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SENATE

S. No. 1005

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the National Conference on National Disaster Mitigation, funded by the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), a scientific paper was presented articulating that the Filipino people are more reactionary than anticipatory in their disaster-preparedness and hazard awareness programs. The same date indicated that proactive planning to anticipate a probable disaster in the Philippines is low in the priorities of majority of its population, particularly among the low-income bracket because of the main preoccupation on daily subsistence and survival.

Ironically, however, the Philippines is perhaps one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Its archipelago is prone to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, typhoons, tsunamis, floods and droughts because of its geologic and geographical conditions. Moreover, the country lies between two major tectonic plates of the world which makes it a highly seismic area.

Every year, an average of about twenty typhoons enter the Philippines with their strong winds, storm surges and floods frequently damaging many properties and lives of many of its citizens. As a consequence, moreover, flooding due to typhoons cause chronic problems in Metro Manila given its inadequate drainage system.

In response to the need to minimize loss of life, property damage and socio-economic losses caused by natural disasters and in recognition to the imminent need to promote a proactive disaster preparedness program, this proposed measure aims to integrate in the curricula of all primary and secondary schools of the educational system of the country the subject on disaster awareness and disaster mitigation.

Such curriculum shall include, among others, courses on natural and man-made disasters in order to instill disaster awareness and promote active participation of the youth, students and society as a whole in disaster preparedness for the benefit of the nation.

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


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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AN ACT
REQUIRING THE TEACHING OF DISASTER AWARENESS AND
DISASTER MITIGATION AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF ALL
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Teaching of disaster awareness and disaster mitigation is hereby required to be part of the curriculum of all primary and secondary schools in the Philippines.

SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – The Department of Education, Culture and Sports shall adopt the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* – The funds needed for this purpose shall be taken from the appropriations of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS). Thereafter, such amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,