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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 527

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A LIST OF LOW-LYING AREAS OF THE
PHILIPPINE TERRITORY VULNERABLE TO RISING SEA LEVELS AS A RESULT
OF CLIMATE CHANGE, AND AREAS AT HIGH RISK FOR NATURAL DISASTERS,
MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, CLIMATE
CHANGE COMMISSION AND OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
FOR ITS REGULAR UPDATING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For a country that has lost millions of people to earthquakes, floods, and all sorts of natural disasters, effective disaster risk management measures are long overdue. This is a particularly urgent concern given that we are an archipelagic country in an age where the globe is facing rapid ecological decline. As global warming lays waste to the world, causing extreme weather changes, melting massive ice caps, and driving sea levels up, our coastal communities—if not *all* of our communities—are left vulnerable to destruction. We also sit delicately on a volcanic warpath, awaiting the predicted Big One with much fear but few plans.

These disasters are unstoppable concerns, and it is imperative that we take risk assessment measures immediately. The creation of a national hazard map will be a solid first step in studying areas of high risk. This same hazard mapping approach to risk management is also used in the equally disaster-struck Japan, where hazard maps show the possibility of occurrence, magnitude, and location of potential earthquakes.¹

Our national hazard map will identify the low-lying areas vulnerable to rising sea levels, as well as areas at high risk for earthquakes, volcanic eruption, and other destructive natural disasters.

Once identified, the State, through its local units, can make specific preparations for these high-risk areas to protect them for when disaster strikes. Apart from identifying high-risk areas, hazard mapping will also be instrumental in

¹ Sagara, Junko and Keiko Saito. "Risk Assessment and Hazard Mapping." *KNOWLEDGE NOTE 5-1 CLUSTER 5: Hazard and Risk Information and Decision Making*. Oakland: Earthquake Engineering and Research Institute. nd. Retrieved from: <https://www.eeri.org/wp-content/uploads/Knowledge%20Notes%2C%20Cluster%205%20Hazard%20and%20Risk%20Information%20and%20Decision%20Making.pdf>

developing evacuation routes, in a clear visual manner that can be easily disseminated to and understood by the Filipino people.

The national hazard map shall be continuously updated and improved as the natural world dictates, ensuring that it will be a constantly dependable bank of information to guide our risk management actions.


In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is urgently sought.



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the "National Hazard Mapping
Act of 2019"

SEC. 2. Declaration Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote the public
health, safety and general welfare. Towards this end, the State shall endeavor to
formulate an orderly layout of the national land mass with identification of low-lying areas
vulnerable to rising sea levels as a result of climate change, and areas at high risk for
natural disasters.

The State shall otherwise establish an organized and efficient system of evacuation from
these areas in the event of imminent danger.

SEC. 3. National Disaster Map – Within one (1) year after the effectivity of this
Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the National
Mapping and Resources Information Authority (NAMRIA), together with the Department
of Science and Technology (DOST), Climate Change Commission and National Disaster
Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) are directed to provide and issue a
national disaster map of the Philippines, identifying the low-lying areas vulnerable to
rising sea levels as a result of climate change and areas at high risk for natural disasters.
It shall contain proper identification of lands bordering sea levels, exposed to volcanic

1 eruption and lying on earthquake faults, with the criteria for evacuation and illustration
2 of recommended evacuation sites and routes.

3 Information sources for the national disaster map should not be limited to scientific
4 instrument-based data, but shall utilize a holistic approach which may include indigenous
5 peoples' knowledge.

6 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the implementation of this
7 Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the implementing agencies under the
8 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued
9 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

10 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** - In the event that any provision of this Act is
11 declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected by such
12 declaration.

13 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and
14 other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
15 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

16 **SEC. 7. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect 15 days following its publication
17 in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,