

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**18TH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO **3298**



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**Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The state is cognizant that with the impending conflict between the key areas in the Asia-Pacific region, the Philippines must prepare for the increasing demands to meet the needs of the national defense sector based on the following criteria:

- a)** increased defense visibility through dispersal of personnel from the headquarters to the field offices and by the appointment and assignment of non-uniformed personnel to positions which are purely administrative, technical, clerical or menial in nature and other positions which are not actually and directly related to national defense operations; and
- b)** efficient and optimized delivery of defense services to all communities within the national territory and boundaries.

This House Bill Seeks to create a comprehensive **National Defense Act** to ensure accountability and uprightness in national security exercises of discretion as well as to achieve efficiency and effectiveness of its members and units in the performance of their functions and to provide funds thereof.

Earnest approval of this bill is hereby requested.



**MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.**

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**18TH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3298

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**Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL DEFENSE ACT, TO FOSTER THE**  
**SUPPRESSION OF INSURGENCY AND OTHER SERIOUS**  
**THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY, AND FOR OTHER**  
**PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. TITLE** — This Act shall be known as the "**National Defense Act of 2019.**"

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to establish a highly efficient and competent *national defense force* which is national in scope and civilian in character administered and controlled by the national defense department.

There is hereby created a comprehensive **National Defense Act.**

The *Department of National Defense (DND)* shall be a community and service oriented agency responsible for the maintenance of peace and order, public safety.



The DND shall be so organized to ensure accountability and uprightness in police exercise of discretion as well as to achieve efficiency and effectiveness of its members and units in the performance of their functions. Towards this end,

The State shall hereby provide an additional authorize funding of Two Billion pesos (**₱2,000,000,000.00**) to evolve and implement a comprehensive national program to the suppression of insurgency and other serious threats to national security and to maintain the continuity of its mandate.

**SECTION 3. APPROPRIATIONS** — The amount of Two Billion pesos (**₱2,000,000,000.00**) necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the implementing agency in the General Appropriations Act (**GAA**) of the year following its enactment into law and every year thereafter.

The state shall hereby authorize the *Department of National Defense* to realign its appropriations, in the current year of the date of the effectivity of this Act to conform with its mandate and requirements.

**SECTION 4. ROLE OF THE DND IN COUNTER-INSURGENCY FUNCTIONS** – The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall be relieved of the primary responsibility on matters involving the suppression of insurgency and other serious threats to national security.

The DND shall, through information gathering and performance of its functions, support the *Armed Forces of the Philippines* (**AFP**) on matters involving suppression of insurgency, except in cases where the President shall call on the DND to support the AFP in combat operations.

In times of national emergency, the Philippine National Police (**PNP**), the Bureau of Fire Protection (**BFP**), and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology

**(BJMP)** shall, upon the direction of the President, assist the armed forces in meeting the national emergency.

**SECTION 5. PERIODIC REPORTS** - The DND shall submit periodic reports on its findings and make recommendations on actions to be taken by Congress and Senate and the appropriate department, and in order to carry out the objectives and mandates of this Act.

**SECTION 6. AUTOMATIC REVIEW** - Every three **(3) years** after the effectivity of this Act, an independent review panel composed of experts to be appointed by the President shall review the policies and programs in the DND and shall make recommendations, based on its findings, to the President and to both Houses of Congress.

**SECTION 7. REPEALING CLAUSE.** All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 8. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** If, for any reason or reasons, any portion or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,