

10 JUL -7 2016

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 571

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The world is now experiencing the impact of global warming in various ways, not only in the simple increase in air temperature but in changing weather patterns and the unexpected deluge is raising global sea levels. The latter situation should be a foremost concern for the Philippines because of its archipelagic nature. Scientists say rising sea levels could eventually submerge island nations, flood cities, and expose millions of coastal residents to destructive storm surges.

In order to cope with the new trend, there is a need to promote a holistic approach to disaster reduction. Cooperation among all sectors of the society is crucial to promote a holistic approach to disaster reduction, also making early warning effective and mitigating disaster risk.

Hazard mapping could be a component of the approach. A national hazard map will be necessary to correctly inform the people of possible disasters and their potential damages. In order to obtain the widest reach of information and accurate data, there must be consultation with the applicable local government units and indigenous groups. Information sources should be diverse, with a combination of low-tech and high-tech methods. The hazard map must include simple and easy-to-understand information that the community will need. The hazard map also must be revised and updated regularly.

Three Caribbean countries are finalizing hazard maps which will be used in future planning as a part of their safe and resilient development thrust. Grenada's maps focus on flood, landslide, and coastal erosion. For St Lucia, they are on flood, landslide, and wind/wave/storm surge. Belize has focused on coastal erosion and wind/wave/storm surge. As in these coastal nations, a mapping of the Philippine archipelago is intended to assist the country's disaster management agencies in making decisions so as to achieve safe and resilient development in the future which in turn will reduce the level of damage from hazards

For the foregoing reasons, the urgent passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES, THROUGH THE NATIONAL MAPPING AND RESOURCE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY, TOGETHER WITH THE NATIONAL DISASTER
COORDINATING COUNCIL, TO IDENTIFY LOW-LYING AREAS OF THE
PHILIPPINE TERRITORY VULNERABLE TO RISING SEA LEVELS AS A
RESULT OF GLOBAL WARMING, AND AREAS AT HIGH RISK FOR
NATURAL DISASTERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "**National Hazard Mapping Act of 2010.**"

SEC. 2. Declaration of 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 global warming, and areas at high risk for natural disasters.

The State shall likewise 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 Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), together with the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), is directed to submit a national disaster map of the Philippines, identifying the low-lying areas vulnerable to rising sea levels as a result of global warming and areas at high risk for natural disasters. It shall contain proper identification of lands bordering sea levels, exposed to volcanic eruptions and lying on earthquake faults, with the criteria for evacuation and illustration of recommended evacuation sites and routes

Information sources for the national disaster map should not be limited to scientific instrument-based data; but shall utilize a holistic approach which may include indigenous wisdom.

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

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

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

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

Approved,