SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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s.b. No. <u>993</u>

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

AN ACT

EXPANDING THE APPLICATION OF THE LOCAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT FUND BY AMMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10121, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2010

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 25, of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The State shall ensure the autonomy of local governments". Section 2 of the Local Government Code also states that "the State shall provide for a more responsive and accountable local government structure instituted through a system of decentralization whereby local government units shall be given more powers, authority, responsibilities, and resources".

RA 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act has placed the local government units in the frontline of disaster preparedness, response and rehabilitation. It transformed the calamity funds of the LGUs into the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund. Under the present law, the LDRRMF may now be utilized by the LGUs to fund projects and programs that enhance disaster preparedness and mitigate, the effects of calamities. In the unfortunate event that disaster or calamity strikes, it is the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office in the LGUs that are at the forefront of Mother Nature's wrath in providing safety and protection for their constituents. However, due to budgetary restrictions, LGUs are unable hire the necessary man power to provide adequate response and assistance to affected citizens during disasters.

It must also be noted, that the effects of disasters would be greatly mitigated and reduced if LGUs will have the necessary funds to provide local infrastructure projects designed to protect against natural disasters. The after effects of disasters will also be lessened if LGUs are given flexibility in providing for a swift reconstruction, repair and rehabilitation of their infrastructure damaged by disasters.

Conversely, when the LGU does not suffer and disasters or calamities, its LDRRMF accrues to a special trust fund which may only be utilized for disaster risk reduction and management. There are numerous LGUs specially located throughout the Philippines where they are seldom affected by disasters and calamities. The period where the trust fund may revert back to the general fund should be shortened to three (3) years so that the LGU nay align unused funds for social services identified by the local sanggunian.

There is an urgent need to broaden the options of the LGUs in the utilization of the LDRRMF. This bill proposes the use of the LDRRMF in funding infrastructure projects designed to mitigate the effects of natural disasters as well as allowing the LGUs to use the LDRRMF to pay for obligations incurred in funding projects related to disaster preparedness and mitigation. Moreover, this bill shall allow the utilization of the LDRRMF in the hiring of the necessary personnel required to implement the provisions of this Act.

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

WIN GATCHALI

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

follows:
Sec. 12. Local Disaster Risk Reduction and
Management Office (LDRRMO)
a) There shall be established an LDRRMO in every
province, city and municipality, and a Barangay Disaster
Risk Reduction and Management Committee CBDRRMC)
in every ' barangay which shall be responsible for setting
the direction, development, implementation and
coordination, of disaster risk management programs
within their territorial jurisdiction.
b) The LDRRMO shall be under the office of the

governor, city or municipal mayor, and the punong barangay in case of the BDRRMC. The LDRRMOs shall be initially organized and composed of a DRRMO to be assisted by three (3) staff responsible for: (1) administration and training; (2) research and planning; and (3) operations and warning. The LDRRMOs and the BDRRMCs shall organize, train and directly supervise the local emergency response teams and the ACDVs.

c) The provincial, city and municipal DRRMOs or BDRRMCs shall perform the following functions with impartiality given the emerging challenges brought by disasters of our times:

(1) Design, program, and coordinate disaster risk reduction and management activities consistent with the National Council's standards and guidelines;

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> (26) APPOINT OR HIRE COMPETENT AND SUITABLY-TRAINED DIRECT RESCUE AND RESPONSE PERSONNEL THEIR WITHIN **FESPECTIVE** JURISDICATIONS THAT SHALL BE ADZQUATE IN NUMBER TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF "HE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT IN TIMES OF CALAMITY AND DISASTER. THE APPONTED PERSONNEL SHALL ALSO SERVE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LGUS DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT **PROGRAMS**.³

30(d) The BDRRMC shall be a regular committee of31the existing BDC and shall be subject thereto. The32punong barangay shall facilitate and ensure the33participation of at least two (2) CSO representatives from34existing35community-based people's organizations representing the

1 most vulnerable and marginalized groups in the 2 barangay. 3 4 SEC. 2. Section 21 of R.A. 10121 is hereby amended to read as follows: 5 Sec. 21. Local Disaster Risk Reduction and 6 7 Management Fund (LDRRMF). - The present Local 8 Calamity Fund shall henceforth be known as the Local 9 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund 10 (LDRRMF). Not less 11 than five percent (Solo) of the estimated revenue from 12 regular sources shall be set aside as the LDRRMF to 13 support disaster risk management activities such as, but not limited to, pre-disaster preparedness programs 14 15 including training. 16 purchasing life-saving rescue equipment, supplies and 17 medicines, for post- disaster activities, CONSTRUCTION 18 OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS CERTIFIED BY THE 19 NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND 20 MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AS **NECESSARY** IN 21 MITIGATING AND REDUCING THE EFFECTS OF 22 DISASTERS, and for the payment of premiums on 23 calamity insurance. THE LDRRMF MAY ALSO BE USED то PAY 24 FOR WHATEVER 25 **OBLIGATIONS THE LOCAL GOVERNMEN® INCURRED** 26 IN THE **RECONSTRUTION**, REPAIR. AND 27 REHABILITATION OF MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGED BY DISASTERS. The LDRRMC shall monitor 28 29 and evaluate the use and disbursement of the LDRRMF 30 based on the LDRRMP as incorporated in the local development plans and 31 32 annual work plan. Upon and financial the 33 recommendation of the LDRRMO and approval of the 34 sanggunian concerned, the LDRRMC may 'transfer the 35 said fund to support disaster risk reduction work of other LDRRMCs which are 36

declared under state of calamity.

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

Unexpended LDRRMF WITHIN THE GIVEN YEAR shall 11 accrue to a special trust fund solely for the purpose of 12 supporting disaster risk reduction and management 13 activities of the LDRRMCs within the next [five (5)] THREE 14 (3) years. Any such amount still not fully utilized after 15 [five (5)] THREE (3) years shall revert back to the general 16 fund and will be available for other social services to be 17 identified by the local sanggunian. 18

THE LDRRMF SHALL BE LIABLE FOR THE SALARIES. 20 WAGES AND BENEFITS OF ALL APPOINTED RESCUE 21 RESPONSE PERSONNEL BY THE LOCAL 22 AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT 23 OFFICE FALLING UNDER SECTION 12, L'ARAGRAPH 24 (C), SUB-PARAGRAPH (26). 25

27 SEC. 3. **Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid 28 or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full 29 force and effect.

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SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or
inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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1 SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect (ifteen (15) days after its 2 publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) national papers of general 3 circulation.

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Approved,