

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



22 SEP 27 A9:31

SENATE

RECEIVED BY

S. No. 1345

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Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

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**AN ACT  
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE DISASTER AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippines is an archipelagic country situated in the Western Pacific Ocean. Its geographic location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" and closeness to the equator exposes the country to extreme natural events such as tropical cyclones and earthquakes, and its coastline is vulnerable to storm surges and tsunami. The 2021 World Risk Index ranked the Philippines eighth out of 181 countries with the highest disaster risk.

To strengthen disaster risk reduction and management in the country, Republic Act 10121 was enacted on May 27, 2010. This landmark legislation was passed into law after the country experienced three large-scale disasters that hit the island of Luzon: Typhoon Reming (international code name Durian) that hit Bicol on November 29, 2006, Typhoon Ondoy (international code name Ketsana) that hit Metro Manila and parts of Central Luzon on September 26, 2009, and Typhoon Pepeng (international code name Parma) that hit Pangasinan and the northern part of the country on October 3, 2009.

Typhoon Reming affected a total of 649,829 families or 3,190,744 persons in 3,042 barangays of 160 municipalities and 13 cities in 14 provinces of Regions IV-A, IV-B, and V in Luzon, with 720 dead, 2,360 injured, and 762 missing with an estimated cost of damage to infrastructure and agriculture amounting to Php 5.084 billion.<sup>1</sup> On the other hand, typhoon Ondoy affected a total of 993,227 families or 4,901,234 individuals in 2,018 barangays. One hundred seventy-two municipalities, 16 cities of 26 provinces in all eight regions of Luzon, Region VI in the Visayas, and Regions IX, XII, and ARMM in Mindanao with 464 dead, 529 injured, and 37 missing and an estimated cost of damage to infrastructure and agriculture amounting to Php 11 billion.<sup>2</sup> Typhoon Pepeng also affected a total of 954,087 families or 4,478,284 individuals in 5,486 barangays, 334 municipalities, and 33 cities in 27 provinces in Regions I, II, III, V, CAR, and NCR in Luzon and Region VI in the Visayas with 465 dead, 207 injured, and 47 missing and an estimated cost of damage to infrastructure and agriculture amounting to Php 27.297 billion.<sup>3</sup>

Three years after the passage of RA 10121, the institutional setup of the law was heavily tested by one of the most powerful typhoons to have made landfall in recorded history: Super Typhoon Yolanda (international code name Haiyan), which is a Category 5 typhoon on the Saffir–Simpson hurricane scale. Typhoon Yolanda affected a total of 3,424,593 families or 16,078,181 individuals in 12,139 barangays, 44 provinces, 591 municipalities, and 57 cities in Regions IV-A, IV-B, and V in Luzon, the whole of Visayas regions, and Regions X, XI, and CARAGA in Mindanao with a total of 6,300 dead, 28,688 injured, and 1,062 missing and a total damaged to infrastructure and agriculture amounting to Php 89.598 billion and losses of Php 42.760 billion.<sup>4</sup>

The occurrence of Super Typhoon Yolanda revealed that problems encountered in coordinating and implementing large-scale disaster risk reduction and management efforts are rooted primarily in the nature of the country's governance framework for disaster risk reduction and management. Hence, there is

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<sup>1</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-ndcc-media-update-typhoon-reming-durian-13-dec-2006>

<sup>2</sup> NDRRMC Final Report on Tropical Storm Ondoy (international code name Ketsana).

<sup>3</sup> NDRRMC Final Report on Typhoon Pepeng (international code name Parma).

<sup>4</sup> NDRRMC Final Report on Typhoon Yolanda (international code name Haiyan).

an immediate need to create an institution that is sufficiently capable of exercising command control, coordination, and communication in overseeing the implementation of streamlined disaster risk reduction and emergency management policies nationwide, and an institution that has the necessary authority, mandate, and resources to lead and coordinate the efforts of different stakeholders towards a more responsive and resilient disaster risk reduction and emergency management program.

This bill, therefore, seeks the creation of the Philippine Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (PDEMA) which will exercise central command control, coordination, and communication functions in times of calamities, disasters, and emergency situations that pose danger and damage to life, limb, and property.

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



**LOREN LEGARDA**

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

**CHAPTER I**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Philippine Disaster and*  
2 *Emergency Management Act of 2022*”.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policies and Principles.* – Under the Constitution, the prime  
4 duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. The maintenance of peace  
5 and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the  
6 general welfare are essential for the enjoyment of all the people of the blessings of  
7 democracy.

8 Section 9, Article II of the Constitution provides: “The State shall promote a  
9 just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of  
10 the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate  
11 social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an  
12 improved quality of life for all.”

13 Section 11 further provides: “The State values the dignity of every human  
14 person and guarantees full respect for human rights.”

1           The State has likewise adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk  
2 Reduction 2015-2030, which aims the “prevention of new and reduction of existing  
3 disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic,  
4 structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological,  
5 political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and  
6 vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus  
7 strengthen resilience”.

8           The Constitution also mandates the State to afford full protection to and the  
9 advancement of the right of the people to a healthful ecology in accord with the  
10 rhythm and harmony of nature, and to protect and promote the right to health of the  
11 people and instill health consciousness among them.

12           The State likewise recognizes the inherent vulnerabilities of the Philippines  
13 and its local communities to both natural and human-induced hazards, which  
14 include among others, the impacts of climate change and other hydrometeorological,  
15 geological, environmental, and human-induced hazards, the State recognizes the  
16 vital role of capacity building, communication, and information in nation-building.

17           It is hereby declared the policy of the State to strategically and systematically  
18 plan and operationalize disaster risk reduction and emergency management at all  
19 levels and phases in policy formulation and development planning undertaken by  
20 agencies and instrumentalities of the government.

21           (a) *Guiding Principles.* – Following these, the State shall adopt and uphold the  
22 following specific guiding principles in the implementation of this Act:

23           (1) A comprehensive and integrated disaster risk reduction and  
24 management that emphasizes the complementation of the four pillars  
25 of disaster risk reduction and management: (1) disaster prevention and  
26 mitigation, (2) preparedness, (3) response, and (4) rehabilitation and  
27 recovery;

28           (2) A centralized command and control, coordination and communication  
29 to pursue a direct, effective and efficient chain of command, crisis  
30 communication, and systematic action in times of national calamities  
31 and emergency crisis situations in order to prevent, or the very least,  
32 mitigate disasters;

- 1 (3) A robust resilience-building of local communities by strengthening the  
2 country's institutional capacity for disaster risk reduction and  
3 emergency management, focusing on local government capacities,  
4 addressing thereby the root causes of vulnerabilities and risks to  
5 disasters, ensuring resilience of communities against natural hazards  
6 and emergencies to the last mile;
- 7 (4) A strengthened DRRM systems and capacities of the local government  
8 units (LGUs) and the local communities, including the establishment of  
9 comprehensive and unified systems that avoid fragmentation of  
10 domains of various information and dataset types, risk-based and  
11 science-based contingency planning, and disaster impact monitoring  
12 system, among others;
- 13 (5) A whole-of-government and society engagement and partnership  
14 approach, including civil society, non-governmental organizations,  
15 volunteers, organized voluntary work organizations and community-  
16 based organizations, women and girls, children and youth, older  
17 persons, migrants, indigenous peoples, urban poor, farmers and  
18 fisherfolks, emergency responders, volunteers, academia, scientific and  
19 research entities and networks, business and professional associations,  
20 industry groups, and financial institutions and intermediaries, and  
21 media, among others, that facilitates bottom-up participation,  
22 representation and decision-making process by people  
23 disproportionately affected by disasters in disaster risk governance,  
24 assessment, reduction and management;
- 25 (6) A science-based and data driven approach in pursuing technical and  
26 development interventions, supported by enhanced development and  
27 provision of systems and technologies that support local communities  
28 in providing action and results-focused information and data services  
29 to support decision-making for early action measures, which include  
30 among others, multi-hazard impact-based early warning system,  
31 through the whole of government and society approach, proactively  
32 supporting "early warning, early action" approach to systematic

1 mobilization of communities and attendant resources to avoid or  
2 reduce loss and damage that might result to disasters and emergencies;

3 (7) An accessible, effective and efficient utilization, distribution and  
4 allocation of disaster funds and other relevant resources, including  
5 local-level operations and external humanitarian assistance;

6 (8) A transparent and multi-functional operationalization of a national  
7 registry of loss and damage for contingency, resource mobilization, and  
8 long-term development planning purposes, including needed  
9 convergence with the sustainable development objectives and  
10 strategies;

11 (9) An enhanced system of the utilization, deployment, and  
12 documentation of international humanitarian aid extended to the  
13 country during national disasters and emergencies contemplated under  
14 this Act, in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs and  
15 other government agencies, pursuant to their mandates under existing  
16 laws; and

17 (10) An institutionalized and enhanced adoption of a nexus  
18 approach in the implementation of disaster risk reduction and  
19 emergency management along other development drivers, such as, but  
20 not limited to, sustainable development, new urban agenda for urban  
21 development, the "4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution," and climate change  
22 adaptation.

23 (b) *Duties of the State.* - The State, as the duty-bearer, has the responsibility to  
24 carry out policies on disaster risk reduction and emergency management and  
25 integrate disaster risk reduction and management policies to climate change,  
26 sustainable development, and environmental management to protect the welfare and  
27 advance the future of right-holders principally the vulnerable sectors of society.

28 It shall be the duty of the State to:

- 29 1. Uphold the people's constitutional right to life and property by  
30 minimizing, if not eradicating, the root causes of vulnerabilities and risks  
31 to disasters, strengthening the country's institutional capacity for  
32 disaster risk reduction and emergency management, and building the

- 1 resilience of local communities to disasters and emergencies, including  
2 human-induced disasters and climate change impacts;
- 3 2. Prioritize and advance disaster prevention and mitigation activities at all  
4 levels of government and across all sectors;
- 5 3. Incorporate internationally-accepted principles of disaster risk reduction  
6 and emergency management, including universal principles and  
7 standards for humanitarian assistance, when developing and  
8 implementing national, regional and local sustainable development and  
9 poverty reduction policies, plans, strategies, and budgets as part of the  
10 country's commitment to overcome human sufferings due to disasters,  
11 in conjunction with other post-2015 global development framework such  
12 as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2030 Agenda on  
13 Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and  
14 the New Urban Agenda, among others;
- 15 4. Ensure a science-based whole-of-society approach and bottom-up  
16 participation, representation and decision-making process in disaster  
17 risk governance, assessment, reduction and management to lessening the  
18 socioeconomic and environmental impacts of disasters and emergencies;
- 19 5. Promote and advance the implementation of a comprehensive Disaster  
20 Risk Reduction and Emergency Management Plan (DRREMP) to  
21 strengthen the capacity of the national government and the local  
22 government units (LGU), together with the private sector, development  
23 partner stakeholders, academia, and civil society to build the disaster  
24 resilience of communities, and institutionalize arrangements and  
25 measures for reducing disaster risks, and enhance disaster preparedness  
26 and emergency response capabilities at all levels;
- 27 6. Uphold and prioritize the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and  
28 emergency response and management as also informed by sustainable  
29 development and climate change adaptation in the areas of policy  
30 formulation, socio-economic development planning, budgeting, and  
31 governance in relation to poverty reduction, land-use and urban  
32 planning, and housing, among others, to pursue an integrated

1 development administration and management in the areas of Coastal  
2 Resources, Health, Agriculture, Water Forestry, Fishery, Biodiversity,  
3 Environment, Ecosystem Energy. Education Tourism, Infrastructure,  
4 Settlement and Mining (CHAWFFBEEEEFTISM);

- 5 7. Undertake effective public engagement and risk communication  
6 strategies using advanced science and most up-to-date technologies in  
7 disaster risk reduction and management and ensure the accessibility of  
8 climate and geospatial risk information and services to the public  
9 through Open Data, which means data that can be freely used, re-used,  
10 and redistributed by anyone - subject only, at most, to the requirement to  
11 attribute and share alike. This includes the use of a complete coverage  
12 and access to large scale 1:10,000 probabilistic hazard maps and high-  
13 resolution topographic maps in digital formal (i.e., LiDAR, IfSAR, digital  
14 photogrammetry - derived topography), among others;
- 15 8. Recognize the family as the most basic unit of DRRM and develop the  
16 capacity of local institutions and providing the best possible assistance  
17 and financial support to the most vulnerable communities affected by  
18 disaster and emergency rehabilitation projects which resumption of  
19 normal social and economic activities;
- 20 9. Uphold provision of protection and humanitarian assistance by the  
21 national and local governments to internally-displaced persons within  
22 their jurisdiction as a result of natural calamities and disasters or human-  
23 induced disasters and emergencies. The State shall ensure that the  
24 following rights of internally displaced persons during and after a  
25 disaster shall be protected: (1) provision and access to basic necessities,  
26 (2) protection against criminal offenses and other unlawful acts, (3)  
27 freedom of movement, (4) recognition, issuance and replacement of  
28 documents, (5) family unity and missing persons, (6) health and  
29 education, and (7) property and possessions;
- 30 10. Ensure that disaster risk reduction and emergency management  
31 measures, covering all the phases of disaster risk and emergency  
32 management, are responsive to the differentiated concerns of vulnerable

1 groups such as women and girls, children and youth, older persons,  
2 persons with disabilities, urban poor, and indigenous peoples, and  
3 further recognizing indigenous knowledge systems and practices, and  
4 respecting human rights, including workers' rights, and recognizing  
5 their inherent capacities to contribute to resilience;

6 11. Recognize and strengthen the capacities of LGUs, communities and  
7 multiple stakeholders in mitigating and preparing for, responding to,  
8 and recovering from the impact of calamities and disasters through  
9 identification of local risk patterns, and decentralized powers,  
10 responsibilities, and resources at the regional and local levels;

11 12. Mainstream disaster risk reduction in government by ensuring risk-  
12 informed planning, programming, implementation, monitoring, and  
13 evaluation. and the use of quality management,, accountability, and  
14 performance systems in measuring and improving the effectiveness and  
15 efficiency of DRRM processes across all government levels, including  
16 those offices which manage peace processes and conflict-resolution  
17 approaches, to minimize loss of lives, injuries and loss and damage to  
18 properties and ensure that communities in conflict zones can  
19 immediately resume their normal lives at the conclusion of episodes of  
20 intermittent conflict;

21 13. Ensure transparency and accountability in disaster risk governance by  
22 facilitating access to financial records of public funds for disaster risk  
23 reduction and management and emergencies, including funds  
24 comprising humanitarian assistance from non-public sources in a timely  
25 manner;

26 14. Adopt risk sharing and risk transfer mechanisms to ensure appropriate,  
27 efficient, and timely recovery of disaster-stricken communities especially  
28 for the poorest and most vulnerable;

29 15. Adhere to the principle of "Build Better Forward" in recovery and  
30 rehabilitation efforts by applying sustainable standards, programs,  
31 technologies, and techniques which enhance resilience against future  
32 hazards; and



1 Framework and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the Paris  
2 Agreement on Climate Change, and the New Urban Agenda, among  
3 other post-2015 global development frameworks;

4 (c) Oversee and direct the comprehensive implementation of disaster risk  
5 reduction and emergency management policies, plans and programs as  
6 embodied in the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency  
7 Management Framework and Plan (NDRREMFP), including its review  
8 and updating to conform with exigencies of an effective national  
9 response to national disasters and emergencies;

10 (d) Review and evaluate the Local Disaster and Emergency Plan (LDEP)  
11 and other local plans to ensure their consistency with the National  
12 Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management Framework and  
13 Plan (NDRREMFP), consistent with the guidance of local science-based  
14 vulnerability and risk assessments, and long-term development policies  
15 and strategies;

16 (e) Oversee, direct and undertake programs and projects to identify,  
17 assess, prioritize and localize hazards and measures to address risks in  
18 the country in consultation with key national government agencies and  
19 stakeholders, especially local governments and local communities;

20 (f) Manage the nexus-based National Multi-Hazard Impact-based Early  
21 Warning System and Emergency Alert System, in coordination with  
22 relevant government agencies, which shall provide accurate, timely  
23 and accessible public advice, through diverse mass media and  
24 telecommunications, to national and local emergency response  
25 organizations and the general public, consistent with the “early  
26 warning, early action” approach to enhancing appropriate mechanisms  
27 to mobilize local communities and related stakeholders to secure lives  
28 and properties in the midst of national disasters and emergencies;

29 (g) Deploy rapid assessment teams, gather information, and, guided by the  
30 principle of interoperability, coordinate information-sharing and other  
31 disaster risk reduction and management protocols among national and

1 local government agencies before, during and after a disaster or  
2 emergency;

3 (h) Administer, mobilize, monitor, and report on the utilization of the  
4 Philippine Disaster and Emergency Management Fund (PDEMF),  
5 recovery and rehabilitation funds and donations for disaster risk  
6 reduction and emergency management, unless otherwise specified,  
7 subject to policies and guidelines to be adopted in coordination with  
8 relevant agencies concerned;

9 (i) In coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs, accept and  
10 administer the international humanitarian aid and assistance extended  
11 to the country from the international community;

12 (j) Procure goods and services during emergencies in accordance with  
13 existing emergency procurement accounting and auditing rules and  
14 regulations, and in coordination with relevant agencies concerned;

15 (k) In coordination with the Commission on Audit (COA), Government  
16 Procurement Policy Board (GPPB), and the Department of Budget and  
17 Management (DBM), issue special procurement rules for preparedness,  
18 response and recovery activities including those prompted by a  
19 declaration of state of calamity and a state of imminent disaster;

20 (l) In coordination with the Department of Finance and the Insurance  
21 Commission, and with the Central Bank of the Philippines if necessary,  
22 establish and monitor national and local capacity for disaster risk  
23 financing and insurance and other risk transfer strategies;

24 (m)Orchestrate an expedient implementation of post-disaster recovery and  
25 rehabilitation programs with the affected communities, through the  
26 systems and approaches towards normalization process that ensures  
27 their participation to economic activities and achieve sustainable  
28 development;

29 (n) Establish a Philippine Disaster and Emergency Management Research  
30 and Training Center (PDEMRTC) that shall provide a ladderized  
31 training program on disaster risk-reduction and emergency  
32 management for DRRM professionals and other stakeholders in the

1 public and private sector. The PDEMRTC shall accredit disaster risk  
2 reduction and management trainers or instructors;

3 (o) Ensure the use of advanced science and the most up-to-date  
4 technologies in disaster risk reduction and emergency management  
5 through engagement, consultation, and employment with a regular  
6 funding for academe/higher education institutions that have a credible  
7 track record both locally and internationally, as well as the capacity to  
8 implement the science and engineering requirements necessary for  
9 effective CCA-DRVR;

10 (p) Establish, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local  
11 Government and the Commission on Higher Education, a sustainable  
12 technical support network of Higher Educational Institutions for local  
13 government units in the assessment and identification of risks and  
14 disaster risk reduction and management measures;

15 (q) Establish the Philippine Disaster and Emergency Management  
16 Secretariat (PDEMS) and an operating facility to be known as the  
17 Philippine Disaster and Emergency Management Secretariat  
18 Operations Center (PDEMSOC) under the operational control of the  
19 Secretary and functional supervision of the Operations Service that  
20 shall be operated and staffed on a twenty-four (24) hour basis;

21 (r) Establish a Philippine Disaster and Emergency Management  
22 Information System (PDEMIS) and the National Loss and Damage  
23 Registry (NLDR) to systematize data management, interchange,  
24 reporting, and utilization, as well as the valuation and assessment of  
25 public and private assets, to serve as basis for risk transfer and  
26 insurance purposes, among others;

27 (s) Develop the criteria and procedure for the enlistment of Accredited  
28 Community Disaster and Emergency Management Volunteers  
29 (ACDEMVs) and a manual of operations for volunteers. The manual  
30 shall be developed by the Authority in consultation with various  
31 stakeholders;

1 (t) Coordinate or oversee the implementation of the country's obligations  
2 with disaster management treaties and see to it that the country's  
3 disaster management treaty obligations are incorporated in its disaster  
4 risk reduction and management frameworks, policies, plans, programs  
5 and projects;

6 (u) In coordination with the National Economic and Development  
7 Authority and the Climate Change Commission, formulate and  
8 implement a nexus framework for resilience-building within the  
9 context of sustainable development and climate change adaptation,  
10 aligning thereby policies, programs, and projects that contribute to  
11 overall national development;

12 (v) Create the necessary offices and appoint personnel to perform its  
13 mandate as provided under this Act, subject to pertinent budgetary,  
14 accounting, auditing, and civil service rules and regulations; and

15 (w) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for effective  
16 operations and implementation of this Act.

17 *Sec. 5. Composition and Organization of the Authority.* – The Authority shall be:

18 (a) Headed by a Director General with the rank of a Department  
19 Secretary; three (3) Deputy Director Generals with the rank of a Department  
20 Undersecretary, to oversee the technical services, operations, and internal  
21 administration services of the Authority; five (5) Assistant Deputy Director  
22 Generals with the rank of a Department Assistant Secretary, to oversee the  
23 cluster-based areas of concerns such as policy and planning; legal affairs and  
24 international cooperation; operations center management; data and  
25 technology services management; finance, administration, and procurement;  
26 and such number of service-level directors and regional directors as may be  
27 deemed appropriate, in conformity with the functional exigencies of said  
28 organizational units towards convergent, responsive and expedient, science-  
29 driven, people-oriented, and resource and results-efficient disaster risk  
30 reduction and emergency management agency of government.

1 (b) The President of the Philippines shall appoint the Director General  
2 who shall have a term of six (6) years, the Deputy Director Generals, and  
3 Assistant Deputy Director Generals.

4 (c) The Director General, Deputy Director Generals, Assistant Director  
5 Generals, and Directors should be recognized experts in the disciplines of the  
6 science or administration of disaster risk reduction and emergency  
7 management services.

8 (d) The staff and line agencies of the Authority, including the regional  
9 offices, command centers and other specialized units, center or institute, as well  
10 as the staffing complement thereof, shall be created in coordination with the  
11 Department of Budget and Management.

12 Sec. 6. *Powers of the Director General.* – The Director General shall exercise the  
13 following functions:

14 (a) Advise the President in issuing executive orders, regulations,  
15 proclamations and other issuances, the promulgation of which is  
16 expressly vested by law in the President relative to matters under the  
17 jurisdiction of the Authority;

18 (b) Establish the policies and standards for the operations of the Authority  
19 pursuant to approved programs of government;

20 (c) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the objectives,  
21 policies, functions, plans, programs, and projects of the Authority;

22 (d) Call upon other instrumentalities or entities of the government and  
23 non-government and civic organizations for assistance in terms of the  
24 use of their facilities and resources for the protection and preservation  
25 of life and properties in the whole range of disaster risk reduction and  
26 emergency management.

27 (e) Subject to applicable provisions of law, call on the citizens and non-  
28 government stakeholders to assist in relief and rescue operations, and if  
29 so necessary, likewise call on the reserve force;

30 (f) Promulgate administrative issuances necessary for the effective  
31 administration of offices under the Director General and for the proper  
32 execution of the laws relative thereto. These issuances shall not

1           prescribe penalties for their violation, except when expressly  
2           authorized by law;

3           (g) Exercise disciplinary powers over officers and employees under the  
4           Director General in accordance with law, including investigation and  
5           designation of a committee or officer to conduct such investigations;

6           (h) Except as provided in Section 5 of this Act, appoint all officers and  
7           employees of the Authority;

8           (i) Exercise jurisdiction over all offices, including specialized units, center  
9           or institute, as authorized in this Act;

10          (j) Delegate authority to officers and employees in accordance with law;  
11          and

12          (k) Perform such other functions as the exigencies of the service may  
13          warrant, in accordance with law.

14          *Sec. 7. Functions of the Deputy Director General, Assistant Director General, and*  
15          *Heads of Offices and Other Units of the Authority.* – Subject to the provisions of the  
16          Administrative Code of 1987, the functions of Deputy Director General, Assistant  
17          Director General, and heads of the various units of the Authority shall be  
18          promulgated in accordance with the needed functional focus of the units concerned,  
19          without compromising and taking into consideration the value of convergent,  
20          accountable, and responsive services of the Authority as prescribed in this Act.

21          *Sec. 8. Capacity Building of disaster risk reduction and emergency management.* –  
22          There shall be a holistic, expertise-driven, and proactive capacity building programs  
23          to be established by the Authority, including the organization of cadre of experts to  
24          hone the theory and practice of disaster risk reduction and emergency management  
25          covering all spectrum of the society. All training and certification programs in  
26          government on disaster risk reduction and emergency management, as well as  
27          degrees that may be awarded subject to policies and regulations pursued by the  
28          Commission on Higher Education, shall be provided by the Authority, under such  
29          policies, terms, and mechanisms to be adopted in coordination with relevant  
30          stakeholders concerned.

31          *Sec. 9. National Loss and Damage Management System.* – The Authority shall  
32          operationalize a system of loss and damage management, which systematizes assets

1 valuation, validation, and registry nationwide. This system shall be coordinated with  
2 the relevant agencies concerned for a holistic and inter-operable data management  
3 and policy coordination, including action for support especially for risk valuation,  
4 insurance, and transfer programs relative to achieving sustainable financing and  
5 investment needed to align disaster risk reduction and management for long-term  
6 socio-economic development.

7 The NLDMS shall be operationally responsible to capture and use all material  
8 information and data generated from all related offices of the national agencies and  
9 local government units, including those data produced by private entities in support  
10 of the objectives of this Act.

### 11 CHAPTER III

#### 12 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

13 Sec. 10. *Fiscal Management.* – The Authority shall manage all funds derived  
14 from the congressional appropriations, which shall include all donations, as  
15 contemplated under the succeeding paragraph, subject to the provisions of Article  
16 9(D), Section 3 of the 1987 Constitution on the auditing powers of the Commission  
17 on Audit.

18 The Authority shall have the power to collect minimum fees derived from  
19 training activities of the PDEMRTC and other related activities to fund its  
20 operations.

21 Sec. 11. *Donation.* – *The Authority shall:*

22 (a) Have the power to receive donations, grants, and humanitarian aid from  
23 any persons, government institutions, corporations, international organizations and  
24 other similar entities, and the power to recommend the procurement of  
25 developmental assistance for the purpose of disaster risk reduction and emergency  
26 management.

27 (b) It shall be mandatory for the Authority to certify the receipt of all PDEMA  
28 donated funds and ensure their judicious management including their proper and  
29 accurate audit reporting to constituents.

30 (c) The importation and donation of food, clothing, medicine and equipment  
31 for relief and recovery and other disaster management and recovery-related supplies  
32 is hereby authorized in accordance with Section 105 of the Tariff and Customs Code

1 of the Philippines, as amended, and the prevailing provisions of the General  
2 Appropriations Act covering national internal revenue taxes and import duties of  
3 national and local government agencies,

4 All importations and donations under Section 11(b) shall be considered as  
5 importation by and/or donation to the Authority subject to the approval of the  
6 Office of the President, as may be recommended by the Department of Foreign  
7 Affairs and the Authority.

#### 8 CHAPTER IV

#### 9 ADVISORY, OPERATIONAL AND CONVERGENCE SYSTEM

10 Sec. 12. *Convergence System.* - To ensure the effective implementation of this  
11 Act, the following shall steer the national and local (vertical complementation) and  
12 multi-sectoral stakeholder (horizontal complementation) convergence system for  
13 disaster risk reduction and emergency management system in the country:

14 (a) Philippine Disaster and Emergency Management Advisory Board  
15 (PDEMAB). - There is hereby constituted the PDEMAB to assist the Authority  
16 in providing advice to the President of the Philippines in setting policies,  
17 standards of operations, and promoting whole of government and society  
18 approach in implementing the provisions of this Act.

19 The PDEMAB shall be headed by the Executive Secretary as Chairperson, and  
20 the PDEMA Director General as the Vice-Chairperson, with the following as  
21 members:

- 22 (1) Secretary of the Department of National Defense (DND);
- 23 (2) Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- 24 (3) Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development  
25 (DSWD);
- 26 (4) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- 27 (5) Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development  
28 (DHUD);
- 29 (6) Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA);
- 30 (7) Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH);
- 31 (8) Executive Director of the Climate Change Commission (CCC);

1 (9) Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority  
2 (NEDA); and

3 (10) Representatives from relevant civil society organizations,  
4 industry groups, the academe and other development organizations,  
5 which shall include among others, representatives of the Philippine  
6 National Red Cross (PNRC), accredited CSOs, and private sector.

7 The Authority may recommend or call upon other heads of the departments,  
8 agencies, organizations from non-government entities to serve as resource persons in  
9 the deliberative and policy-setting and formulation functions of the Authority.

10 The Authority, in consultation with the Board, shall constitute a technical  
11 management group composed of representatives of the abovementioned  
12 departments, offices, and organizations that shall coordinate and meet with the  
13 Authority as often as necessary to effectively manage and sustain national efforts on  
14 disaster risk reduction and emergency management.

15 Subject to the internal procedure to be adopted for the purpose, matters to be  
16 discussed with the Advisory Board shall include the reports on the utilization of the  
17 PDRREM Fund and international humanitarian assistance, emerging disaster and  
18 emergency management challenges, which must include scientific guidance if  
19 available, status of disaster risk and emergency management operations on the  
20 ground, and other matters needing high-level policy guidance.

21 (b) The Regional Disaster And Emergency Management Advisory Board  
22 (RDEMAB). – There is hereby created a Regional Disaster and Emergency  
23 Management Advisory Board (RDEMAB) composed of the executives of regional  
24 offices and field stations at the regional level of the national government agencies,  
25 and shall report to the PDEMAB, through the Director General.

26 The RDEMAB shall coordinate, integrate, supervise, and evaluate the activities of  
27 the Local Disaster and Emergency Management Advisory Board (LDEMAB). It shall  
28 be responsible for coordinating, ensuring, and reporting disaster risk sensitive and  
29 inclusive regional development plans, and in case of emergencies, shall convene the  
30 different regional line agencies and authorities, concerned institutions and  
31 developmental partners.

1 (c) The Local Disaster and Emergency Management Advisory Board  
2 (LDEMAB). – A Local Disaster and Emergency Management Advisory Board, each  
3 for the province, city and the municipality are hereby established. The LDEMAB at  
4 the provincial, city, and municipal level shall be composed of, but not limited to, the  
5 following:

- 6 (1) The Local Chief Executive, Chairperson;
- 7 (2) The Local Planning and Development Officer, Vice Chairperson;
- 8 (3) Heads of the Local Social Welfare and Development Office, Local  
9 Budget Office, Local Health Office, Local Agriculture Office, Local  
10 Gender and Development Office, Local Engineering Office, Local  
11 Employment Office, Local Senior Citizens and Youth Office, and Local  
12 Investment Office;
- 13 (4) Provincial Director/City/Municipal Chief of the Philippine National  
14 Police (PNP);
- 15 (5) Provincial Director/City/Municipal Fire Marshall of the Bureau of Fire  
16 Protection (BFP); and
- 17 (6) Presidents of the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC),  
18 representatives of Philippine Red Cross (PRC), Civil Society  
19 Organization, and Private Sector Organization representatives as  
20 members.

21 The LDEMAB shall have the following functions:

- 22 (1) Approve, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the LDEMPs  
23 and regularly review and test the plan consistent with other national  
24 and local planning programs;
- 25 (2) Ensure the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change  
26 adaptation into local development plans and programs such as the  
27 Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management Plan  
28 (LDRREMP) and Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) at the  
29 provincial, cities and municipalities; and Community Climate  
30 Vulnerability and Disaster Risk Assessment (CVDRA), Barangay  
31 Contingency and Adaptation Plan (BCAP) at the Barangay level, and  
32 budget as a strategy in sustainable development and poverty reduction,

1 (3) Recommend the implementation of forced or preemptive evacuation of  
2 local residents, if necessary; and

3 (4) Convene the LDEMAB once every three (3) months, or as necessary,  
4 and submit reports to the RDEMAB.

5 (d) Local Disaster and Emergency Management Office (LDEMO). All local  
6 government units must establish a Local Disaster and Emergency Management  
7 Office (LDEMO) at the provincial, city and municipal level and, as much as  
8 practicable, a Barangay Disaster and Emergency Management Committee (BDEMC),  
9 to perform the following functions:

10 (1) Design, formulate, implement, and coordinate disaster risk reduction  
11 and emergency management activities consistent with PDEMA's  
12 standards and guidelines;

13 (2) Conduct climate vulnerability and disaster risk assessments, local  
14 disaster resilience plan, and contingency planning activities at the local  
15 level, in coordination with the Field Office of the Authority and other  
16 multi-stakeholders, including the vulnerable and marginalized groups,  
17 to ensure that assessments and plans are validated and integrated in  
18 the national, regional and provincial, city and municipal ecological risk  
19 profile;

20 (3) Consolidate local disaster risk information which includes risk from  
21 natural and human-induced hazards, and maintain a local risk map for  
22 the community;

23 (4) Organize and conduct training, orientation, and knowledge  
24 management activities on disaster risk reduction and emergency  
25 management at the local level, consistent with the capacity building  
26 policies and guidelines of the Authority under this Act;

27 (5) Subject to the guidelines of the Authority, operate a multi-hazard and  
28 inclusive early warning system to provide accurate and timely report to  
29 national or local emergency response organizations and to the general  
30 public, through diverse mass media, telecommunications, and  
31 technologies for communication within rural communities, consistent

1 with the “early warning, early action” approach, to adequately provide  
2 actions and solutions to the last mile;

3 (6) Formulate and implement a comprehensive and integrated LDEMP in  
4 accordance with the national, regional and provincial framework and  
5 policies on disaster risk reduction and emergency management in close  
6 coordination with the LDEMAB to identify, determine and implement  
7 cost-effective disaster risk reduction and emergency management  
8 contingencies, measures and strategies effective to the last mile;

9 (7) Prepare and submit to the local sanggunian through the LDEMAB the  
10 annual LDEMP, the proposed programming of the LDEMF, other  
11 dedicated disaster risk reduction and emergency management  
12 resources, and other regular funding source of the LDEMO;

13 (8) Monitor and mobilize instrumentalities and entities of the LGU and its  
14 partner LGUs, CSOs, private sector, organized volunteers, and sectoral  
15 organizations for disaster preparedness and response to utilize their  
16 facilities and resources for the protection and preservation of life and  
17 properties during emergencies in accordance with existing policies and  
18 procedures;

19 (9) Include food security and agriculture livelihoods in the preparedness  
20 and response plans, programs and other mechanisms;

21 (10) Disseminate information and raise public awareness about  
22 vulnerabilities and risks, their nature, effects, early warning signs and  
23 counter-measures;

24 (11) Establish a Disaster and Emergency Management Information  
25 System (DEMIS) within the LGU and maintain a disaggregated  
26 database of human resource, equipment, services, resources, directories  
27 and location of critical infrastructures and their capacities such as  
28 hospitals and evacuation centers;

29 (12) Develop, strengthen and operationalize mechanisms for  
30 partnership or networking with the private sector, nongovernmental  
31 organizations, CSOs, humanitarian organizations, volunteer groups  
32 and other stakeholders;

- 1 (13) Maintain and provide suitably-trained and competent personnel  
2 for an effective implementation of disaster risk reduction and  
3 emergency management in its communities and areas;
- 4 (14) Organize, train, equip and supervise the local emergency  
5 response teams and the Accredited Community Disaster and  
6 Emergency Management Volunteers (ACDEMVs), ensuring that  
7 humanitarian workers are equipped with basic skills, including gender-  
8 sensitive case management and handling cases of gender-based  
9 violence in times of disasters;
- 10 (15) Respond to and manage the adverse effects of emergencies and  
11 carry out recovery activities in the affected area, ensuring that there is  
12 an efficient and accessible mechanism for immediate delivery of food,  
13 water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, shelter, health and  
14 nutrition intervention and medical supplies for the affected population,  
15 particularly the vulnerable and marginalized groups;
- 16 (16) Serve as the secretariat and executive arm of the LDEMAB;
- 17 (17) Establish linkage/network with other LGUs for disaster risk  
18 reduction, climate change adaptation and emergency response  
19 purposes,
- 20 (18) Recommend through the LDEMAB the enactment of local  
21 ordinances consistent with the requirements of this Act;
- 22 (19) Establish a Provincial/City/Municipal/Barangay Disaster and  
23 Emergency Management Operations Center (DEMOC), aligned with  
24 the systems, policies, and guidelines adopted by the Authority;
- 25 (20) Prepare and submit, through the LDEMAB, the report on the  
26 utilization of the LDEMFB and other dedicated disaster risk reduction  
27 and emergency management resources to the local Commission on  
28 Audit (COA), furnishing a copy to the Regional Director of the PDEMA  
29 and the Local Government Operations Officer of the DILG; and
- 30 (21) Act on other related matters, subject to the guidance of the  
31 LDEMAB.



1 on a three (3) years interval, or as may be deemed necessary, in order to ensure its  
2 relevance to the times.

3 The enforcement of Sections 325(a) and 331(b) of R.A. 7160 shall be waived to  
4 enable the LGUs to fund the initial year requirements for the creation of the  
5 minimum five (5) mandatory plantilla positions of the LDEMO. Other maintenance  
6 and operating expenditures, and other capital outlay requirements of the LDEMO in  
7 the implementation of DRRM programs shall be charged to the Local Disaster and  
8 Emergency Management Fund (LDEMF).

9 The Disaster and Emergency Management Plan (DEMP) shall provide for the  
10 following: (1) identification of the underlying factors of risk, or the nature and  
11 degree of hazards, vulnerabilities, exposure and capacity, which need to be managed  
12 at the national level; (2) disaster risk reduction and management approaches and  
13 strategies to be applied in managing said hazards and risks; (3) agency roles,  
14 responsibilities, and lines of authority at all government levels, and (4) vertical and  
15 horizontal coordination of disaster risk reduction and emergency management  
16 before, during, and after a disaster. The DEMP shall be in conformity with the  
17 Framework.

18 The Disaster and Emergency Management Framework and Plan for disaster  
19 risk governance, assessment, and emergency management shall be formulated in  
20 coordination with the advisory, operational and convergence system contemplated  
21 in this Act.

## 22 CHAPTER VI

### 23 PHILIPPINE DISASTER AND EMERGENCY RESEARCH AND TRAINING

#### 24 CENTER

25 *Sec. 15. Creation of the Philippine Disaster and Emergency Research and Training*  
26 *Center (PDEM-RTC).* – (a) Within one year from approval of this Act, the Authority  
27 shall establish the Philippine Disaster and Emergency Management Research and  
28 Training Center in collaboration with Higher Education Institutions that are Centers  
29 of Excellence for learning and research in the field of disaster risk reduction and  
30 management and climate change adaptation,

31 (b) The PDEM-RTC shall be headed by a Deputy Director General. The  
32 organizational structure and staffing pattern shall be determined by the

1 Authority in consultation with DBM and in accordance with civil service  
2 rules and regulations.

3 (c) The PDEM-RTC shall have the following functions:

4 (1) Establish regional branches in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, as well as  
5 provincial, city or municipal branches if deemed necessary, to train  
6 individuals from public and private sectors in the fields of disaster risk  
7 reduction and emergency management, climate change adaptation, and  
8 ecosystem management and restoration, among others;

9 (2) Develop and implement an inclusive and ladderized curricula on  
10 disaster risk reduction and emergency management;

11 (3) Develop research programs and a knowledge management system on  
12 DRRM for the purpose of innovation, capacity building and  
13 development;

14 (4) Partner with the academe and research institutions, private sector, civil  
15 society, community-based DRRM practitioners and other relevant  
16 sectors in developing research opportunities and programs on disaster  
17 vulnerability and disaster risk assessment;

18 (5) Establish a resource center for IEC materials, research, publications,  
19 best working practices, lessons identified and learned and other  
20 knowledge products on disaster risk reduction and emergency  
21 management;

22 (6) Consolidate and prepare IEC and training materials or publications to  
23 assist disaster risk reduction and emergency management practitioners  
24 in the planning and implementation of their programs and projects;

25 (7) Organize a community of disaster risk reduction and emergency  
26 management practitioners; and

27 (8) Accredite, recognize, monitor, and evaluate disaster risk reduction and  
28 emergency management training institutions.

29 (d) Financial Support to the Center:

30 (1) The budget for the PDEM-RTC shall be sourced from the annual  
31 General Appropriations Act. It shall have the authority to collect the

1 necessary minimum fees that shall be used for maintenance and other  
2 operating expenses of the Research and Training Center.

3 (2) The Authority shall assist in the creation of Research and Training  
4 Centers at the provincial, city, and municipal governments, as  
5 appropriate. The funding for such local Research and Training Centers  
6 may be sourced from the seventy (70%) percent portion of the LDEMFB  
7 and other financial sources of the local government unit concerned.

8 CHAPTER VII

9 DISASTER AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION, EDUCATION  
10 AND COMMUNICATION

11 Sec. 16. *Disaster and Emergency Management Information System (DEMIS)* – The  
12 Authority shall establish a National and Regional Management Information System  
13 for Disaster and Emergency Management. It shall constitute a physical central  
14 database of all disaster risk reduction and climate data, including a geographic  
15 information system on geo-hazard assessments and climate risk. It shall be the  
16 repository of current and multi-temporal information for wide-scale disaster risk  
17 analysis and disaster vulnerability assessment. The DEMIS shall at all times be made  
18 available to the Emergency Operations Center of the PDEMAB/RDEMAB/LDEMAB  
19 to ensure the use of timely, accurate and reliable information for decision- making.

20 Sec. 17. *Disaster and Emergency Management Education and Training.* –

21 (a) The DepEd, the CHED, the Technical Education and Skills  
22 Development Authority (TESDA), in coordination with the CCC, the  
23 National Youth Commission (NYC), the Department of Science and  
24 Technology (DOST), the Department of Environment and Natural  
25 Resources (DENR), the Department of Interior and Local Government  
26 Bureau of Fire (DILG-BFP), the Department of Health (DOH), the  
27 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other  
28 relevant agencies, developmental institutions, nongovernment  
29 organizations shall integrate disaster risk and emergency management,  
30 vulnerability reduction, and climate change adaptation education in the  
31 school curricula at all levels of education, from K to 12 to tertiary levels,  
32 including the Early and adult learning programs, National Service

1 Training Program (NSTP), and education for children and persons with  
2 special needs, whether private or public, including formal and non-  
3 formal, technical-vocational, indigenous learning, out-of- school youth  
4 courses and programs, and other channels of educational integration,  
5 including but not limited to media, church, entertainment centers  
6 (malls), international and domestic airports and transport terminals  
7 (OFWs).

8 (b) The Civil Service Commission (CSC), Professional Regulatory  
9 Commission (PRC), and other licensure-giving bodies shall integrate  
10 DEM-CCA questions in all professional and licensure examinations.

11 (c) The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in coordination with  
12 the PDEMA and the PDEM-RTC, shall develop a curriculum for  
13 courses or subjects specific to DEM, and shall mandate all tertiary  
14 learning institutions to offer these subjects.

15 (d) The Parents and Teachers Community Association should initiate,  
16 support, and participate in DEM-CCA related activities in schools and  
17 host communities.

18 (e) The DepEd, the CHED, and the Technical Education and Skills  
19 Development Authority (TESDA) and other developmental  
20 institutions/organizations shall formulate and institutionalize flexible  
21 learning options (modules, online learning platforms, etc.) as part of its  
22 disaster risk governance, analysis, and emergency management  
23 strategy.

24 (f) The DepEd, CHED and TESDA and other developmental  
25 institutions/organizations shall regularly review, monitor, evaluate  
26 and report to the Council the status of integration and implementation  
27 of DEM in schools and other learning institutions.

28 (g) The LDEMABs shall form formal partnerships with tertiary learning  
29 institutions within their respective jurisdictions to provide standard  
30 and ladderized training programs for LGU officials and other DEM  
31 multi-stakeholders.

1 (h) The PDEMAB, the RDEMABs, the LDEMABs, the LDEMOs, the  
2 BDEMCs, and the Sangguniang Kabataan shall encourage the  
3 community, specifically the youth, participation in disaster risk  
4 reduction and climate change adaptation activities, such as  
5 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaigns  
6 organizing quick response groups, particularly in identified disaster-  
7 prone areas, as well as the inclusion of DRVR programs as part of  
8 programs and projects of the Sangguniang Kabataan, youth  
9 organizations and community-based DEM anticipatory adaptation  
10 initiatives.

11 (i) The public sector employees, including teachers and Disaster and  
12 Emergency Management Coordinators from both the public and  
13 private learning institutions, shall be trained in disaster and emergency  
14 preparedness, response, and emergency management. The training is  
15 mandatory for such employees and coordinators to comply with the  
16 provisions of this Act.

17 Sec. 18. *Standard Mechanism for Cascading Information, Education and*  
18 *Communication on DEM.* –

19 (a) The Authority shall promote and advocate a culture of resilience and  
20 responsible-accountable citizenship through information, education  
21 and communication that is appropriate, integrated, inclusive, localized,  
22 science-based, gender, culture, and disability sensitive and accessible  
23 using multimedia. IEC on DEM should be compelling, but not  
24 alarming.

25 (b) The Authority shall formulate a Strategic Risk Communications Plan to  
26 encompass the entirety of disaster risk reduction, emergency  
27 management, and climate change adaptation to achieve the desired  
28 behavioral and attitudinal change towards responsible citizenship and  
29 culture of resilience. It shall serve as a reference on continuous  
30 awareness raising and education at all levels of the government.

31 (c) A Disaster and Emergency Management Information Officer shall be  
32 designated at all levels of the Authority to ensure implementation of

1 the disaster risk reduction and emergency management IEC campaign.  
2 The DEM Information Officer shall serve as the primary coordinator for  
3 the dissemination of IEC on DEM.

#### 4 CHAPTER VIII

#### 5 DEM INSURANCE AND INCENTIVES

6 Sec. 19. *Disaster Risk Transfer, Insurance and Social Welfare.* –

7 (a) The Authority shall oversee all disaster risk transfer and other related  
8 initiatives to ensure the protection of property and livelihood, both  
9 public and private.

10 (b) The Authority shall make mandatory the insurance of all assets and  
11 properties of national government agencies including government-  
12 owned and controlled corporations, and those over which the  
13 government has insurable interest, as prescribed under R.A 656. The  
14 insurance shall be provided by any government insurance agency.

15 (c) The Authority shall encourage the local government units to insure  
16 assets, properties and livelihood of vulnerable and marginalized  
17 groups for unforeseen or contingent losses from natural hazards and  
18 human-induced disasters which may be charged against the LDEM  
19 Fund in coordination with concerned national government agencies.

20 Sec. 20. *Incentives.* – Unless otherwise provided, the Authority shall establish  
21 an incentives program that recognizes outstanding performance of LDEMABs,  
22 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), CSOs, schools, hospitals, and other  
23 stakeholders in promoting and implementing significant DEM programs and  
24 innovations, and meritorious acts of individuals, groups or institutions during  
25 natural or human-induced disasters.

#### 26 CHAPTER IX

#### 27 PREPAREDNESS AND EARLY WARNING

28 Sec. 21. *Standards for Disaster Preparedness Activities.* –

29 (a) The PDEMAB shall establish standards for disaster preparedness,  
30 including, but not limited to contingency planning, localizing and  
31 operationalizing disaster risk reduction and emergency management,  
32 preparedness for disaster response, preparedness for early recovery,

1 including continuity of essential services, and other relevant  
2 preparedness activities.

3 (b) LGUs shall identify or build evacuation centers in accordance with  
4 government-approved standards to minimize the use of schools as such  
5 and to avoid disruption of classes. Schools that have been used as  
6 evacuation centers shall be immediately compensated by the LGU  
7 concerned, with respect to damages or renovation expenses incurred as  
8 a result of such use.

9 Sec. 22. *Multi-Hazard Impact-based Early Warning and Risk Communication*  
10 *Standards.* – (a) There shall be a streamlined policy governing early warning systems  
11 and risk communication protocols to ensure effective and efficient measures to  
12 prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from possible risk caused by natural  
13 and human-induced hazards and climate risk. The PDEMAB shall issue and the  
14 Authority shall oversee and monitor the implementation of this policy.

15 (b) The Authority and all other concerned agencies with an early warning  
16 mandate shall collaborate among people at the local level to disseminate climate-  
17 disaster risk information through the involvement of local government units,  
18 community-based organizations, civil society organizations, and other non-  
19 governmental organizations.

20 Sec. 23. *Early Warning Mandate.* – (a) The Authority to Issue Early Warnings  
21 for hydro-meteorological, geologic, or terrestrial phenomena is lodged with the  
22 appropriate government agencies or government-accredited organizations for  
23 purposes of forecasting and early warning. This notwithstanding, the State shall  
24 recognize and proactively support local or indigenous modes of early warning  
25 systems and allow open access to near real-time data from both local and  
26 international sources made available through various platforms such as websites,  
27 mobile apps, and social media to empower local communities and individuals.

28 (b) *Transmission of Early Warning.* – A person who transmits early warning  
29 concerning the above-mentioned phenomena by means of signs in designs, colors,  
30 lights, or sound shall do so in compliance with the methods recognized or approved  
31 by the PDEMAB. The “early warning, early action” approach securing peoples and  
32 properties to the last mile shall be the primordial consideration of this system.

1 CHAPTER X

2 DISASTER RESPONSE AND EARLY RECOVERY

3 Sec. 24. *Declaration of State of Calamity.* – The PDEMAB shall recommend to the  
4 President of the Philippines the declaration of a cluster of barangays, municipalities,  
5 cities, provinces, and regions under a state of calamity, and the lifting thereof, based  
6 on the criteria set by the PDEMAB. The President's declaration may warrant  
7 international humanitarian assistance as deemed necessary.

8 The declaration and lifting of the state of calamity may also be issued by the  
9 local sanggunian, upon the recommendation of the LDEMAB, based on the results of  
10 the damage assessment and needs analysis. Moreover, on the basis of official  
11 warning by government warning agencies such as PAGASA, PhilVolcs and MGB,  
12 the LDEMAB may seek from the sanggunian, the declaration of a state of imminent  
13 disaster to enable the local executives to implement precautionary measures  
14 principally pre-emptive evacuation in order to save lives and minimize damage to  
15 property which would require the use of resources principally lodged in the LDEMF.

16 Sec. 25. *Emergency Management.* – The respective LDEMABs shall take the lead  
17 in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the effects of any disaster,  
18 giving due consideration to the economic classification, capacity and vulnerability of  
19 the local governments concerned and based on the following criteria:

- 20 (a) The BDEMC, if a barangay is affected;
- 21 (b) The city/ municipal DEMAB, if two (2) or more barangays are affected;
- 22 (c) The provincial DEMAB, if two (2) or more cities/municipalities are  
23 affected;
- 24 (d) The regional DEMAB, if two (2) or more provinces are affected;
- 25 (e) The PDEMAB, if two (2) or more regions are affected; and
- 26 (f) After 24 hours without report, the nearest field office of the Authority  
27 may take the lead, in partnership with local authorities in managing  
28 emergency situations to save lives and alleviate human suffering until  
29 such time that the local officials may exercise full leadership and  
30 assume their functions.

31 The Authority, in cooperation with the PDEMAB and intermediary  
32 LDEMABs shall always act as support to LGUs which have the primary

1 responsibility as first disaster responders. Private sector and civil society groups  
2 shall work in accordance with the coordination mechanism and policies set by the  
3 RDEMABs and concerned LDEMABs.

4       Sec. 26. *Humanitarian Assistance Action Center.* - The PDEMAB shall  
5 institutionalize a one-stop shop mechanism through the Humanitarian Assistance  
6 Action Center for the processing and release of goods, articles or equipment  
7 intended for humanitarian assistance and the processing of necessary documents for  
8 international assisting actors. The Humanitarian Assistance Action Center shall be  
9 managed by the Authority and shall be composed of the following agencies:

- 10           (a) Department of Finance-Bureau of Customs;
- 11           (b) Department of Foreign Affairs;
- 12           (c) Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- 13           (d) Department of Health;
- 14           (e) Food and Drug Administration;
- 15           (f) Department of Agriculture;
- 16           (g) Department of Energy;
- 17           (h) Philippine National Police;
- 18           (i) Philippine Coast Guard; and
- 19           (j) Department of Justice - Bureau of Immigration
- 20           (k) National Food Authority

21       Sec. 27. *Accreditation, Mobilization, and Protection of Disaster Volunteers and*  
22 *National Service Reserve Corps, CSOs and the Private Sector.* - The government agencies,  
23 CSOs, private sector and LGUs may mobilize individuals or organized volunteers to  
24 augment their respective personnel complement and logistical requirements in the  
25 delivery of disaster risk reduction and emergency management programs and  
26 activities. The agencies, CSOs, private sector, and LGUs concerned shall take full  
27 responsibility for the enhancement, welfare, and protection of volunteers, and shall  
28 submit the list of volunteers to the Authority, through the LDEMOs, for accreditation  
29 and inclusion in the database of community disaster volunteers.

30       A national roster of ACDEMVs, National Service Reserve Corps, CSOs and  
31 the private sector shall be maintained by the Authority through the LDEMOs.  
32 Accreditation shall be done at the municipal or city level.

1 Mobilization of volunteers shall be in accordance with this Act and  
2 implementing guidelines to be formulated by the PDEMAB. Any volunteer who  
3 suffers death or injury while engaged in any of the activities defined under this Act  
4 shall be entitled to compensatory death benefits and individual personnel accident  
5 insurance as may be defined under the guidelines.

6 CHAPTER XI

7 LEGAL FACILITIES FOR ELIGIBLE ASSISTING INTERNATIONAL ACTORS

8 Sec. 28. *Reporting of Humanitarian Assistance.* - The concerned local  
9 government unit shall submit a report to the Authority, taking into account all  
10 domestic or international humanitarian assistance received and distributed within its  
11 area of responsibility.

12 Sec. 29. *Guidelines for Coordination of International Humanitarian Assistance.* -  
13 The PDEMC shall issue comprehensive guidelines on the initiation, entry,  
14 facilitation, transit and regulation of international relief goods and personnel, as well  
15 as eligibility guidelines to utilize the legal facilities for assisting international actors  
16 provided hereunder.

17 PART I. INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL

18 Sec. 30. *Visa Waiver.* - Eligible assisting international actors shall be entitled to  
19 waiver of entry visa requirements, including any associated fees or charges, to  
20 perform Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance work for their sponsoring  
21 entities without the requirement to seek a separate residence or work permit.

22 Sec. 31. *Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications.* -

23 (a) Eligible assisting international actors wishing to deploy international  
24 personnel for tasks requiring legal recognition of their foreign  
25 professional qualifications shall certify the validity of those  
26 qualifications under the law of the country where they were obtained  
27 and the competence of their personnel for the tasks envisaged.

28 (b) The PDEMAB shall establish the guidelines and scope for recognition  
29 of foreign professional qualifications for disaster response and early  
30 recovery.

31 (c) Recognition of qualifications shall remain valid until the end of the  
32 international Initial Recovery Period, absent individual criminal

1           conduct or other professional misconduct sufficient to bar the  
2           individual from professional practice in the country.

3           Sec. 32. *Recognition of Foreign Driving Licenses.* – Foreign driving licenses of  
4 eligible assisting international actors shall be accorded temporary recognition during  
5 the International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Periods.

6           Sec. 33. *Facilitation of Access.* – The international personnel of eligible assisting  
7 international actors shall be allowed access to disaster-affected areas and persons  
8 requiring Disaster Relief or Initial Recovery Assistance, subject to coordination  
9 requirements as mandated by the Authority and limitations based on national  
10 security, public order, or public health, weighed in the context or the urgency of the  
11 disaster needs. They shall be permitted to provide their goods and services directly  
12 to affected persons.

13           PART II. ENTRY OF INTERNATIONAL DISASTER GOODS AND EQUIPMENT

14           Sec. 34. *Customs Facilitation and Priority Treatment.* – The Authority shall  
15 facilitate the rapid importation of consignments of goods and equipment by eligible  
16 assisting actors and shall accord them priority treatment in handling.

17           Sec. 35. *Duty of Compliance by Eligible Assisting Actors.* – In order to benefit  
18 from the aforementioned legal facilities, eligible assisting international actors shall:

19           (a) Declare that all the goods and equipment they seek to import under  
20 this Part are exclusively for Disaster Relief or Initial Recovery  
21 Assistance and that they comply with any relevant standards under  
22 Philippine laws; and

23           (b) Pack, classify and mark their consignments in accordance with the  
24 requirements described in this Act and its implementing rules and  
25 regulations.

26           Sec. 36. *Exemption from Import Duties, Taxes and Restrictions.* – Consignments of  
27 goods and equipment by or on behalf of eligible assisting international actors shall  
28 benefit from:

29           (a) Exemption from all duties and taxes;

30           (b) Waiver of economic prohibitions and restrictions except for categories  
31 of special goods and equipment that may be indicated by the PDEMAB;  
32 and

1 (c) Clearance without regard to the country of origin or the country from  
2 which *the* goods have arrived, subject to monitoring for reasons of  
3 public health and security.

4 Sec. 37. *Simplification of Documentation Requirements.* –

5 (a) Consignment of goods and equipment sent by or on behalf of eligible  
6 assisting international actors shall be cleared or released on the basis of  
7 a simplified goods declaration providing the minimum information  
8 necessary for the Bureau of Customs to identify the goods and  
9 equipment and subject, when deemed necessary, to completion of a  
10 more complete declaration within a specified period.

11 (b) The requirements for the declaration for all imports of goods or  
12 equipment by or on behalf of eligible assisting international actors and  
13 any supporting documents relating to said consignment, release and  
14 clearance of goods or equipment shall be simplified and lodged  
15 without fee.

16 PART III. EXPEDITED ENTRY AND USE RESTRICTIONS FOR SPECIFIC  
17 INTERNATIONAL DISASTER GOODS AND EQUIPMENT

18 Sec. 38. *Telecommunications Equipment.* – Eligible assisting international actors  
19 shall be permitted to import telecommunications equipment for the purpose of  
20 Disaster Relief or Initial Recovery Assistance without restrictions, except as required  
21 by PDEMAB guidelines and other laws for purposes of national security or public  
22 order. The PDEMAB shall provide guidelines for the manner of use of  
23 telecommunications equipment as well as a waiver of licensing requirements or fees.

24 Sec. 39. *Medications.* – Eligible assisting international actors shall be permitted  
25 to import and transport medications and medical equipment for the purpose of  
26 Disaster Relief or Initial Recovery Assistance so long as they conform to the  
27 implementing rules and regulations to be provided by the PDEMAB.

28 Sec. 40. *Food.* – Food imported by eligible assisting international actors for  
29 disaster relief and recovery shall be admitted pursuant to expedited procedures set  
30 out by the PDEMC.

31 Sec. 41. *Imported Vehicles.* – The granting of temporary local registration and  
32 plates for vehicles imported by eligible assisting international actors during the

1 period of response and recovery shall be expedited. Except as indicated in this  
2 section, registration and importation of vehicles shall conform to the ordinary  
3 standards of the law.

4 PART IV. PERMITTED DISPOSITION OF EQUIPMENT AND UNUSED GOOD

5 Sec. 42. *Disposition of Equipment and Unused Goods.* – The PDEMAB shall  
6 provide for the guidelines for retention, re-exportation, donation and disposal of  
7 unused goods and equipment after the termination of Disaster Relief and Initial  
8 Recovery Assistance operations.

9 CHAPTER XII

10 RECOVERY

11 Sec. 43. *Standards for Recovery.* – The planning, programming and  
12 implementation of the recovery process shall:

- 13 (a) improve the community’s physical, social, and economic resilience,  
14 consistent with the principle of “building better forward”;
- 15 (b) use locally-driven, centrally-supported processes based on legal  
16 mandates with supplementary capacity support when requested;
- 17 (c) Redirect development outside danger zones to minimize loss of lives  
18 and structures resulting from typhoons, flooding, landslides, and other  
19 hazards;
- 20 (d) Employ outcome-driven planning and implementation;
- 21 (e) Maximize use of Private-Public sector partnership where possible;
- 22 (f) Consider local conditions such as culture, security situation and  
23 existing capacities of communities in identifying programs and  
24 projects;
- 25 (g) Ensure access to public transport, physical and mental health services,  
26 markets, schools and other public services in planning for settlement  
27 areas; and
- 28 (h) Ensure restoration of peace and order and recovery of government  
29 functions.

30 CHAPTER XIII

31 REMEDIAL MEASURES





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

1 (13) Deliberate use of false and inflated data in support of the request for  
2 funding, relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities for  
3 emergency assistance or livelihood projects; and

4 (14) Tampering with or stealing hazard monitoring and disaster  
5 preparedness equipment and paraphernalia.

6 Sec. 48. *Penalties.* – Any individual, corporation, partnership, association, or  
7 other juridical entity that commits any of the prohibited acts in the preceding  
8 paragraph shall be made liable for the following:

9 (a) A fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) or  
10 any amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00)  
11 or imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day or more  
12 than twelve (12) years, or both, at the discretion of the court, including  
13 perpetual disqualification from public office if the offender is a public  
14 officer, and confiscation or forfeiture in favor of the government of the  
15 objects and the instrumentalities used in committing any of herein  
16 prohibited acts.

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

25 (c) If the offender is a public officer, the offense shall also be punishable by  
26 administrative suspension of six (6) months and one (1) day to one (1)  
27 year for the first offense, and dismissal from the service for the second  
28 offense. The penalty of dismissal shall carry with it the cancellation of  
29 eligibility to or forfeiture of retirement benefits, perpetual  
30 disqualification from holding public office and disqualification from  
31 taking civil service examinations.

1 (d) The prosecution for offenses sets forth under Section 27 of this Act shall  
2 be without prejudice to any criminal liability for violation of the  
3 Revised Penal Code (Republic Act No. 3185, as amended) and other  
4 existing laws, as well as the imposition of applicable administrative or  
5 civil liabilities.

6 CHAPTER XVI  
7 APPROPRIATIONS

8 Sec. 49. *Appropriations.* – The Authority shall be allocated:

9 (a) A budget of Ten Billion Pesos (Php 10,000,000,000.00) from the National  
10 Treasury starting from the effectivity of this Act. Thereafter, the amount needed for  
11 its operation, personal services, maintenance and other operating expenses, and  
12 capital outlay shall be included in the General Appropriations Act annually.

13 (b) Philippine Disaster and Emergency Management Fund. – In accordance  
14 with Section 4(h), the PDEM Fund shall be managed by the Authority. The specific  
15 guidelines on the release and utilization of the PDEM Fund shall be issued by the  
16 PDEMAB in accordance with the recommendations of the Authority.

17 The PDEM Fund shall be used for disaster risk reduction or mitigation,  
18 prevention, and emergency preparedness programs. It can also be utilized for relief,  
19 recovery, reconstruction and other works or services in connection with natural or  
20 human-induced disasters which may occur during the budget year or those that  
21 occurred in the past two (2) years from the budget year.

22 Of the annual appropriation of PDEM Fund, seventy percent (70%) shall be  
23 appropriated for disaster risk reduction, prevention and mitigation, and emergency  
24 management programs and projects focusing on both institutional capacity building  
25 of vulnerable communities and risk-reducing infrastructure. The PDEMAB shall pass  
26 a resolution to set the priority allocations and govern and trigger the implementation  
27 of this Section.

28 Of the amount appropriated for the PDEM Fund, thirty percent (30%) shall be  
29 allocated as Quick Response Fund (QRF) or stand-by fund for prepositioning of  
30 goods and equipment and relief and early recovery programs in order that situation  
31 and living conditions of people in communities or areas stricken by disasters,  
32 epidemics, or complex emergencies may be normalized as quickly as possible.

1 All departments/agencies and LOA that are allocated with PDEM Fund shall  
2 submit to the Authority their monthly statements on the utilization of PDEM funds  
3 and make an accounting thereof in accordance with existing accounting and auditing  
4 rules.

5 All departments, bureaus, offices, and agencies of the government are hereby  
6 authorized to use a portion of their appropriations to implement projects designed to  
7 address DRRM activities in accordance with the PDEMP and the guidelines to be  
8 issued by the PDEMAB in coordination with the DBM and COA.

9 (b) Local Disaster and Emergency Management Fund. - Not less than five  
10 percent (5%) of the estimated revenue from regular sources shall be set aside as the  
11 LDEMF to support disaster risk reduction, emergency management, and climate  
12 change adaptation programs. The LDEMAB shall monitor and evaluate the use and  
13 disbursement of the LDEMF based on the LDEMP as incorporated in the local  
14 development plans and annual work and financial plan. Upon the recommendation  
15 of the LDEMO and approval of the sanggunian concerned, the LDEMAB may  
16 transfer the said fund to support the disaster risk reduction, emergency  
17 management, and climate change adaptation work of other LDEMABs that are  
18 declared under a state of calamity.

19 Of the amount appropriated for LDEMF, thirty percent (30%) shall be  
20 allocated as Quick Response Fund (QRF) or stand-by fund for repositioning of  
21 goods and relief and early recovery programs in order that the situations and living  
22 conditions of people in communities or areas stricken by disasters, epidemics, or  
23 complex emergencies may be normalized as quickly as possible.

24 Unexpended LDEMF shall accrue to a trust fund solely for the purpose of  
25 supporting disaster risk reduction and emergency management activities of the  
26 LDEMABs within the next five (5) years. Any such amount still not fully utilized  
27 after five (5) years shall revert back to the general fund and will be available for  
28 other social services to be identified by the local sanggunian.

29 The PDEMAB shall issue guidelines on the utilization and release of LDEMF  
30 in coordination with other concerned government agencies.

31 (c) Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, and Emergency Management Fund  
32 for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class Municipalities. - There shall be in the annual General

1 Appropriations Act an amount allocated solely for the use of 3rd to 6th class  
2 municipalities for the purpose of augmenting their LDEMF with respect to programs  
3 and procurement for disaster risk prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and  
4 emergency management. The requirements to avail of this Subsidy shall be laid  
5 down in the implementing rules and regulations of this law.

## 6 CHAPTER XVII

### 7 TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

8 *Sec. 50. Transfer of DRRM Powers and Functions of OCD.* - All powers and  
9 functions of the existing Office of Civil Defense related to disaster risk reduction and  
10 emergency management are hereby transferred to the Authority within one (1) year  
11 from the effectivity of this Act.

12 *Sec. 51. Separation Benefits of Officials and Employees of Affected Agencies.* -  
13 National government employees displaced or separated from the service as a result  
14 of this Act shall be entitled to either a separation pay and other benefits in  
15 accordance with existing laws, rules or regulations or be entitled to avail of the  
16 privileges provided under a separation plan which shall be one and one-half month  
17 salary for every year of service in the government: Provided, however, That those  
18 who avail of such privilege shall start their government service anew if absorbed by  
19 the Authority. In no case shall there be any diminution of benefits under the  
20 separation plan until the full implementation of the Act. Displaced or separated  
21 personnel as a result, if qualified, shall be given preference in the hiring of the  
22 manpower requirements of the Authority. With respect to employees who are not  
23 retained by PDEMA, the government, through the Department of Labor and  
24 Employment, shall endeavor to implement re-training, job counseling, and job  
25 placement programs.

26 The foregoing transfer of powers and functions shall include all applicable  
27 funds and appropriations, plantilla positions, records, equipment, and property as  
28 may be necessary.

29 The movement of qualified OCD personnel to the new Authority shall be  
30 governed by Section 9 of this Act.

## 31 CHAPTER XVIII

### 32 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1           Sec. 52. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The PDEMA, through its  
2 Director General, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective  
3 implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its approval. The Authority,  
4 in consultation with key stakeholders, shall take the lead in the preparation of the  
5 implementing rules and regulations with the active involvement of the technical  
6 management group of PDEMAB.

7           Sec. 53. *Congressional Oversight Committee.* – The Congressional Oversight  
8 Committee created to monitor and oversee the implementation of the provisions of  
9 R.A. 10121 shall retain the same mandate for this Act. The Committee shall be  
10 composed of six (6) members from the Senate and six (6) members from the House of  
11 Representatives with the Chairpersons of the Committees on National Defense and  
12 Security of both the Senate and the House of Representatives as joint Chairpersons of  
13 this Committee. The five (5) other members from each Chamber are to be designated  
14 by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
15 respectively. The minority shall be entitled to pro rata representation but shall have  
16 at least two (2) representatives from each Chamber.

17           Sec. 54. *Sunset Review.* – Within five (5) years after the effectivity of this Act, or  
18 as the need arises, the Congressional Oversight Committee shall conduct a sunset  
19 review. For purposes of this Act, the term “sunset review” shall mean a systematic  
20 evaluation by the Congressional Oversight Committee of the accomplishments and  
21 impact of this Act, as well as the performance and organizational structure of its  
22 implementing agencies, for purposes of determining remedial legislation.

23           Sec. 55. *Repealing Clause.* – The provisions of R.A. 10121 and all other laws,  
24 decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and other executive issuances which are  
25 not consistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or  
26 amended.

27           Sec. 56. *Separability Clause.* – Any portion or provision of this Law that may be  
28 declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying other  
29 portions or provisions hereof, as long as such remaining portion or provision can  
30 still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.