

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

5 JUN -8 P1:58

SENATE
S. No. 2040

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is geographically located in the circum-pacific belt of fire and typhoon in the Asia-Pacific region. Thus, it is prone to natural disasters. It has continually sought to survive against many calamities, including typhoons, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, as well as fire, plane crashes, and maritime collisions.

The threat of disasters continues to haunt the Philippines. Thus, there is a need to revitalize the system for disaster preparedness and mitigation to enhance the survival capability of our country against all types of disasters, whether natural or man-made.

Natural and man-made disasters often disrupt the normal life of communities, and adversely affect individuals and families with great severity. These disasters usually result in loss of life, human suffering, loss of income, and property loss and damage. Measures designed towards disaster preparedness and mitigation and emergency services are, therefore, necessary.

During the 112th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly, a resolution proposed by the Philippine delegation was adopted, recognizing the role of parliaments in the prevention, rehabilitation, reconstruction and protection of groups that are vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters, and further encouraging the creation of Regional Disaster, Training, Logistics and Reaction Centres in collaboration with international humanitarian organizations and their local counterparts such as the Philippine National Red Cross as well as local disaster coordinating councils to train local field disaster response teams, share international technical know-how, expertise, technology and other information relating to disaster prevention training, and management

This bill intends to provide the measures for the government to carry out its responsibilities to alleviate the suffering of its people, which result from such disasters, and promote their general welfare through comprehensive plans and practicable programs for preparation against disasters, including hazard reduction, avoidance, and mitigation. This bill aims to instill a culture of disaster preparedness among our people through the utilization of disaster preparedness and mitigation measures, the establishment of a warning system, and the provision for emergency operations during disasters.


RICHARD J. GORDON
Senator

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AN ACT TO ESTABLISH DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Disaster Preparedness
2 and Mitigation Act.”

3 Sec. 2. *Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to carry out its responsibilities to alleviate
4 the suffering of its people, which result from natural and man-made disasters, and promote
5 their general welfare through comprehensive plans and practicable programs for
6 preparation against disasters, including hazard reduction, avoidance, and mitigation.

7 Sec. 3. *Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation.* – The President is authorized to
8 establish measures for disaster preparedness and mitigation for any natural or man-made
9 disaster that utilize the services of all appropriate agencies and include –

10 (1) Preparation of hazard maps for areas that are subject to disasters and disaster
11 preparedness and relief plans and programs for mitigation, warning, emergency operations,
12 rehabilitation, and recovery;

13 (2) Printing and dissemination of disaster awareness, preparation and preparedness
14 manuals for distribution to the public and private sectors throughout the country by the
15 National Disaster Coordinating Council, the Philippine Volcanology and Seismology
16 Commission, and the Philippine National Red Cross;

17 (3) Training and exercises, including the integration of disaster preparedness
18 programs in schools nationwide through the Philippine National Red Cross;

19 (4) Postdisaster critiques and evaluations;

20 (5) Annual review of programs;

21 (6) Coordination of national and local preparedness programs;

22 (7) Application of science and technology; and

1 (8) Research.

2 Sec. 4. *Warning System.* – The President shall ensure that all the appropriate
3 government agencies are prepared to issue warnings of disasters to national and local
4 officials. The President shall direct the appropriate government agencies to provide
5 technical assistance to local governments to ensure that timely and effective disaster
6 warning is provided.

7 Sec. 5. *Emergency.* – Any occasion or instance which, in the determination of the
8 President, requires national and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect
9 property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster in any
10 part of the Philippines, all necessary public and private facilities, including communication
11 system facilities for the purpose of providing warning to the people in areas endangered by
12 disasters and transportation equipment and facilities for the purpose of engaging in rescue
13 and relief operations, shall be made available for public use.

14 Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other
15 issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
16 modified accordingly.

17 Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain
19 in force and effect.

20 Sec. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the
21 completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
22 circulation in the Philippines.

23 Approved,