

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

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SENATE
S. No. 3318

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As a tropical country, the Philippines has always been subjected to dozens of typhoons per year. The strong winds and torrential rainfalls brought about by these typhoons have brought destruction to our countrymen who were unfortunate enough to be in their path. Countless lives have been lost and damages to properties have accumulated to billions of pesos as a result of these catastrophes.

However, as seen last 2012, even the monsoon rains can bring about massive destruction due to floods. The varying degrees of success in disaster response and destructive effect mitigation across the LGUs indicate that a disparity in terms of preparedness and knowhow. A major effort must be done to collate our flood related knowledge as a country and disseminate such information to all stakeholders to minimize the damage brought about by floods.

This bill will allow us to establish a centralized effort to study the effect of flooding and how best to prepare and respond to each catastrophe.

acc. *Miriam Defensor Santiago*
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

SENATE
S. No. 3383

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL FLOOD RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
3 TO PLAN, COORDINATE, CONDUCT, AND SHARE RESEARCH ON FLOODING,
4 FLOOD PREVENTION, AND OTHER FLOOD-RELATED ISSUES, AND FOR OTHER
5 PURPOSES

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

8 SECTION 1. *Short Title* - This Act shall be known as National Flood Research and
9 Education Act.

10 SECTION 2. *Establishment* - There is hereby established within the National Disaster
11 Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) an Office of Flood Research and Policy
12 (OFRP) which shall be headed by a Director.

13 SECTION 3. *Duties* - The Director of the OFRP shall -

14 (A) make recommendations and identify best practices for predicting, preventing,
15 and minimizing flooding and its effects in accordance with Section 4;

16 (B) submit to Congress an annual report in accordance with subsection (d);

17 (C) establish and maintain a page on the public NDRRMC web site in accordance
18 with subsection (e); and

19 SECTION 4. *Best Practices* - The Director, in consultation with the NDRRMC, taking
20 into consideration the regional differences in hydrology, weather, geography, economy, and
21 population density across the country, shall develop recommendations and identify best practices
22 for predicting, preventing, and minimizing flooding and its effects, including—

23 (A) risk-assessment tools, methods, and models;

- 1 (B) strategies and techniques for monitoring and predicting flooding;
- 2 (C) strategies and techniques for flood management and prevention;
- 3 (D) the adoption and use of relevant technologies;
- 4 (E) National, regional, and local flood policies; and
- 5 (F) coordination and cooperation among local, national flood-related efforts.

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7 SECTION 6. *Report.* – The Director shall submit to Congress an annual report on the
8 activities of the Office and the Consortium. The OFRP shall establish and maintain a page within
9 the public NDRRMC web site in which it shall publish the recommendations and best practices
10 described in Section 4 and the annual report as provided in this section. The OFRP shall also
11 provide the local government units (LGUs) versions of the report which particularly applies to
12 them.

13 SECTION 9. *Grants to Institutions of Higher Education.* – To aid the Director in
14 performing his functions, the OFRP may extend research grants to institutions of higher
15 education who are capable of conducting research on flooding, flood prevention and other flood
16 related issues. The OFRP shall ensure that the said grants are used for their designated purpose.

17 SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
18 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or
19 modified accordingly.

20 SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is
21 declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not
22 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

23 SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
24 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,