

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2192**



Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Offhand, nothing in this proposed bill pushes aside any of the provisions of RA 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act enacted in 2010 or 9 years ago. It is designed instead as an expanded and parallel measure in the vast realm of disaster risk and management in the context of scientifically-validated assessments and developments.

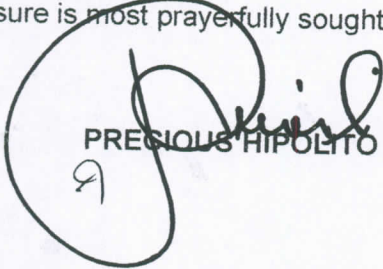
This proposed bill is earthquake-specific in light of validated scientific forecasts from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), the government agency reposed the mandate to monitor volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, fault lines and the like in terms precisely of communicating timely and immediate public awareness on relevant signals and alert levels arising from natural phenomena. It is contemplated in this measure that instead, it is PHIVOLCS that should serve as the lead agency during earthquakes and earthquake-related phenomena or events that pose real and imminent risks and threats to lives, properties, agriculture, infrastructure, food security, among others under the operational supervision of the Department of Science and Technology.

This bill by far mimics or heeds the call of PHIVOLCS chief, Director Renato U. Solidum, Jr. for a comprehensive recovery and reconstruction system to be put in place even before an earthquake of predicted magnitude hits the country, or any part thereof. It is left to said agency with the full support of all allied agencies such as but not limited to the NEDA, MMDA, DILG, DND to institutionalize action plans, points of collaboration, and priorities. For instance, the agency PHIVOLCS already named the following goals as subject of attention in its disaster impact assessments, namely: 1) Goal 1: Earthquake-resilient national systems, 2) Goal 2: Earthquake-resistant urban structures, 3) Goal 3: Enhanced risk and emergency management, 4) Goal 4: Increased community resilience, 5) Goal 5: Reconstruction systems, and 6) Goal 6: Earthquake tsunami resilience research and development.

In other words, in the grand scheme of things, such recovery and reconstruction plan should be done as a group or as a whole-of-society approach and that the same is effectively led by PHIVOLCS and major allied agencies involved in risk reduction, management, and rehabilitation such as NEDA, MMDA, DILG, DND, LGUs, to name a few. When the PHIVOLCS chief warned of a possible 7.2 magnitude in July 2013, that might occur in the West Valley Fault along the

eastern side of Metro Manila but such fault runs from Sierra Madre to Laguna, crosses eastern side of Quezon City, western side of Marikina, western part of Pasig, eastern part of Makati, parts of Taguig and Muntinlupa, it becomes only fitting and proper for government to immediately execute an official draft of the recovery and reconstruction strategy plan before such earthquakes happen.

The timely and immediate passage of this urgent measure is most prayerfully sought.

  
PRECIOUS HIPOLEITO CASTELO  
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**AN ACT**  
**EXPANDING THE PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**  
**THEREBY INSTITUTIONALIZING A COMPREHENSIVE RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION PLAN**  
**THROUGH A WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH WITH PHIVOLCS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT**  
**OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AS LEAD AGENCY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the 'High-Magnitude Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Plan Act.'

SEC. 2. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology through the Department of Science and Technology shall serve as the lead agency to draw up and orchestrate action plans, cluster goals, priorities relating to earthquakes, tsunamis, fault lines, and other earthquake lingering disasters.

To this end, it shall prepare the official draft of the High-Magnitude Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction Plan with the full support and assistance of the major frontline and allied agencies such as but not limited to the NEDA, DILG, MMDA, DND and other such agencies with relevant mandate, organization and operational capability.

SEC. 3. Such Plan/Protocol shall be effectively circulated through the various line departments, bureaus, agencies and instrumentalities of government and across all other private counterparts through effective system of exchange or communication. The Office of the President through its communication arm should likewise effectively disseminate information and awareness amongst and across the various publics of society from the national down to the local government levels.

SEC. 4. Nothing in this Act requires supplementary funds to effectively carry out its implementation. However, all such resources, personnel, equipment, facilities, existing disaster risk reduction and management plans or systems and other related concerns shall efficiently be merged under the technical and operational leadership of PHIVOLCS and for other purposes.

Sec. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its approval, publication in the Official Gazette, and in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*