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

S E N A T E

S.Bill No. 1444

Introduced by **SENATOR GREGORIO B. HONASAN II**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides that ***“the state shall protect the life, property and general welfare of the people and encourage its citizenry to participate in nation building.”***

The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world due to its archipelagic nature and geographic location within the so-called Circum-Pacific belt of fire and typhoon.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council's (NDCC) statistical records indicate that the worth of damages to human lives and properties caused by typhoons and other storms that hit the country between 2001 to 2005 approximately amounted to P26.05 billion or \$521 million. This estimated figure does not include losses in employment and other economic opportunities. The ravages in infrastructures alone already cost the country some P15 Billion or \$300M each year solely due to bad weather during the past century. Such grim statistics highlighted the fact that the Philippines is among the nations in the world with the most number of natural and human-induced disasters in the past years. The increasing severity, frequency and complexity of these calamities that affected our effort to spur poverty alleviation and socio-economic growth in nation building, further aggravates the country's bleak situation.

The Philippines is one of the 168 signatory countries to a ten-year action plan, *“Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters”*, the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, which end goal is to significantly diminish disaster losses in lives, social, economic and environmental assets of devastated member countries by year 2015. While there have been country's initiatives, interventions and advocacies in pursuit of this global commitment, the challenge to achieve such HFA goal remains difficult at this time. This is mainly due to the inadequacy of Presidential Decree No. 1566 to respond to the rapid increase of calamity prevalence and vulnerability in the country.

Based on the foregoing considerations, there is an urgent need, therefore to amend such law in order to strengthen and enhance its

institutional mechanisms and the disaster risk system and capacity in the Philippines.

This proposed measure seeks to establish the National Disaster Management Council which shall be tasked to develop, formulate and implement a National Disaster Risk Management Plan (NDRMP) in conformity with a National Disaster Risk Management Framework (NDRMF) for creating a comprehensive and community-based disaster risk management approach, which shall be anticipatory of and responsive to the socio-economic and environmental impacts of disasters. The NDMC shall have the powers and functions of policy making, coordination, integration, supervision, monitoring and evaluation.


This bill encompasses all actions and measures pertaining to all aspects of disaster management from pre-disaster phase such as risk or hazard identification and analysis, risk reduction, prevention, mitigation and preparedness to the post-disaster phase such as emergency response, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction.

This bill further proposes to enhance national leadership, strengthen local capacities, mainstream disaster risk planning, improve risk communication, enhance accountability and financial supports.

Recognizing its utmost relevance to the present time, the immediate enactment of this proposed measure into law is earnestly sought.



GREGORIO B. HONASAN II
Senator

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
7 DECEMBER 2007
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SENATE
S. Bill No. 1444

Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT
CAPABILITY BY ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL DISASTER
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NATIONAL
DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This act shall be known as the
“*Philippine Disaster Risk Management Act of 2007*”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy – It shall be the policy of the State
to:

- a) Uphold the people’s constitutional right to life and property by decreasing disaster vulnerability, increasing their capability for recovery, and enhancing over-all resilience to the events;
- b) Adopt an integrated and coordinated, multi-sectoral, inter-agency and community-based approach to disaster risk management that shall be both anticipatory of and responsive to the socio-economic and environmental impacts of disasters;
- c) Develop, promote and implement a comprehensive National Disaster Risk Management Plan to address both pre-disaster vulnerabilities and post-disaster recovery;
- d) Incorporate the principles of disaster risk management in the creation of national, regional and local sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies, policies, plans and budgets;
- e) Recognize the country’s various and particular local risk patterns and the need to decentralize powers, responsibilities and resources for disaster risk reduction and reaction to regional and local authorities;

- f) Encourage individuals, non-government organizations, the private sectors and community members to participate in disaster risk management and response; and
- g) Develop and strengthen people's capacities to prepare and mitigate the effects of disasters.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms – For purposes of this Act, the following shall refer to:

- a) **“Disaster”**- an event, natural or man-made, sudden or progressive, which impacts vulnerable communities with such severity on lives and properties, basic services, infrastructures and the environment that the affected community has to respond with exceptional measures.
- b) **“Emergency”**- unforeseen or sudden occurrence, especially danger, demanding immediate action.
- c) **“Hazard”**- a potentially damaging phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption, and environmental degradation.
- d) **“Vulnerability”**- a set of conditions that result from physical, social, economic and environmental factors which increase susceptibility to losses from the impact of natural or man-made hazards.
- e) **“Risk”**- the probability of harmful consequences resulting from the interactions between hazards and vulnerable conditions.
- f) **“Risk Management”**- the process of identifying, analyzing and quantifying the probability of losses in order to undertake preventive or corrective measures in minimizing such.
- g) **“Disaster Risk Management”**- a comprehensive set of distinct but interrelated activities that covers all aspects of disasters from risk identification, mitigation, preparedness, emergency response, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction.
- h) **“Risk Identification and Analysis”**- a thorough analysis of current vulnerabilities, location and severity of threat that will determine the underlying causes of vulnerabilities.
- i) **“Disaster Risk Reduction”**- a conceptual framework of elements considered with the possibilities to minimize vulnerabilities and

disaster risks throughout a society, to avoid through prevention or to limit through mitigation and preparedness the adverse impacts of hazards within the broad context of sustainable development.

- j) **“Disaster Preparedness”** - pre-disaster actions and measures being undertaken to avert or minimize loss of life and property, such as but not limited to community organizing, training, planning, equipping, stockpiling, hazard mapping, and public information and education initiatives.
- k) **“Disaster Mitigation”** - measures that ensure the ability of at-risk communities to address vulnerabilities aimed at minimizing the impact of disasters. Such measures include, but are not limited to the formulation and implementation of plans, programs, projects and activities, as well as the enforcement of comprehensive land use planning, building and safety standards, and legislation.
- l) **“Response”** - any concerted effort by two or more agencies, public or private, to provide emergency assistance to persons of a disaster and in the restoration of essential public activities and facilities.
- m) **“Rehabilitation”** - measures that ensure the ability of affected communities to restore their normal level of functioning by rebuilding livelihood and damaged infrastructures and increasing the communities’ organizational capacity.
- n) **“Community-based Disaster Risk Management or CBDRM”** - activities, projects and programs to reduce disaster risks, primarily designed by people living in high-risk localities based on their needs and capacities, in close coordination with their respective Local Disaster Management Councils.
- o) **“National Disaster Risk Management Plan”** - the master plan which provides the strategies, organization, tasks of concerned agencies and local government units, and other guidelines to deal with disasters or emergencies.

SEC. 4. Scope – This Act provides for all the actions and measures pertaining to all aspects of disaster management from the anticipatory stages of risk identification and analysis, risk reduction, prevention, mitigation and preparedness to the post-disaster stages of response, relief, rescue, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

SEC. 5. National Disaster Management Council – The present National Disaster Coordinating Council or NDCC, established thru Presidential Decree No. 1566 shall henceforth be known as the National Disaster Management Council or NDMC to be composed of the following:

Chairperson : Secretary of the Department of National Defense (DND)

Vice Chairpersons:

Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)

Secretary of the Department of the Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

Members:

Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH)

Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA)

Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)

Secretary of the Department of Environment Natural Resources (DENR)

Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)

Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd)

Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ)

Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC)

Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF)

Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM)

Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE)

Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

Secretary of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS)

Secretary of the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS)

Director-General of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)

Secretary-General of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC)

Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)

Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), DILG

Fire Chief of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), DILG

Administrator of the National Mapping and Resources Information Authority (NAMRIA)
Director of the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau (MGB), DENR
Director of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), DENR
Director of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), DOST
Director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), DOST
Director of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI), DOST
Commissioner of the National Anti-Poverty Commission – Victims of Disaster and Calamities (NAPC-VDC)
Administrator of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), DND
Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), DOTC
Two (2) Representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
President of the Association of Barangay Chairmen (ABC)
Two (2) Representatives from national-level People’s Organizations

The two (2) NGO representatives shall be selected from among their ranks based on criteria set for this purpose.

The Administrator of the Office of Civil Defense shall serve as Executive Officer of NDMC. The Council, in discharging its functions, shall utilize the services and facilities of the OCD, which shall also act as the Secretariat of the NDMC.

The NDMC shall establish an operating facility to be called as the “National Disaster Management Center” which shall be manned on a twenty-four (24) hour basis by personnel of the OCD.

SEC. 6. Powers and Functions of the NDMC – The NDMC, being empowered with policy-making, coordination, integration, supervision, monitoring and evaluation functions, shall have the following responsibilities to:

- a) Develop a National Disaster Risk Management Framework (NDRMF) which shall provide for comprehensive, all-hazards, multi-sectoral, inter-agency and community-based approach to disaster risk management that covers set of distinct but

interrelated activities in the pre-disaster phase such as risk or hazard identification, risk reduction, prevention, mitigation and preparedness, and in the post-disaster phase such as emergency response, rehabilitation and recovery. The Framework shall serve as the principal guide to disaster risk management efforts in the country and shall be reviewed on a 5-year interval, or as may be deemed necessary, in order to ensure its relevance to the times.

- b) Develop, formulate, lead and monitor the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Management Plan (NDRMP) and ensure that this shall be considered and integrated in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP), in the National Budget, and in Local Disaster Risk Management Plans nationwide.
- c) Ensure that government agencies and local government units take adequate and appropriate measures in disaster management, including the preparation and updating of multi-hazard maps to facilitate disaster preparedness and mitigation;
- d) Ensure that all disaster preparedness, mitigation and prevention activities such as training, education, and public information, are given top priority by concerned government agencies and local government units;
- e) Recommend to the President the declaration of state of calamity in areas extensively damaged by disaster events and submit remedial proposals addressing these;
- f) Develop a Disaster Management Information System and Geographic Information System as policy and decision-making tools;
- g) Establish an operating facility to be known as the "National Disaster Management Center" that shall be operational and manned on a twenty-four (24) hour basis.
- h) Coordinate and meet with concerned departments, agencies, NGOs and POs, as often as necessary to effectively manage national efforts on disaster risk management;
- i) Conduct periodic assessment of the NDMC member-agencies', Regional Disaster Management Office's and Local Disaster Management Councils' performances; and

- j) Administer and provide the necessary guidelines and procedures on Calamity Fund releases as well as utilization, accounting and auditing thereof.

SEC. 7. Authority of the NDMC Chairperson – The Chairperson of the NDMC may call upon other instrumentalities or entities of the government and non-government and civic organizations for assistance in terms of the use of their facilities and resources for the protection and preservation of life and properties in case of emergencies and disasters. Towards this end, the Chairperson is hereby authorized to restructure and reorganize the Office of Civil Defense as the Executive Directorate and Secretariat of the NDMC within a 5-year implementation period.

SEC. 8. Mission of the Office of Civil Defense – The Office of Civil Defense (OCD), as a Bureau of the Department of National Defense and Secretariat of the National Disaster Management Council, shall have the primary mission to administer a comprehensive national civil defense and disaster risk management program by providing leadership in the continuous development of strategic and systematic approaches, as well as measures to reduce the vulnerabilities and risks to hazards.

SEC. 9. Functions of the OCD – The OCD shall have the following functions:

- a) Advise the NDMC on matters relating to disaster risk management coherent with the policies and scope as defined in this Act;
- b) Identify, assess and prioritize hazards and risks considered of national importance, in consultation with NDMC member-agencies concerned;
- c) Spearhead the development of a National Disaster Risk Management Framework (NDRMF);
- d) Develop and monitor the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Management Plan (NDRMP);
- e) Oversee the development, evaluation and review of local government disaster risk management plans;

- f) Oversee the development or enforcement by agencies and organizations of the various laws, guidelines, codes or technical standards required by this Act;
- g) Monitor the performance of the NDMC member-agencies, regional and local DMCs as provided for in this Act;
- h) Promote Disaster Risk Management through public education and awareness programs;
- i) Maintain and operate the National Disaster Management Center (NDMC);
- j) Direct and control the resources available for disaster risk management during a state of calamity as defined under this Act;
- k) Provide advice and assistance to the affected local government units (LGUs) during a state of calamity at the local level, as maybe necessary; and
- l) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for its effective operations and implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. The NDMC Secretariat – The OCD shall serve as the NDMC Secretariat and shall have the following functions:

- a) Record, prepare, disseminate and file the proceedings and undertakings of the NDMC and its technical Working Groups and Committees;
- b) Plan, monitor and evaluate the programs and activities of the NDMC Technical Working Groups and Committees;
- c) Implement the Disaster Management Information System and Geographic Information System as established by the NDMC;
- d) Monitor the extent of implementation of disaster risk management programs by the NDMC member-agencies, regional and local DMCs; and
- e) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for its effective operations and implementation of this Act.

SEC. 11. Disaster Management Organization at the Regional Level – There shall be created in every region a Regional Disaster

Management Office (RDMO) that shall establish an operating facility or a Disaster Management Center in its areas of jurisdiction.

SEC. 12. Disaster Management Organization at the Local Government Level – The current Provincial, City, Municipal and Barangay Disaster Coordinating Councils shall henceforth be known as the Provincial, City, Municipal and Barangay Disaster Management Councils (P/C/M/B DMCs) which shall have the following functions:

- a] Identify, assess and manage the hazards and risks that may occur in their locality;
- b] Communicate about those hazards and risks, their nature, effects, early warning signs and countermeasures;
- c] Identify and implement cost-effective risk-reduction measures or strategies;
- d] Take all necessary steps on an ongoing basis to maintain, provide or to arrange the provision of, or to otherwise make available suitably trained and competent personnel for effective civil defense and disaster risk management in its area;
- e] Respond to and manage the adverse effects of emergencies in the area;
- f] Carry out recovery activities;
- g] Promote and raise public awareness of and compliance with this Act and legislative provisions within its jurisdiction relevant to the purposes of this Act;
- h] Develop, approve, implement and monitor Local Disaster Risk Management Plans (LDRMP) and regularly review and test the plan for internal consistency as well as to ensure its vertical and horizontal compatibility with other relevant planning programs;
- i] Establish linkage or network with other local government units for disaster-risk reduction and emergency response purposes;
- j] Formulate their own local ordinances consistent with the requirements of this Act;
- k] Integrate risk-reduction into local development plans, programs and budgets as a strategy in sustainable development and poverty reduction;

- l] Establish an operating facility to be known as the Provincial/City/Municipality/Barangay Disaster Management Center; and
- (1) Prepare and submit report on the utilization of the five percent (5%) local calamity fund to the local Commission On Audit (COA), copy furnished the local DILG.

SEC. 13. Local Disaster Management Office – There shall be established a Local Disaster Management Office (LDMO) in every province, city and municipality which shall assist the Local Disaster Management Councils in setting the direction and development of disaster risk management programs and coordinating disaster response activities within their territorial jurisdiction.

The DMO shall be under the Office of the Governor, City and Municipal Mayor which shall be organized and initially manned by a Disaster Management Officer to be assisted by three (3) staff units namely, Administrative and Training, Research and Planning, and Operations and Warning;

The Provincial, City and Municipal Disaster Management Office shall have the following functions:

- a] Implement policies, plans and programs of the DMO consistent with the policies and guidelines laid down in this Act;
- b] Assess training needs on Disaster Risk Management and conducts training for stakeholders;
- c] Develop and strengthens mechanisms for partnership/networking with private and public sector organizations;
- d] Prepare and submits to the Local Sanggunian, through the LDMO, the annual programming of the five percent (5%) local calamity fund and other regular funding source/s and budgetary support of the DMO and local DMCs;
- e] Serve as the Secretariat and Executive Arm of the Local DMOs;
- f] Coordinate disaster risk management activities; and

g) Act on matters that may be authorized by the Local Disaster Management Office.

SEC. 14. The National Disaster Risk Management Plan – The National Disaster Risk Management Plan (NDRMP) shall provide for the identification of hazards and risks to be managed at the national level; disaster risk management approaches/strategies to be applied in managing said hazards and risks; agency roles and responsibilities at all government levels, and vertical and horizontal coordination of disaster risk management in the pre-disaster and post-disaster phases. It shall be in conformity with the National Disaster Risk Management Framework (NDRMF).

SEC. 15. The Community-Level Disaster Preparedness Committee – The Disaster Preparedness Committee (DPC) shall be formed at the barangay level. The DPC shall be the embodiment of people’s participation in the implementation of a truly community-based disaster management approach. The DPC shall be composed of three (3) to five (5) members from the ranks of community leaders or leaders of people’s organizations. The Committee shall lead in the various stages of disaster management activities and the provision of disaster management services.

SEC. 16. Accredited Community Disaster Volunteers and Participation of NGOs and POs – A National roster of Accredited Community Disaster Volunteers (ACDV) shall be maintained by the NDMC. The criteria and procedures for accreditation of and a Manual of Operations for volunteers shall be developed by the NDMC in consultation with various stakeholders. Accreditation shall be done at the municipal level.

SEC. 17. Declaration of State of Calamity – The Council may recommend a cluster of barangays, cities, municipalities, provinces, regions under a state of calamity at least one (1) of the following conditions are present:

a) At least thirty percent (30%) of the population are affected;

- b] At least thirty percent (30%) of the dwelling units have been destroyed;
- c] At least twenty-five percent (25%) of the major means of livelihood of the community are affected;
- d] At least fifty percent (50%) of the major roads and bridges are impassable;
- e] There is an outbreak of highly contagious diseases resulting to sickness and death of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the population;
- f] There is disruption of lifeline such as electricity, potable water system, transport system, communications system and other related systems which cannot be restored with one (1) week;
- g] There is flooding which is expected to last for one (1) week; and
- h] There is drought that shall affect one planting season.

The declaration of a State Calamity may be issued either by the President or the local Sanggunian upon the recommendation of the Local Disaster Management Office based on the criteria provided for in this Act.

SEC. 18. Remedial Measures – The declaration of a State of Calamity shall make mandatory the immediate undertaking of the following remedial measures by the member-agencies concerned as defined in this Act:

- a] Automatic imposition of price control of basic necessities in areas declared under a State of Calamity by the President of the Philippines or local Sanggunian by the Department of Trade and Industry;
- b] Monitoring, prevention and control of overpricing/profitteering and hoarding of prime commodities, medicines and petroleum products by the local Price Coordinating Council;
- c] Programming/reprogramming of funds for the repair and safety upgrading of public infrastructures and facilities; and
- e] Granting of no-interest loans by government financing or lending institutions to the most affected section of the population.

SEC. 19. Prohibited Acts – Any person, group or corporation who commits any of the following prohibited acts shall be held liable and be subjected to the penalties as prescribed in Section 20 of this Act:

- (a) Dereliction of duties which lead to damages or death and misuse of funds;
- (b) Preventing the entry and distribution of relief goods in disaster-stricken areas, including appropriate technology, tools, equipment, accessories, disaster teams/experts;
- (c) Buying, for consumption or resale, from disaster relief agencies any relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities which are intended for distribution to disaster of victims;
- (d) Buying, for consumption or resale, from the recipient disaster victims any relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities received by them;
- (e) Hijacking or forcibly seizing relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities intended for or consigned to a specific group of victims or relief agency;
- (f) Diverting or misdelivering relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities to persons other than the rightful recipient or consignee;
- (g) Accepting, processing, using or disposing relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities not intended for nor consigned to him;
- (h) Misrepresenting the source of relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities by:
 - (1) Either covering, replacing or defacing the labels of the containers to make it appear that the goods, equipment or other aid commodities came from another agency or persons;
 - (2) Repacking the goods, equipment or other aid commodities into containers with different markings to make it appear that the goods, came from another agency or persons or was released upon the instance of a particular agency or persons;
 - (3) Making false verbal claim that the goods, equipment or other aid commodity in its untampered original containers actually came from another agency or persons or was released upon the instance or a particular agency or persons;

- (i) Substituting or replacing relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities with the same items or inferior/cheaper quality;
- (j) Deliberate use of false or inflated data in support of the request for funding, relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities for emergency assistance or livelihood projects;
- (k) Soliciting of funds and/or donations by non-accredited NGOs. In this regard, solicitation of funds and/or donations by accredited NGOs shall be regulated and monitored by NDMC through its member agencies concerned to ensure that public donation are safeguarded and duly accounted for.

SEC. 20. Penal Clause – Any individual, corporation, partnership, association, or other juridical entity that commits any of the prohibited acts provided for in Section 19 of this Act shall be prosecuted and upon conviction shall suffer a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) or any amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day or more than twelve (12) years, or both at the discretion of the Court, including perpetual disqualification from public office, if the offender is a public officer, and confiscation or forfeiture in favor of the government of the objects and the instrumentalities used in committing any of herein prohibited acts.

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

However, the prosecution for offenses set forth in Section 19 of this Act shall be without prejudice to any liability for violation of Republic Act No. 3185, as amended otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code.

SEC. 21. Funding of Disaster Management Activities at the Local Level. - Five percent (5%) of the estimated revenue from regular sources of the local government unit shall be set aside as a local disaster management fund for disaster risk reduction or mitigation and prevention and preparedness activities for potential occurrence of disasters, as well as for disaster response, rehabilitation, reconstruction and other works or services in connection with disasters or calamities, whether natural or human-made, occurring within the local government unit or other areas, and for the payment of premiums on calamity insurance.

The Local Development Council shall monitor and evaluate the use and disbursement of local disaster management fund based on the local disaster risk management plan as incorporated in the local development plans and annual Work and Financial Plan.

SEC. 22. National Calamity Fund and Quick Response Fund

- a) The National Calamity Fund appropriated under the General Appropriations Act shall be used for aid, relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and other work or services in connection with calamities which may occur during the budget year or those that occurred in the past two (2) years from the budget year, including training of personnel and other pre-disaster activities and capital expenditures for pre-disaster operation, rehabilitation and other related activities;
- b) A Quick Response Fund (QRF) from the contingency fund of the Office of the President is hereby constituted to support the initial and immediate disaster response operations and needs of the National Disaster Management Center (NDMC) and its participating agencies for the current year. The amount necessary for the continuous funding of the QRF shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act;
- c) The specific amount of the QRF for the NDMC and appropriate participating agencies shall be recommended by the NDMC to the President and shall be administered by the NDMC and other recipient agencies, provided that no portion thereof shall be

used for the administrative expenses or as augmentation fund for regular agency programs, projects and activities not related to current calamities or disasters;

- d) All departments/agencies and local government units that are allocated with a calamity fund shall submit to the NDMC their monthly statements on the utilization of calamity funds and make an accounting thereof in accordance with existing accounting and auditing rules; and
- e) The calamity fund shall be released within twenty-four (24) hours after the State of Calamity is declared.

SEC. 23. Funding of the OCD – As lead agency to carry out the provisions of this Act, the OCD shall be allocated additional budget from the annual General Appropriations Act as may be determined by Congress based on the OCD budget proposal to be submitted for this purpose.

SEC. 24. Annual Report. The NDMC, through the OCD, shall submit to the Office of the President, Senate and House of Representatives and other concerned authorities, within the first quarter of the succeeding year and every year thereafter, an annual report relating to the progress of the implementation of disaster risk management programs by the NDMC member-agencies, regional and local DMCs under this Act.

SEC. 25. Implementing Rules and Regulations – Subject to the approval by the President, the NDMC shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 26. Repealing Clause – Presidential Decree No. 1566 and all other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations and other executive issuances which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 27. Separability Clause – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 28. Effectivity Clause – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.