

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

23 JAN 31 A10 :32

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

Senate Bill No. 1810

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.

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 preparation 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 developing evacuation routes, in a clear visual manner than can be easily disseminated to and understood by 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

23 JAN 31 AIO :32

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1810

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

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title .** – This Act shall be known as “National Hazard Mapping Act of
2 2023”
3

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

9 The State shall otherwise establish an organized and efficient system of evacuation
10 from these areas in the event of imminent danger.
11

12 **SEC.3. National Disaster Map.** – Within one (1) year after the effectivity of this
13 Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the National
14 Mapping and Resources Information Authority (NAMRIA), together with the Department
15 of Science and Technology (DOST), Climate Change Commission and National Disaster
16 Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) are directed to provide and issue a
17 national disaster map of the Philippines, identifying the low-lying areas vulnerable to rising
18 sea levels as a result of climate change and areas at high risk for natural disasters. It shall
19 contain proper identification of lands bordering sea levels, exposed to volcanic eruption
20 and lying on earthquake faults, with the criteria for evacuation and illustration of
21 recommended evacuation sites and routes.

22 Information sources for the national disaster map should not be limited to scientific
23 instrument-based data, but shall utilize a holistic approach which may include indigenous
24 peoples’ knowledge.

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

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

9
10 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and
11 other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
12 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

13
14 **SEC.7. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect 15 days following its publication in
15 the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,