


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



22 SEP 28 P 6:51

SENATE
S. No. 1354

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING DEATH BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITY DISASTER
PERSONNEL DEPLOYED DURING DISASTER

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In every disaster, the lives of our rescuers and volunteers will always be at risk. No amount of compensation will ever be sufficient for the families left behind in case of loss of life during the performance of duties. The bravery and heroism of these selfless individuals should be duly recognized.

In recognizing the heroism of the rescuers who saved and gave hope to distressed persons during times of calamity, similar to the incident wherein the lives of the five (5) rescuers were lost while conducting rescue operations amidst the super typhoon Karding last September 25, 2022, this bill seeks to institutionalize the death benefits of rescuers. They shall be known as "Community Disaster Personnel" and the Government shall afford the benefits provided under this Act to the surviving family, regardless of their status of government employment, whether regular, casual contractual, job order or on voluntary work.

In this regard, the early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.




MARK A. VILLAR

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



'22 SEP 28 P 6:51

SENATE
S. No. 1354

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING DEATH BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITY DISASTER
PERSONNEL DEPLOYED DURING DISASTER

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Disaster Personnel*
2 *Death Benefit Act.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to ensure a safe and
4 healthy workplace for all working people by affording them full protection against all
5 hazards in their work environment. It shall ensure that the provisions of the Labor
6 Code of the Philippines, all domestic laws, and internationally-recognized standards
7 on occupational safety and health are being fully enforced and complied with by
8 employers, and it shall provide penalties for any violation thereof.

9 The State shall protect every worker against injury, sickness, or death through
10 safe and healthy working conditions. More so, the surviving family of the employee
11 who died in the performance of duty, especially during a time of calamity, shall be
12 rightfully compensated.

13 Sec. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all community disaster personnel
14 regardless of the status of their employment whether regular, casual, contractual, or
15 job order personnel. For this purpose, the term "community disaster personnel" shall
16 refer to those government employees who were deployed during the time of calamity
17 or disaster.

1 The provisions of this Act shall likewise apply to any volunteer personnel
2 deployed by the appropriate government agency during the time of calamity or
3 disaster.

4 *Sec. 4. Death covered by this Act.* – The surviving family of the community
5 disaster personnel who died while in the performance of their duty shall be entitled to
6 the death benefits as provided in this Act.

7 *Sec. 5. Death Benefits.* – The amount equivalent to one-half (1/2) month of
8 the last salary multiplied by the number of years of service of the community disaster
9 personnel but shall not be less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00)
10 shall be given to the surviving family of the deceased community disaster personnel.

11 *Sec. 6. Funding Requirements* – The death benefits accorded to community
12 disaster personnel shall be chargeable to the Local Disaster Resilience Fund and/or
13 National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund under Republic Act No.
14 10121, as the case may be.

15 *Sec. 7. Prohibition Against Double Recovery of Benefits* – Whenever other laws
16 provide for the same benefits covered by this Act, the surviving family of the
17 community disaster personnel shall have the option to choose which benefits will be
18 paid to them.

19 *Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The National Disaster Risk
20 Reduction and Management Council, in coordination with other relevant agencies,
21 shall promulgate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act
22 within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

23 *Sec. 9. Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any part or provision of this Act
24 is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected
25 shall remain in full force and effect.

26 *Sec. 10. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
27 rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
28 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

29 *Sec. 11. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
30 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,