imminent danger of
18 loss of lives and/or damage to property.

19 Sec. 6. *Powers and Functions.* – The Department shall exercise and perform
20 the following powers and functions:

- 21 (a) Develop a National Disaster Management Framework which shall provide
22 for a comprehensive, all-hazards, multi-sectoral, inter-agency and community-
23 based approach to disaster risk reduction and management. The Framework
24 shall serve as the principal guide to disaster and rehabilitation management
25 efforts in the country and shall be reviewed on a five(5)-year interval, or as
26 may be deemed necessary, in order to ensure its relevance to the times;
27 (b) Oversee and direct the comprehensive implementation of disaster risk
28 reduction and rehabilitation management policies, plans and programs as
29 embodied in the National Disaster Management Plan;
30 (c) Monitor the integration of disaster risk reduction and management
31 policies into local and national development plans, including the integration into
32 school curricula;

- 1 (d) Review and evaluate Local Disaster Management Plans to ensure their
2 consistency with the National Disaster Management Plans through the regional
3 offices;
- 4 (e) Ensure a multi-stakeholder participation in the development, updating,
5 and sharing of a Disaster Management Information System and Geographic
6 Information System-based national risk map as policy, planning and decision-
7 making tools;
- 8 (f) Lead the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction management in all
9 stages and levels of national and local planning and budgeting processes;
- 10 (g) Advise the President on the status of disaster preparedness, prevention,
11 mitigation, response and rehabilitation operations being undertaken by the
12 government, CSOs, private sector, and volunteers;
- 13 (h) Recommend to the President the declaration of a state of calamity in
14 areas extensively damaged and submit proposals to restore normalcy in the
15 affected areas, to include calamity fund allocation;
- 16 (i) Establish a national early warning and emergency alert system to provide
17 accurate and timely advice to national or local emergency response
18 organizations and to the general public through diverse mass media to include
19 digital and analog broadcast, cable, satellite television and radio, wireless
20 communications, and landline communications;
- 21 (j) Exercise command and control over relevant government agencies,
22 including government-owned and controlled corporations, the Philippine
23 National Police and other law enforcement agencies, during an imminent or
24 actual disaster;
- 25 (k) Call upon the reserve force as defined in Republic Act No. 7077 to assist
26 in relief and rescue during disasters or calamities;
- 27 (l) Develop appropriate risk transfer mechanisms that shall guarantee social
28 and economic protection and increase resiliency in the face of disaster;
- 29 (m) Monitor the development and enforcement by agencies and
30 organizations of the various laws, guidelines, codes or technical standards
31 required by this Act;

- 1 (n) Manage and mobilize resources for disaster risk reduction and
2 management including the National Disaster Management Fund;
- 3 (o) Monitor and provide the necessary guidelines and procedures on the
4 Local Disaster Management Fund (LDRMF) releases as well as utilization,
5 accounting and auditing thereof;
- 6 (p) Develop vertical and horizontal coordination mechanisms for a more
7 coherent implementation of disaster risk reduction and management policies
8 and programs by sectoral agencies and LGUs;
- 9 (q) Formulate a national institutional capability building program for
10 disaster risk reduction and management to address the specific weaknesses of
11 various government agencies and LGUs;
- 12 (r) Formulate, harmonize, and translate into policies a national agenda for
13 research and technology development on disaster risk reduction and
14 management;
- 15 (s) Develop assessment tools on the existing and potential hazards and risks
16 brought about by climate change to vulnerable areas and ecosystems in
17 coordination with the Climate Change Office and formulate and implement a
18 framework for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and
19 management from which all policies, programs, and projects shall be based;
- 20 (t) Prepare, organize, lead, implement, and manage post-disaster
21 assessment and recovery and rehabilitation programs, in coordination with
22 affected LGUs, national government agencies, and other stakeholders,
23 including the private sector;
- 24 (u) Task the OCD to conduct periodic assessment and performance
25 monitoring of the member-agencies of the Department, and the Regional
26 Offices, as defined in the National Disaster Management Plan;
- 27 (v) Coordinate or oversee the Implementation of the country's obligations
28 with disaster management treaties to which it is a party and see to it that the
29 country's disaster management treaty obligations be incorporated in its disaster
30 risk reduction and management frameworks, policies, plans, programs and
31 projects;

1 (w) Exercise visitorial, inspection and examining authority over government
2 and non-government entities to ensure that all funds and assets allocated for
3 disaster resilience are actually used for said purposes;

4 (x) Utilize any private property for urgent public purpose in anticipation of,
5 during and after emergencies, hazards and disasters and only when there is
6 imminent danger of loss of lives and/or damage to property, subject to payment
7 of just compensation in appropriate cases;

8 (y) Promulgate guidelines regarding international humanitarian assistance
9 to and from foreign states; training and accreditation of personnel for
10 international humanitarian assistance; entry, facilitation, transit and regulation
11 of international relief goods and personnel; waiver of entry visa requirements;
12 recognition of foreign professional qualifications for disaster response and early
13 recovery; and entry of goods and equipment;

14 (z) Exercise all powers and functions provided to department secretaries
15 under Book IV, Chapter 2 of Executive Order No 292, otherwise known as the
16 "Administrative Code of 1987"; and

17 (aa) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or proper to attain
18 the objectives of this Act.

19 DEPARTMENT PROPER

20 Sec. 7. *The Office of the Secretary.* – The Office of the Secretary shall consist
21 of the Secretary, Undersecretaries, Assistant Secretaries and the immediate staff as
22 determined by the Secretary.

23 Sec. 8. *The Secretary.* The department shall be headed by the Secretary of
24 Disaster Management, hereinafter referred to as the Secretary, who shall be appointed
25 by the President, subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

26 No person shall be appointed as Secretary unless he is a citizen and resident of
27 the Philippines, is of good moral character, and is of proven competence and expertise
28 in disaster awareness, resilience, and emergency management over the course of his
29 career. He shall not hold any other position whether public or private, during his
30 tenure.

31 Sec. 8. *Powers and Functions of the Secretary.* – All powers and functions of
32 the Department are vested in the Secretary.

1 Sec. 9. *The Undersecretaries.* – The Secretary shall be assisted by four (4)
2 undersecretaries who shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation
3 of the Secretary. The Secretary is hereby authorized to delineate and assign the
4 respective functional areas of responsibility of the Undersecretaries. Such
5 responsibility shall be with respect to the mandate and objectives of the Department.

6 Each of the Undersecretary shall be responsible for the following:

- 7 (1) Resilience and Preparedness Office;
- 8 (2) Policy and Governance Office;
- 9 (3) Operations, Response and Rehabilitation Office; and
- 10 (4) Mission Support Office

11 Within his functional area of responsibility, an Undersecretary shall have the
12 following functions:

- 13 (1) Advise and assist the Secretary in the formulation and implementation of
14 Department policies, plans programs and projects;
- 15 (2) Supervise all the operational activities of the units assigned to him, for which
16 he is responsible to the Secretary; and
- 17 (3) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or
18 delegated by the Secretary to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the
19 delivery of public services, or as may be required by law.

20 Sec. 10. *The Assistant Secretaries.* - The Secretary shall be assisted by eleven
21 (11) Assistant Secretaries, or such number as the Secretary may be deem necessary
22 for the efficient operation of the Department, to be appointed by the President upon
23 the recommendation of the Secretary, who shall be responsible for the following
24 services:

- 25 (1) National Coherence;
- 26 (2) Grant Programs;
- 27 (3) National Preparedness;
- 28 (4) External Affairs;
- 29 (5) Internal Audit;
- 30 (6) Financial Management;
- 31 (7) Operations, Response, and Rehabilitation;
- 32 (8) Logistics Management;

- (9) Monitoring and Information;
- (10) Legal;
- (11) Administrative and Human Resource Management; and
- (12) Other services as may be deemed necessary.

Sec. 11. *Structure and Staffing Pattern.* – The Department shall determine its organizational structure and staffing pattern and create such services, divisions, units, as it may deem necessary, subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and Management.

RESILIENCE AND PREPAREDNESS

Sec. 12. *National Coherence Services.* – The National Coherence Services is tasked to coordinate national programs and activities that preserve and ensure the continuity of the National Government's essential functions across a wide range of potential threats and emergencies. For this purpose, it shall have the following functions:

- (1) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to the National Disaster Management Framework and National Disaster Management Plan;
- (2) Guide and assist in the planning and implementation of continuity programs that enables the national and local governments to deliver critical services to survivors throughout all phases of a disaster;
- (3) Evaluate and appraise all local development management plans and programs as to their feasibility and consistency with approved strategies and long and medium-term plans;
- (4) Develop and maintain continuity capabilities to build and sustain a more resilient nation equipped to sustain essential functions, deliver critical services, and supply core capabilities under all conditions;
- (5) Coordinate the inter-agency plans and procedures that sustain the nation's ability to prepare, prevent, respond, recover, mitigate and rehabilitate from the effects of both natural and man-made threats;
- (6) Develop a modern early warning system that will integrate the nation's alert and warning infrastructure;

1 (7) Provide technical assistance to everyone, including but not limited to the
2 national agencies, instrumentalities, GOCCs, local government units, non-
3 governmental organizations, and private entities;

4 (8) Assess emergency plans and programs to identify insufficiency and inadequacy
5 to guide in the enhancement of the plan;

6 (9) Establish a Business Continuity Plan for all urban areas for post-disaster
7 scenarios, in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry and the
8 Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; and

9 (10) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
10 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

11 Sec. 13. *Grant Programs Services.* – The Grant Programs Services shall provide
12 the Department assistance in developing, implementing and screening recipients of
13 grants and assistance programs. For this purpose, it shall have the following functions:

14 (1) Develop grants and assistance programs for agencies, Local Government Units,
15 and foreign states;

16 (2) Formulate criteria on how the agencies and/or Local Government Units can
17 avail of financial assistance from the National Disaster Management Fund;

18 (3) Strategically and effectively administer and manage grants to ensure critical
19 and measurable results, including foreign grants received from international
20 entities;

21 (4) Improve capability and reduce the disaster risks by recommending grants to
22 incapable local government units;

23 (5) Ensure transparency in the grant process;

24 (6) Enhance the nation's level of preparedness and the public's ability to prevent,
25 protect and mitigate against, and respond to and recover from all hazards; and

26 (7) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or
27 delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

28 Sec. 14. *National Preparedness Services.* – The National Preparedness Services
29 shall provide the Department the ability to prepare the nation for all types of disasters
30 and emergencies. For this purpose, it shall have the following functions:

31 (1) Formulate a national policy on risk assessment for environmental risk, national
32 disaster risk, natural disaster risk and climate change risk, and shall take into

- 1 consideration the interdependence of disaster risk reduction, environmental
2 management, climate change adaptation and sustainable development;
- 3 (2) Establish guidance and programs for disaster planning and promote a
4 consistent disaster management structure for the nation;
- 5 (3) Develop guidance and tools to assist communities in tackling their unique
6 preparedness challenges and coordinate the adoption and implementation of a
7 common incident management platform for emergency responders and
8 officials;
- 9 (4) Develop national preparedness activities including planning guidance, technical
10 assistance, training and exercises for individual and community preparedness;
- 11 (5) Assist people, schools, the business sector, and communities become more
12 resilient by developing the capabilities needed to prevent, protect against,
13 respond to, recover from, and mitigate against all threats and hazards;
- 14 (6) Provide guidance, programs, and processes to empower the people and the
15 communities and barangays they live in to be prepared for any hazard;
- 16 (7) Provide training, education, and assistance for first responders, emergency
17 management professionals, and community members to increase capabilities
18 at the local level;
- 19 (8) Help all levels of government conduct exercises to test their abilities to prevent,
20 protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate disasters;
- 21 (9) Provide individuals, communities, and organizations with research and tools to
22 help people prepare for disasters;
- 23 (10) Establish a National Disaster Risk Reduction Training Center which shall
24 serve as the Department's centralized repository and for it technical materials and
25 research and development on disaster risk reduction and management that
26 develops and delivers training and education for first responders, emergency
27 managers, and the public through a multi-disciplinary, data-driven learning
28 approach and partnerships with higher education institutions;
- 29 (11) Build emergency management and response capabilities for
30 communities that live near high risk hazards; and
- 31 (12) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
32 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Sec. 15. *External Affairs Services.* – The External Affairs Services shall furnish the Department's communications program. For this purpose, it shall have the following functions:

- (1) Engage, inform and educate all stakeholders in support of the Department's programs and initiatives to achieve its mandate;
- (2) Maintain visibility regarding public and internal communications;
- (3) Ensure accurate, useful, timely, synchronized, targeted communication;
- (4) Provide continuous communication to meet the needs of the situation;
- (5) Advise the Department on decision making, development, and maintenance of policies and programs to ensure that activities are responsive to stakeholder, media, congressional and other audiences;
- (6) Establish a division that maintains communications with Congress in both official and informal capacities to build strong working relationships that will advance the Department's legislative and emergency management priorities;
- (7) Establish a division that provides leadership, training, coordination and support during incidents of national significance or incidents requiring a coordinated response;
- (8) Establish a division that provides direct communication and outreach to Local Government Units and build relationships with key constituency groups that have been traditionally underserved by the government;
- (9) Establish a division that communicate, cultivate and advocate for collaboration between the private sector and the Department, to support its capabilities and to enhance national preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation of all hazards;
- (10) Establish a division that helps the public prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from disasters by establishing and maintaining effective, ongoing relationships with the media to promote the programs, goals and core values, and providing disaster survivors with timely and accurate information, and managing communications to demonstrate an effective federal response to disasters; and

1 (11) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
2 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

3 Sec. 16. *Internal Audit Services.* – The Internal Audit Services shall conduct
4 comprehensive audit of various Department activities. Specifically, it shall have the
5 following functions:

6 (1) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to management control and
7 operations audit;

8 (2) Conduct management and operations performance audit of Department
9 activities and units and determine the degree of compliance with established
10 objectives, policies, methods and procedures, government regulations, and
11 contractual obligations of the Department;

12 (3) Review and appraise systems and procedures, organizational structure,
13 assets management practices, accounting and other records, reports and
14 performance standards (such as budgets and standard costs) of the
15 Department Proper, Bureaus and Regional Offices;

16 (4) Analyze and evaluate management deficiencies and assist top management
17 to solve the problems by recommending realistic courses of action; and

18 (5) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned
19 or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

20 Sec. 17. *Financial Management Services.* – The Financial Management Services
21 shall provide the Department with coordinated services relating to financial systems
22 and procedures, budget, cash, accounting, and all financial housekeeping matters. For
23 such purposes, it shall have the following functions:

24 (1) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to the accounting of government
25 expenditures and receipts, budgeting and cash management, project finances,
26 and financial systems and procedures;

27 (2) Prepare budget proposals and pursue formal budget authorizations;
28 undertake budget execution, and prepare and submit all appropriate reports to
29 the proper offices;

30 (3) Develop and maintain accounting, financial and assets management
31 systems, procedures, and practices in the Department proper, Bureaus, and
32 Regional Offices;

(4) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to any unit of the Department and, when requested, to government corporations and councils attached to the Department; and

(5) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

OPERATIONS, RESPONSE AND REHABILITATION

Sec. 18. *Response and Recovery Services.* – The Response and Recovery Services provides guidance, leadership and oversight to build, sustain, and improve the coordination and delivery of services to citizens and local government units during emergencies. For such purposes, it shall have the following functions:

- (1) Develop a response program activity which encompasses the coordination of all emergency management response operations, response planning and integration of national and local disaster programs;
- (2) Provide the core, coordinated operational response capability needed to save and sustain lives, minimize suffering, and protect property in a timely and effective manner in communities hit by natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other emergencies;
- (3) Ensure efficient and effective delivery of immediate emergency assistance to individuals and communities impacted and overwhelmed by these disasters, emergencies, or acts of terrorism;
- (4) Establish a National Emergency Response Corps (NERC) which shall be a dedicated, trained and reliable team who can be deployed on short notice in the event of a disaster, composed of full-time and part-time disaster managers, paramedics, debris clearing personnel, volunteer and aid and relief managers;
- (5) Provide the highest quality leadership for field operations;
- (6) Participate in key exercises, partner strategically with key organizations, implementation and sustain all-hazards capability;
- (7) Provide exemplary national leadership at disasters and emergencies by facilitating efficient, effective, compassionate, fair, and consistent response, while ensuring the prudent use of resources;
- (8) Ensure their availability for rapid deployment in response to any disaster;

1 (9) Establish the Philippine Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency (PRRA) which
2 will be an attached agency to the department, and which shall be the primary
3 agency tasked for disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation operations;

4 (10) Employ the principle of Build Forward Better in recovery and
5 rehabilitation efforts; and

6 (11) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be
7 assigned or delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

8 Sec. 19. *Logistics Management Services.* – The Logistics Management Services
9 shall provide the Department an efficient, transparent, and flexible logistics capability
10 to procure and deliver goods and services to support disaster survivors and
11 communities responding to and recovering from disasters. For such purposes, it shall
12 have the following functions:

13 (1) Establish teams and support equipment caches, that can respond within 24
14 hours, in coordination with the Department of National Defense and other
15 national agencies and CSOs, to begin receiving life-saving resources for delivery
16 to disaster survivors;

17 (2) Deliver the right resources to the right place at the right time in support of
18 national and local government units;

19 (3) Establish distribution centers around the country to store disaster commodities
20 such as water, tarps, meals, blankets, cots, plastic sheeting and generators;

21 (4) Maintain commercial contracts and agreements with multiple public and
22 private sector partners to provide additional commodities when needed;

23 (5) Purchase, store, maintain, haul and install portable housing units to provide
24 temporary housing for disaster survivors; and

25 (6) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or
26 delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

27 MISSION SUPPORT

28 Sec. 20. *Monitoring and Information Services.* – The Monitoring and
29 Information Services is hereby created to provide the Secretary timely reports on the
30 status of various Department projects and activities and other internal
31 communications. The Monitoring and Information Service shall have the following
32 functions:

- 1 (1) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to monitoring and public
2 information;
- 3 (2) Develop and maintain a system for retrieving and processing monitoring
4 information on all projects and activities of concern to the Secretary;
- 5 (3) Provide accurate and timely status and exception reports to the Secretary;
- 6 (4) Generate monitoring reports for the President, the Cabinet, or for any other
7 purpose as required by the Secretary;
- 8 (5) Establish and maintain the National Loss and Damage Registry;
- 9 (6) Establish the National Disaster Management Information System which shall be
10 the repository of statistics and information on disasters, disaster risk-reduction
11 and climate change data, and their human material, economic and
12 environmental impact, risk assessment and mapping and vulnerable groups;
- 13 (7) Provide computer service to the different offices and divisions of the
14 Department;
- 15 (8) Coordinate with the External Affairs Service and appropriate national
16 government agencies tasked with public information affairs; and
- 17 (9) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or
18 delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

19 *Sec. 21. Legal Services.* – The Legal Services provides the Department with
20 services on such legal affairs as contract letting and litigation, legal and legislative
21 research, complaints and investigation, legal counseling and other matters of law. For
22 such purposes, it shall have the following functions:

- 23 (1) Advise the Secretary on all matters relating to legal affairs;
- 24 (2) Prepare Department contracts and legal instruments, review and interpret all
25 contracts and agreements entered into by the Department; evaluate all legal
26 proposals;
- 27 (3) Conduct administrative investigation as well as the review of administrative
28 charges against officers and employees of the Department;
- 29 (4) Exercise functional jurisdiction over the legal staffs of Regional Offices;
- 30 (5) Provide legal assistance to the Department Proper, the Bureaus and Regional
31 Offices and, when requested, the attached corporations; and

1 (6) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or
2 delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

3 Sec. 22. *Administrative and Human Resource Management Services.* – The
4 Administrative and Human Resource Management Services provides the Department
5 with services relating to human resources development, personnel, records, facilities
6 maintenance, medical and dental, security and property and procurement services.
7 For such purposes, it shall have the following functions:

8 (1) Advise the Secretary, on all matters relating to internal administration and
9 human resources management;

10 (2) Prepare and implement an integrated personnel plan that shall include
11 provisions on merit promotions, performance evaluation, job rotation,
12 suggestions and incentive awards systems and health and welfare services;

13 (3) Provide services related to human resources training, education, and
14 development, including manpower and career planning and forecasting and
15 development of indigenous training materials;

16 (4) Develop, establish and maintain an efficient and cost-effective property
17 procurement system and facilities and coordinate or otherwise interface with
18 relevant agencies, whether government or private, for the purpose of
19 developing or upgrading the system;

20 (5) Secure and maintain necessary Department facilities and develop, establish and
21 maintain an efficient and effective security system covering among others,
22 personnel, physical installations, equipment, documents and materials,
23 including the conduct of security investigations;

24 (6) Coordinate with the appropriate government agencies for a more efficient
25 conduct of administrative processes;

26 (7) Develop, establish and maintain an efficient records system;

27 (8) Provide assistance in its area of specialization to the Department Proper,
28 Bureaus and Regional Offices and, when requested, the government agencies
29 and corporations attached to the Department; and

30 (9) Perform such other related duties and responsibilities as may be assigned or
31 delegated by the Secretary or as may be required by law.

Sec. 23. *National Disaster and Rehabilitation Management Council.* – The National Disaster and Rehabilitation Management Council is hereby created and shall be headed by the Secretary of Disaster Management.

Its members shall be the following:

- (1) Secretary of National Defense;
- (2) Secretary of Interior and Local Government;
- (3) Secretary of Public Works and Highways;
- (4) Secretary of Health;
- (5) Secretary of Trade and Industry;
- (6) Secretary of Energy; and
- (7) Secretary of Social Welfare and Development.

The Council shall serve as the policy advisory body to the Department on disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation management and climate change adaptation.

FIELD OFFICES

Sec. 24. *The Regional Offices.* – Department of Disaster Management Regional Offices is hereby established in every administrative region.

The organization and function of the regional offices shall be determined by the Department and shall be in accordance with Executive Order No. 297, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987.

Sec. 25. *The Regional Directors* – The Regional Offices shall be headed by a Regional Director who shall be assisted by three (3) Assistant Regional Directors for Resilience and Preparedness, Policy and Governance, Operations, Response and Rehabilitation. No person shall be appointed as Regional Director unless he is a citizen and resident of the Philippines, is of good moral character, and is of proven competence and expertise in disaster risk reduction and management over the course of his career. He shall not hold any other position whether public or private, during his tenure.

Sec. 26. Duties of a Regional Director. – The Regional Director shall coordinate, integrate, supervise, and evaluate the activities of the LDRMCs and shall be responsible in formulating the regional disaster and rehabilitation management plans, and in case of emergencies shall provide the core, coordinated operational response needed to save and sustain lives, minimize suffering, and protect property in a timely

1 and effective manner, and perform such other duties and functions as provided by
2 Administrative Code of 1987.

3 *Sec. 27. Regional Disaster and Rehabilitation Management Council.* –The
4 Regional Disaster and Rehabilitation Council shall be headed by the Assistant Regional
5 Director for Resilience and Preparedness.

6 Its members shall be the following:

- 7 (1) Regional Director of National Defense;
- 8 (2) Regional Director of Interior and Local Government;
- 9 (3) Regional Director of Public Works and Highways;
- 10 (4) Regional Director of Health;
- 11 (5) Regional Director of Trade and Industry;
- 12 (6) Regional Director of Energy; and
- 13 (7) Regional Director of Social Welfare and Development.

14 The Regional Council shall serve as the policy advisory body to the Regional
15 Office on disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation management and climate change
16 adaptation.

17 *Sec. 28. Organization at the Local Government Level.* – The existing Provincial,
18 City, and Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils shall henceforth
19 be known as the Provincial, City, and Municipal Disaster and Rehabilitation
20 Management Council. The existing Barangay Development Councils (BDCs) shall
21 continue to exist and shall serve as the LDRMCs in every barangay.

22 (a) The LDRMC shall be composed of, but not limited to, the following:

- 23 (1) The Local Chief Executives, Chairperson;
- 24 (2) The Local Planning and Development Officer, member;
- 25 (3) The Head of the LDRMO, member;
- 26 (4) The Head of the Local Social Welfare and Development Office,
27 member;
- 28 (5) The Head of the Local Health Office, member;
- 29 (6) The Head of the Local Agriculture Office, member;
- 30 (7) The Head of the Gender and Development Office, member;
- 31 (8) The Head of the Local Engineering Office, member;
- 32 (9) The Head of the Local Veterinary Office, member;

- (10) The Head of the Local Budget Office, member;
- (11) The Division Head/Superintendent of Schools of the DepED, member;
- (12) The highest-ranking officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) assigned in the area, member;
- (13) The Provincial Director/City/Municipal Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), member;
- (14) The Provincial Director/City/ Municipal Fire Marshall of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), member;
- (15) The President of the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC), member;
- (16) The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), member;
- (17) Four (4) accredited CSOs, members; and
- (18) One (1) private sector representative, member.

(b) The LDRMCs shall have the following functions:

- (1) Approve, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the LDRMPs and regularly review and test the plan consistent with other national and local planning programs;
- (2) Ensure the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into local development plans, programs and budgets as a strategy in sustainable development and poverty reduction;
- (3) Recommend the implementation of forced or preemptive evacuation of local residents, if necessary; and
- (4) Convene the local council once every three (3) months or as necessary.

ATTACHED AGENCIES

Sec. 29. The Attached Agencies. – The following agencies and offices and their respective appropriation, records, equipment and personnel are hereby transferred to the Department:

- (1) Office of Civil Defense (OCD);
- (2) Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA);

- (3) Philippine Institute of Volcanology (PHIVOLCS);
- (4) Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP);
- (5) Health Emergency Management Bureau (HEMB);
- (6) Philippine Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency (PRRA);
- (7) Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency;
- (8) Climate Change Office (CCO);
- (9) Geo-Hazard Assessment and Engineering Geology Section of the Mines and Geoscience Bureau; and
- (10) Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The agencies transferred above shall continue to perform such functions as provided in existing laws; *Provided*, that the Department shall exercise administrative supervision over transferred agencies.

The attached agencies shall operate in accordance with their respective organizational structures and perform the functions and duties assigned to them by law, subject to the requirements of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness.

Sec. 30. Philippine Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency (PRRA). – The Philippine Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency is hereby established and shall be attached to the Department. Its structure and organization shall be determined by the Resilience and Preparedness Office of the Department. It shall be the lead agency in rehabilitation and recovery of disaster affected communities, and shall have the following functions:

1. Take charge in the re-establishment, reconstruction and resettlement of the communities in terms of housing, relocation and shelter needs, incorporating the principle of Build Forward Better; and
2. Provide the primary and basic needs to communities during the rehabilitation phase and recovery process

REMEDIAL MEASURES UNDER STATE OF CALAMITY

Sec. 31. Remedial Measures Under State of Calamity. – Upon declaration of state of calamity, the Department may:

- (1) Order the imposition of price ceiling on basic necessities and prime commodities by the National Price Control Council, as provided under Republic Act No. 7581, as amended;
- (2) Monitor, prevent, and control overpricing/profitteering and hoarding of prime commodities, through the Local Price Coordinating Council;
- (3) Order government financing or lending institutions to grant no-interest loans; and
- (4) Grant local tax exemptions, incentives or reliefs under such terms and conditions as may be deemed necessary by the affected LGU.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 32. *Transitory Provisions.* – The transfer of functions, assets, funds, equipment, properties, transactions and personnel of the affected and transferred agencies and the formulation of the internal organic structure, staffing pattern operating system and revised budget of the Department, shall be completed within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, during which time the existing personnel shall continue to assume their posts on holdover capacities until new appointments are issued.

Sec. 33. *Separation from Service.* – National government employees displaced or separated from service as a result of this Act shall be entitled to either separation pay and other benefits in accordance with existing law, rules or regulations or be entitled to avail themselves of the privileges provided under a separation plan that shall be one and one-half month salary for every year for service.

Sec. 34. *Prohibited Acts.* – Any person, group or corporation who commits any of the following prohibited acts shall be held liable and be subjected to the penalties as prescribed in Section 34 of this Act:

- (1) Dereliction of duties which leads to destruction, loss of lives, critical damage of facilities and misuse of funds;
- (2) Preventing the entry and distribution of relief goods in disaster-stricken areas, including appropriate technology, tools, equipment, accessories, disaster teams/experts;

- 1 (3) Buying, for consumption or resale, from disaster relief agencies any relief
2 goods, equipment or other and commodities which are intended for distribution
3 to disaster affected communities;
- 4 (4) Buying, for consumption or resale, from the recipient disaster affected persons
5 any relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities received by them;
- 6 (5) Selling of relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities which are intended
7 for distribution to disaster victims;
- 8 (6) Forcibly seizing relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities intended for
9 or consigned to a specific group of victims or relief agency;
- 10 (7) Diverting or misdelivery of relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities to
11 persons other than the rightful recipient or consignee;
- 12 (8) Accepting, possessing, using or disposing relief goods, equipment or other aid
13 commodities not intended for nor consigned to him/her;
- 14 (9) Misrepresenting the source of relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities
15 by:
 - 16 (a) Either covering, replacing or defacing the labels of the containers to make
17 it appear that the goods, equipment or other aid commodities came from
18 another agency or persons;
 - 19 (b) Repacking the goods, equipment or other aid commodities into containers
20 with different markings to make it appear that the goods came from another
21 agency or persons or was released upon the instance of a particular agency
22 or persons;
 - 23 (c) Making false verbal claim that the goods, equipment or other and
24 commodity its untampered original containers actually came from another
25 agency or persons or was released upon the instance of a particular agency
26 or persons;
- 27 (10) Substituting or replacing relief goods, equipment or other aid
28 commodities with the same items or inferior/cheaper quality;
- 29 (11) Illegal solicitations by persons or organizations;
- 30 (12) Deliberate use of false and inflated data in support of the request for
31 funding, relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities for emergency
32 assistance or livelihood projects; and

1 (13) Tampering with or stealing hazard monitoring and disaster preparedness
2 equipment and paraphernalia.

3 Sec. 35. *Penal Clause.* – Any individual, corporation, partnership, association,
4 or other juridical entity that commits any of the prohibited acts provided for in Section
5 29 of this Act shall be prosecuted and upon conviction shall suffer a fine of not less
6 than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00) and not exceeding Five Hundred Thousand
7 Pesos (php500,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day
8 or more than twelve (12) years, or both, at the discretion of the court, including
9 perpetual disqualification from public office if the offender is a public officer, and
10 confiscation or forfeiture in favor of the government of objects and instrumentalities
11 used in committing any of the prohibited acts.

12 If the offender is a corporation, partnership or association, or other juridical
13 entity, the penalty shall be imposed upon the officer or officers of the corporation,
14 partnership, association or entity responsible for the violation without prejudice to the
15 cancellation or revocation of these entities license or accreditation issued to them by
16 any licensing or accredited body of the government. If such offender is an alien, he
17 or she shall, in addition to the penalties prescribed in this Act, be deported without
18 further proceedings after service of the sentence.

19 The prosecution for offenses set forth in Section 33 of this Act shall be without
20 prejudice to any liability for violation of Republic Act No. 3185, as amended, otherwise
21 known as the Revised Penal Code, and other civil and administrative liabilities.

22 Sec. 36. *Guidelines for the National and Local Disaster Management Fund.* –
23 The Department shall provide the necessary guidelines and procedures on the National
24 Disaster Management Fund and the Local Disaster Management Fund releases,
25 utilization, accounting and auditing thereof.

26 Sec. 37. *National Disaster Management Fund.* – (a) The present National
27 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRM Fund) appropriated under
28 the annual General Appropriations Act shall henceforth be known as the National
29 Disaster Management Fund (NDM Fund) and it shall be used for disaster risk reduction
30 or mitigation, prevention and preparedness activities such as but not limited to training
31 of personnel, procurement of equipment, and capital expenditures.

1 (b) The specific amount of the NDM Fund and the appropriate recipient
2 agencies and/or LGUs shall be released upon approval of the President of the
3 Philippines in accordance with the favorable recommendation of the Department upon
4 request for grant or assistance by the agencies and/or LGUs through the Grant
5 Program Services of the Department.

6 Sec. 38. *Local Disaster Management Fund.* – The present Local Risk Reduction
7 and Management Fund (LDRRMF) shall henceforth be known as the Local Disaster
8 Management Fund (LDMF). Not less than seven percent (7%) of the estimated
9 revenue from regular sources shall be set aside as the LDMF to support disaster risk
10 management activities such as, but not limited to, pre-disaster preparedness programs
11 including training, purchasing life-saving rescue equipment, supplies and medicines,
12 for post-disaster activities, and for the payment of premiums on calamity insurance.

13 The Local Government Units may utilize 60% of the LDMF even without the
14 declaration of state of calamity, to be used for disaster prevention, preparedness and
15 resilience projects.

16 Provisions of Section 324 of the Republic Act No. 7160, or otherwise known as
17 the Local Government Code of 1991, that are inconsistent with this section is hereby
18 amended.

19 Sec. 39. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
20 of this Act shall be taken from the current fiscal year's unexpended and unobligated
21 appropriations of all agencies herein absorbed, transferred and attached to the
22 Department. Thereafter, the amounts necessary for the operation of the Department
23 and the implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General
24 Appropriations Act.

25 Sec. 40. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department, Department
26 of Budget and Management, Department of National Defense, Department of Finance,
27 Department of Internal and Local Government, Department of Science and
28 Technology, National Economic and Development Authority and the Presidential
29 Management Staff shall collectively craft, and issue, within ninety (90) days from the
30 date of the effectivity of this Act, the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for
31 the effective implementation of this Act. They may call upon other instrumentalities
32 and stakeholders to assist in the crafting of the IRR.

1 Sec. 41. *Congressional Oversight Committee.* –There is hereby created ax
2 Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor and oversee the implementation of the
3 provisions of this Act. The Committee shall be composed of six (6) members from the
4 Senate and six (6) members from the House of Representatives with the Chairpersons
5 of the Committees on National Defense and Security of both the Senate and the House
6 of Representatives as joint Chairpersons of this Committee. The five (5) other
7 members from each Chamber are to be designated by the Senate President and the
8 Speaker of the House of Representatives. respectively. The minority shall be entitled
9 to pro rata representation but shall have at least two (2) representatives from each
10 Chamber.

11 Sec. 42. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be held
12 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in
13 full force and effect.

14 Sec. 43. *Repealing Clause.* – Presidential Decree No. 1566, Republic Act No.
15 10121 and all other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations and other
16 executive issuance's which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this
17 Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

18 Sec. 44. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following
19 its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of
20 general circulation.

Approved,