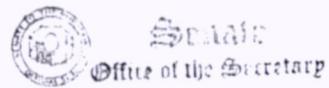


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
 REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

SENATE  
S. No. 124

19 JUL -2 A8:59

RECEIVED

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Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

**AN ACT**

**REORGANIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF THE PHILIPPINES, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, EMPOWERING THE REGIONAL FIELD OFFICES, ESTABLISHING COORDINATING MECHANISMS, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

***Explanatory Note***

Some events are so tragic and catastrophic that they are permanently imprinted on a nation's collective memory. In the case of Japan, it was the Nagasaki and Hiroshima bombings. In the case of the United States, it was the Pearl Harbor bombing and the September 11 attacks. In the case of the Philippines, it was Typhoon Yolanda (internationally known as Haiyan).

No typhoon in Philippine history has been as traumatically remembered as Yolanda. Above and beyond the data- 5,500 dead, 1.14 million houses destroyed and Php 24 billion worth of damaged infrastructure and agriculture- the imagery of 275 km/hour winds and huge waves of water wiping out communities will remain a national tragedy told and retold to generations hereafter.

We are witnesses not only to Yolanda, but also to a world of escalating risks and vulnerability. We have a responsibility not only to deliver justice not only to those whose lives were needlessly lost to the waves and winds of Yolanda, but also to prevent the same from happening to future generations. We have an inter-generational duty to leave a world where the next generations will be more prosperous and more resilient than before.

Our first step in fulfilling our duty is to strengthen our disaster risk reduction and management institutions. Currently, this is embodied by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). The NDRRMC was created through Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known the "*Philippine Disaster Risk*

*Reduction and Management Act of 2010*". It was a response to Typhoon Ondoy which ravaged 4.9 million families, and led to the declaration of a state of calamity in 23 provinces and Metro Manila, and caused an outbreak of *leptospirosis*. However, Typhoon Yolanda was clearly several orders of magnitude above Ondoy. Therefore, our institutions must adjust and be strengthened to be able to meet the "new normal" set by Yolanda.

This measure intends to open the policy discussion on reforming our DRRM institutions. It proposes to create a Department of Disaster Resilience and Emergency Management which shall be in charge of all disaster risk reduction and management programs, policies and activities in the country.

The Department shall consist of two separate and distinct entities: the National Disaster and Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Department Proper. The NDRRMC shall retain its policy-making and coordinating functions under R.A. 10121. However, the Department proper shall be the Secretariat and executive arm, converting the NDRRMC's plans into specific operational guidelines and programs. The Department will be led by its own Secretary and shall be empowered by three bureaus- the Bureau of Disaster Resilience and the Bureau of Disaster Preparation and Response, and the Bureau of Knowledge Management and Dissemination.

It is envisioned that the Department proper will provide leadership with accountability. In the parlance of public management, the Department proper will "steer" the various stakeholders towards a disaster-resilient Philippines. The Secretary of the Department will wear two "hats" as he shall be the Chairperson of the NDRRMC and the Head of the Department Proper.

There shall also be created a National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Research and Training Center which will serve as a repository of all knowledge and research and development, and as a capacity building entity on disaster risk reduction and management. This measure also envisions the creation of a National Emergency Response Corps, which shall be a dedicated, trained and reliable team who can be deployed on short notice in the event of a disaster composed of full-time and part-time disaster managers, paramedics, debris clearing personnel, volunteers, and aid and relief managers.

This measure further proposes to empower the regional offices of the Department proper. The regional offices shall have the same administrative structure as the Department proper. They will have two bureaus on resilience and disaster preparedness and response. They will also have a regional research and training center and a regional emergency response corps. In normal times, they will provide technical assistance and capacity building to LGUs. In times of disaster, the regional offices will serve as an "operations center" for the coordination of disaster preparation and response.

These are but a few innovations which this measure seeks to introduce towards the improvement of our national disaster risk reduction and management system. speedy approval of this measure is eagerly sought.<sup>1</sup>

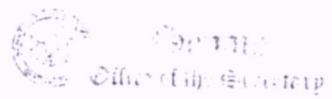


GRACE POE

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<sup>1</sup> We would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance and inputs given to us by Vice Admiral Alexander Pama, Mr. James Roman and Mr. Hector Brizuela in drafting this measure.

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



SENATE  
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Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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*[Signature]*

**AN ACT**  
**REORGANIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF THE PHILIPPINES, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, EMPOWERING THE REGIONAL FIELD OFFICES, ESTABLISHING COORDINATING MECHANISMS, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**ARTICLE I**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1       Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as "The Philippine Disaster  
2       Risk Reduction and Management System Act of 2019".

3       Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the country's severe  
4       vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters and their catastrophic impact on  
5       the people's constitutional rights to life, liberty and property, particularly of the poor  
6       and the marginalized. The State further recognizes the need to institutionalize the  
7       principles of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and management,  
8       and the imperative to embody these principles in responsive and capable  
9       institutions. As such, it is hereby declared a policy of the State to:

- 10      a) Address the root causes of vulnerabilities to disasters by strengthening the  
11       country's institutional capacity for disaster risk reduction and management  
12       and building the resilience of local communities to disasters including  
13       climate change impacts;

- 1           b) Adopt a disaster risk reduction and management approach that is holistic,  
2           comprehensive, integrated, and proactive in lessening the socioeconomic  
3           and environmental impacts of disasters including climate change, and  
4           promote the involvement and participation of all sectors and all  
5           stakeholders concerned, at all levels, especially the local community;
- 6           c) Promote a whole-of-government and whole-of society approach to the  
7           development of disaster risk reduction and management, to ensure the  
8           buy-in of all concerned stakeholders, whether from the government  
9           sector, private sector, or non-government sector;
- 10          d) Adhere to and adopt the universal norms, principles and standards of  
11           humanitarian assistance and the global effort on risk reduction as concrete  
12           expression of the country's commitment to overcome human sufferings  
13           due to recurring disasters;
- 14          e) Develop, promote, and implement a comprehensive National Disaster Risk  
15           Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP) that aims to strengthen the  
16           capacity of the national government and the local government units  
17           (LGUs), together with partner stakeholders to build the disaster resilience  
18           of communities, and to institutionalize arrangements and measures for  
19           reducing disaster risks, including projected climate risks, and enhancing  
20           disaster preparedness and response capabilities at all levels;
- 21          f) Incorporate internationally accepted principles of disaster risk  
22           management in the creation and implementation of national, regional and  
23           local sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies, policies,  
24           plans and budgets;
- 25          g) Adopt and implement a coherent, comprehensive, integrated, efficient and  
26           responsive disaster risk reduction program incorporated in the  
27           development plan at various levels of government adhering to the  
28           principles of good governance such as transparency and accountability  
29           within the context of poverty alleviation and environmental protection;
- 30          h) Mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change in development  
31           processes such as policy formulation, socioeconomic development  
32           planning, budgeting, and governance, particularly in the areas of

1 environment, agriculture, water, energy, health, education, poverty  
2 reduction, land-use and urban planning, and public infrastructure and  
3 housing, among others;

- 4 i) Institutionalize the policies, structures, coordination mechanisms and  
5 programs with continuing budget appropriation on disaster risk reduction  
6 from national down to local levels towards building a disaster-resilient  
7 nation and communities;
- 8 j) Streamline existing disaster risk reduction and management institutions,  
9 structures and mechanisms, in order to reduce redundancy, increase  
10 synergy and efficiency, and provide decisive and accountable leadership  
11 in times of crisis;
- 12 k) Ensure that disaster risk reduction and climate change measures are  
13 gender responsive, sensitive to indigenous knowledge systems, and  
14 respectful of human rights;
- 15 l) Develop and strengthen the capacities of vulnerable and marginalized  
16 groups to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects  
17 of disasters;
- 18 m) Incorporate community and people's participation on a greater level, to  
19 ensure that all national disaster risk reduction programs, activities and  
20 policies are aligned with and responsive to the needs of the people;
- 21 n) Recognize the local risk patterns across the country and strengthen the  
22 capacity of LGUs for disaster risk reduction and management through  
23 decentralized powers, responsibilities, and resources at the regional and  
24 local levels;
- 25 o) Recognize and strengthen the capacities of LGUs and communities in  
26 mitigating and preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the  
27 impact of disasters;
- 28 p) Engage the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs), the private  
29 sector and volunteers in the government's disaster risk reduction  
30 programs towards complementation of resources and effective delivery of  
31 services to the Citizenry;

- 1                   q) Provide maximum care, assistance and services to individuals and families  
2                   affected by disaster, implement emergency rehabilitation projects to  
3                   lessen the impact of disaster, and facilitate resumption of normal social  
4                   and economic activities; *and*  
5                   r) Ensure that affected communities rise stronger than they were before  
6                   incidents of disasters, towards reducing their vulnerability and preventing  
7                   the repetition of the catastrophic loss of human life and livelihood and  
8                   destruction of property.

9                   Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – The following terms are defined for the  
10                  purposes of this Act:

- 11                  a) *Build Back Better* – refers to an approach to disaster recovery and  
12                  reconstruction which not only rebuilds communities to pre-disaster  
13                  standards but also increases their resilience to future disasters;
- 14                  b) *LERC* – refers to the Local Emergency Response Corps created under this  
15                  Act;
- 16                  c) *Department* – refers to the Department of Disaster Resilience and  
17                  Emergency Assistance and Management which encompasses the National  
18                  Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the  
19                  Department proper;
- 20                  d) *Department proper* – refers to the offices, agencies, bureaus, and services  
21                  under the authority of the Secretary of the Department of Disaster  
22                  Resilience and Emergency Assistance and Management;
- 23                  e) *Secretary* – refers to the Secretary of the Department Resilience and  
24                  Emergency Assistance Management;
- 25                  f) *NERC* – refers to the National Emergency Response Corps created under  
26                  this Act;
- 27                  g) *NDRRMC* – refers to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and  
28                  Management Council created under R.A. No. 10121, otherwise known as  
29                  the "*Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010*";
- 30                  h) *RERC* – refers to the Regional Emergency Response Corps created under  
31                  this Act;

- i) *RFO* – refers to the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils created under R.A. No. 10121 and renamed as “Regional Field Offices” under this Act.

Unless expressly defined in this Section, the other technical terms and concepts used in this Act shall be read as defined under Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the "*Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010*".

## ARTICLE II

# THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND MANAGEMENT

*Sec. 4. The Department of Disaster Resilience and Emergency Assistance and Management.* – To carry out the objectives of this Act and those of R.A. No. 10121, the Department of Disaster Resilience and Emergency Assistance and Management is hereby established. The Department shall be the primary policy-making, planning, coordinating, integrating, supervising, implementing, monitoring and evaluating authority with regard to disaster risk reduction and management in the country.

*Sec. 5. Organization of the Department.* – The Department shall consist of two separate and distinct entities: the National Disaster and Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Department Proper. The NDRRMC shall be attached for administrative and budgetary purposes to the Department.

*Sec. 6. Organization of the Department Proper.* – The Department proper shall be comprised of the following:

- a) The Office of the Secretary, which shall encompass the Office of the Secretary and the Offices of the Undersecretaries and the Assistant Secretaries, and their immediate support staff;
  - b) The Regional Field Offices;
  - c) The Bureaus enumerated under Section 17 of this Act;
  - d) The National Emergency Response Corps (NERC);
  - e) The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Research and Training Center (NDRRMC-RTC)
  - f) The attached agencies enumerated under Section 21 of this Act; *and*
  - g) The Department Services enumerated under Section 18 of this Act;

1           Sec. 7. *Selection of Personnel.* – The selection of the personnel of the  
2 Department shall be based strictly on merit and fitness in accordance with the Civil  
3 Service Code and other applicable laws and rules and regulations. The formulation of  
4 the organizational structure and staffing pattern shall be completed within one (1)  
5 year after the effectivity of this Act.

### 6           ARTICLE III

## 7           **THE NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

8           Sec. 8. *The National Disaster Risk Reduction Council.* – The NDRRMC shall be  
9 the policy-formulating and coordinating body of the Department which shall ensure a  
10 whole-of-government approach to formulating and implementing the National  
11 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan.

12          Sec. 9. *Organization.* – The membership of the NDRRMC under R.A. No.  
13 10121 shall be retained: *Provided*, that the NDRRMC shall be chaired by the  
14 President: *Provided further*, that the Secretary of the Department of Disaster  
15 Management shall be the vice-chair of the NDRRMC, and shall preside as Chairman  
16 when the President is unable to attend a meeting.

17          Sec. 10. *Powers and Functions of the NDRRMC.* – The NDRRMC shall:  
18           a) Formulate the NDRRMP which shall be a comprehensive, all-hazards,  
19           multi-sectoral, inter-agency and community-based approach to disaster  
20           risk reduction and management. The NDRRMP shall serve as the principal  
21           guide to disaster risk reduction and management efforts in the country  
22           and shall be reviewed on a ten (10)-year interval, or as may be deemed  
23           necessary, in order to ensure its relevance to the times;  
24           b) Develop vertical and horizontal coordination mechanisms for a more  
25           coherent implementation of disaster risk reduction and management  
26           policies and programs by sectoral agencies and LGUs;  
27           c) Constitute a technical management group composed of representatives of  
28           the concerned departments, offices, and organizations, that shall  
29           coordinate and meet as often as necessary to effectively manage and  
30           sustain national efforts on disaster risk reduction and management;  
31           d) Serve as a coordinating body for all inter-agency efforts during risk  
32           reduction and management operations;

- e) Advise the President on the status of disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response and rehabilitation operations being undertaken by the government, CSOs, private sector, and volunteers, and submit proposals to restore normalcy in affected areas;
- f) Recommend to the President the declaration of a State of Calamity in areas extensively damaged and to submit proposals to restore normalcy in the affected areas;
- g) In coordination with the Climate Change Commission, formulate and implement a single harmonized framework and action plan for climate change adaptation and disaster mitigation;
- h) Receive, administer, mobilize and report the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund, and other recovery and rehabilitation funds;
- i) Receive donations and grants from any person, government institution, corporation, international organization, and other similar entities, and the power to recommend the procurement of developmental assistance for the purpose of disaster risk reduction and management subject to Section 32 of this Act;
- j) Monitor and provide the necessary guidelines and procedures on the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF) releases as well as utilization, accounting and auditing thereof;
- k) Develop appropriate risk transfer mechanisms that shall guarantee social and economic protection and increase resiliency in the face of disaster; and
- l) Establish and monitor local and national capacity for disaster risk financing and insurance and other risk transfer strategies.

Sec. 11. *Monitoring and Reporting.* –

- a.) On or before the last quarter of the preceding year, the member-agencies of the NDRRMC shall submit to the Secretary their respective disaster risk reduction and management annual work and financial management plans for the next year;

- b.) The member-agencies of the NDRRMC shall also submit to the Secretary quarterly progress reports on the implementation of their respective DRRM annual work and financial management plans within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter.

## ARTICLE IV

### THE DEPARTMENT PROPER

7        Sec. 12. *The Department Proper.* – The Department proper shall be the  
8 Secretariat and executive arm of the Department. It shall be in charge of  
9 implementing and monitoring the implementation of disaster risk reduction and  
10 management policies, activities and programs as embodied in the NDRRMP.

11 Sec. 13. *The Secretary.* – The Department shall be headed by a Department  
12 Secretary who shall be a member of the Cabinet. He shall be appointed by the  
13 President for a term of six (6) years and shall be a member of the Cabinet.

**14** Sec. 14. *Powers and Functions of the Secretary.* – The Secretary shall:

- a) Monitor the integration of disaster risk reduction and management policies into local and national development plans;
  - b) Oversee and direct the comprehensive implementation of disaster risk reduction and management policies, plans and programs as embodied in the NDRRMP;
  - c) Review and evaluate Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans to ensure their consistency with the NDRRMP through the regional offices;
  - d) Call upon other instrumentalities or entities of the government and nongovernment and civic organizations for assistance in terms of the use of their facilities and resources for the protection and preservation of life and properties in the whole range of disaster risk reduction and management, which includes the power to call on the reserve force as defined in Republic Act No. 7077 to assist in relief and rescue during disasters or calamities;
  - e) Exercise visitorial and examining powers over governmental and non-governmental entities engaged in DRRM operations;
  - f) Commandeer any private property for urgent public purposes, subject to payment of just compensation in appropriate cases;

- 1 g) Coordinate or oversee the implementation of the country's obligations with  
2 disaster risk reduction and management treaties to which it is a party and  
3 see to it that the country's disaster risk management treaty obligations be  
4 incorporated in its disaster risk reduction and management frameworks,  
5 policies, plans, programs, and projects; and
- 6 h) Lead the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and management in all  
7 stages and levels of national and local planning and budgeting processes;
- 8 i) Raise awareness among national agencies, local government units, and  
9 local communities on the importance of disaster risk reduction and  
10 management;
- 11 j) In lieu of the President, preside and lead meetings of the NDRRMC;
- 12 k) Coordinate with the members of the NDRRMC for the implementation,  
13 monitoring, review, and revision of the NDRRMP;
- 14 l) Provide secretarial support to the NDRRMC;
- 15 m) Advise the NDRRMC on matters relating to disaster risk reduction and  
16 management consistent with the policies and scope as defined in this Act;
- 17 n) Assess the strengths and weaknesses of NDRRMC members on aspects of  
18 DRRM and provide the corresponding capacity building through the  
19 Department proper;
- 20 o) Direct the deployment of the National Emergency Response Corps (NERC)  
21 and/or Regional Emergency Response Corps (RERC) the to assist in  
22 relief and rescue during disasters or calamities;
- 23 p) Create regional and field offices and such other service units and divisions  
24 as may be necessary;
- 25 q) Exercise administrative supervision and control over the Regional Field  
26 Offices (RFOs);
- 27 r) Exercise supervision over the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and  
28 Management Offices (LDRRMOs) in all provinces, cities, municipalities, and  
29 barangays in the country;
- 30 s) Exercise all powers and functions provided to department secretaries  
31 under Book IV, Chapter 2 of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as  
32 the "Administrative Code of 1987"; and

1                   t) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or proper to attain the  
2                   objectives of this Act.

3                   *Sec. 15. The Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries.* – The Secretary shall  
4                   be assisted by three (3) undersecretaries for disaster mitigation, disaster  
5                   preparedness and response, and disaster recovery and rehabilitation, respectively,  
6                   and four (4) career assistant secretaries who shall perform such functions as may be  
7                   assigned by the Secretary.

8                   *Sec. 16. Qualifications.* – No person shall be appointed as Secretary,  
9                   undersecretary or assistant secretary unless he is a citizen and resident of the  
10                  Philippines, is of good moral character, and is of proven competence and expertise  
11                  in disaster risk reduction and management over the course of his career. He shall  
12                  not hold any other position, whether public or private, during his tenure.

13                  *Sec. 17. The Department Bureaus.* – The Department shall have the following  
14                  bureaus:

15                  a) The Bureau of Disaster Resilience (BDR) – The BDR shall assist the  
16                  Secretary in formulating, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing policies  
17                  and programs with regard to disaster mitigation, prevention, and post-  
18                  disaster rehabilitation. To this end, the BDR shall:

- 19                  1. Advise the Secretary on all matters regarding disaster and emergency  
20                  mitigation and preparation;
- 21                  2. Advise the Secretary on the status of disaster mitigation and  
22                  prevention and post-disaster rehabilitation operations being  
23                  undertaken by the government, CSOs, private sector, and volunteers;
- 24                  3. Cascade technical expertise on disaster mitigation and prevention and  
25                  post-disaster rehabilitation to LGUs through the RFOs;
- 26                  4. Develop, update, and make available a Disaster Risk Reduction and  
27                  Management Information System and Geographic Information System-  
28                  based national and local risk maps as policy, planning, and decision-  
29                  making tools;
- 30                  5. Conduct and institutionalize pre-disaster risk assessment to identify  
31                  vulnerable and at-risk communities and local government units, and

- 1 provide technical assistance and capacity building on the same to local  
2 government units through the RFOs;
- 3 6. Develop unified and harmonized tools, guidelines, and policies on the  
4 existing and potential hazards and risks brought about by climate  
5 change in coordination with the Climate Change Commission;
- 6 7. Conduct a review of the National Building Code and Fire Code of the  
7 Philippines, together with the relevant government departments and  
8 the concerned stakeholders and technical experts, and submit the  
9 same to the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines  
10 towards the development of legislation which seek to strengthen  
11 infrastructure in line with disaster prevention and mitigation;
- 12 8. Conduct public information campaigns and drills on disaster  
13 preparedness;
- 14 9. Issue guidelines and rules and regulations to institutionalize the  
15 principle of "build back better" in all disaster reconstruction and  
16 rehabilitation operations;
- 17 10. Issue guidelines for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of disaster-  
18 affected areas and institutionalize the principles of "*Build Back Better*";  
19 *and*
- 20 11. Recommend the issuance of government bonds to secure the funding  
21 for the reconstruction of disaster-stricken areas; *and*
- 22 12. Prepare, organize and lead post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation  
23 programs in coordination with the concerned regional field office and  
24 the local government unit.
- 25 b) The Bureau of Disaster Preparation and Response (BDPR) – The BDPR  
26 shall assist the Secretary in formulating, implementing, monitoring, and  
27 reviewing policies and programs with regard to disaster preparation and  
28 response. To this end, the BDR shall:
- 29 1. Advise the Secretary on all matters regarding disaster preparation and  
30 response;

- 1           2. Monitor and advise the Secretary on the status of disaster preparation  
2           and response operations being undertaken by the government, CSOs,  
3           private sector, and volunteers;
- 4           3. Cascade technical expertise on disaster preparation and response to  
5           LGUs through the RFOs;
- 6           4. Exercise administrative control over the National Emergency Response  
7           Corps (NERC);
- 8           5. Implement pre-positioning of necessary goods and supplies at least  
9           twenty four (24) hours before an expected disaster;
- 10          6. If needed, procure goods and services during emergencies in  
11          accordance with existing emergency procurement rules and  
12          regulations;
- 13          7. Establish and maintain an inventory of all necessary personnel,  
14          equipment and supplies critical during disasters in all RFOs and LGUs,  
15          and ensure that they are delivered within forty-eight (48) hours after  
16          the aftermath of a disaster;
- 17          8. Establish and maintain a national early warning and emergency alert  
18          system to provide accurate and timely advice to national or local  
19          emergency response, and to the general public through diverse mass-  
20          media such as digital and analogue broadcast, cable, satellite television  
21          and radio, wireless communications, and landline communications;
- 22          9. Implement the provisions of Republic Act No. 10639, otherwise known  
23          as "The Free Mobile Disaster Alerts Act";
- 24          10. Establish and maintain an emergency communication system with and  
25          among LGUs through the RFOs;
- 26          11. Establish standard operating procedures for emergency response and  
27          cascade the same to the LGUs through the NDEMA RFOs; *and*
- 28          12. Establish unified guidelines and mechanisms for the recruitment,  
29          training, and deployment of the NERC, in coordination with the  
30          concerned government agencies and stakeholders.
- 31          c) The Bureau of Knowledge Management and Dissemination (BKMD) – The  
32          BKMD shall serve as the administrator of the Department's technical

knowledge, materials, and research and development on disaster risk reduction and management. Towards this end, the BDKD shall:

1. Exercise supervision and control over the DRRM Research and Training Center;
2. Expand the content and materials of the DRRM Research and Training Center and ensure that they are up to date;
3. Liaise with international and domestic stakeholders towards the expansion of the DRRM Research and Training Center;
4. Provide full and free access to the materials in the DRRM Research and Training Center;
5. Disseminate materials on disaster risk reduction and management to the LGUs through the RFOs, to all stakeholders, and to the general public;
6. Provide short courses and trainings on disaster risk reduction and management and its various aspects, in coordination with the relevant Bureau(s) of the Department;
7. Offer grants and other financial incentives for researchers, members of the academe and/or developers in the field of disaster risk reduction and management; *and*
8. Partner with the academe and research institutions, private sector, civil society, and community-based DRRM practitioners and other relevant sectors in developing research opportunities and programs on DRRM.

Sec. 18. *The Department Services.* – The Department shall have the following Services:

- a) Planning Service – The Planning Service shall provide the department with services relating to planning, programming, and project development, and discharge such other functions as may be provided by law;
- b) Financial and Management Service – The Financial and Management Services shall advise and assist the Secretary on budgetary, financial and management matters and shall perform such other functions as may be provided by law; *and*

1                   c) Administrative Service – The Administrative Service shall provide the  
2                   Department with effective services relating to personnel, legal assistance,  
3                   information, records, delivery and receipt of correspondence, supplies,  
4                   equipment, collections, disbursement, security and custodial work.

5                   Sec. 19. *The National Emergency Response Corps.* – There is hereby  
6                   established a National Emergency Response Corps (NERC). The NERC shall be a  
7                   dedicated, trained and reliable team who can be deployed on short notice in the  
8                   event of a disaster. It shall be composed of full-time and part-time disaster  
9                   managers, paramedics, debris clearing personnel, volunteers, and aid and relief  
10                  managers. The NERC shall be under the administrative control of the BDPR.

11                  Sec. 20. *The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Research and*  
12                  *Training Center.* – Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, the Authority  
13                  shall establish a National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Research and  
14                  Training center which shall serve as the Department's centralized repository and for  
15                  its technical materials and research and development on disaster risk reduction and  
16                  management.

17                  Sec. 21. *The Attached Agencies.* – The following agencies and offices and  
18                  their respective appropriations, records, equipment, property and personnel are  
19                  hereby transferred to the Department:

- 20                  a) The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services  
21                   Administration (PAG-ASA);
- 22                  b) The Philippine Institute of Volcanology (PHIVOLCS);
- 23                  c) The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP);
- 24                  d) The Health Emergency Management Bureau (HEMB);
- 25                  e) The Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency; *and*
- 26                  f) All civilian personnel and operating units of the Department of National  
27                   Defense (DND) and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) with functions and  
28                   responsibilities dealing with disaster risk reduction and management;

29                  The agencies transferred above shall continue to perform such functions as  
30                  provided in existing laws: *Provided*, that the Department shall exercise  
31                  administrative supervision over the transferred agencies.

1 Sec. 22. *The Regional Field Offices.* – The current Regional Disaster Risk  
2 Reduction and Management Councils are hereby renamed as the “Regional Field  
3 Offices” (RFOs) and are hereby transferred under the administrative supervision of  
4 the Department. RFOs shall have the following mandates:

- 5 a) To ensure that the principles of disaster risk reduction and management  
6 are institutionalized on the local level, particularly in their Comprehensive  
7 Development Plan (CDP) and Comprehensive Land-Use Plan (CLUP), and  
8 in pursuit of this mandate thereof, review the Local Disaster Risk  
9 Reduction and Management Plan (LDRRMP) of LGUs within their  
10 jurisdiction and ensure their alignment with the NDRRMP;
- 11 b) To ensure the compliance of LGUs with their mandates under R.A. 10121;
- 12 c) To pro-actively assess the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of LGUs in all  
13 phases of disaster risk reduction and management and remedy the same  
14 through technical assistance and capacity building activities;
- 15 d) To consult LGUs and communities within their jurisdiction on their  
16 vulnerabilities in all phases of disaster risk reduction and management  
17 and forward their concerns to the central office to be included in the  
18 formulation and review of the NDRRMP; and
- 19 e) To act as the operations center during disaster preparation and response  
20 operations.

21 Sec. 23. *Divisions.* – To achieve the mandates stated above, each RFO shall  
22 have the following divisions:

- 23 a.) Disaster Resilience – This division shall be in charge of all matters on  
24 disaster mitigation and rehabilitation. It shall have the following powers  
25 and functions:
  - 26 1. Serve as liaison between the Department and the LGUs and establish  
27 efficient lines of communication and coordination between them;
  - 28 2. Provide technical assistance and capacity to LGUs on pre-disaster risk  
29 assessment and empower them to identify vulnerable communities and  
30 groups in their area;

- 1           3. Collect and consolidate information on the vulnerabilities of local  
2           government units in their jurisdiction and submit the same to the  
3           Central Office;
- 4           4. Provide technical assistance and capacity building to LGUs to empower  
5           them to institutionalize and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management  
6           Information System and Geographic Information System-based  
7           national and local risk maps as policy, planning, and decision-making  
8           tools;
- 9           5. Conduct and institutionalize pre-disaster risk assessment to identify  
10          vulnerable and at-risk communities and local government units, and  
11          provide technical assistance and capacity building on the same to local  
12          government units through the RFOs;
- 13          6. Conduct drills and information campaigns on disaster preparedness;
- 14          7. Aid households in the preparation of disaster readiness kits, which shall  
15          serve as a pack of essential goods needed in the aftermath of a  
16          disaster; and
- 17          8. Lead rehabilitation operations and ensure their completion within their  
18          established schedule.
- 19         b.) Disaster Preparation and Response. – This division shall be in charge of all  
20          matters on disaster preparation and response. It shall have the following  
21          powers and functions:
- 22          1. Establish a Regional Emergency Response Corps (RERC);
- 23          2. Establish a Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management  
24           Operations Center (DRRMC-OC) that shall be operated and staffed on  
25           a twenty-four hour basis;
- 26          3. Establish and maintain an inventory of all necessary personnel,  
27           equipment and supplies critical during disasters in all RFOs and LGUs,  
28           and ensure that they are delivered within forty-eight (48) hours after  
29           the aftermath of a disaster;
- 30          4. Implement pre-positioning of necessary goods and supplies at least  
31           twenty four (24) hours before an expected disaster;

5. Establish and maintain an emergency communication system with and among LGUs;
6. When necessary, procure goods and services during emergencies in accordance with existing emergency rules and regulations;
7. Cascade the established Standard Operating Procedures for emergency response to the LGUs; *and*
8. Receive donations and grants from any person, government institution, corporation, international organization, and other similar entities, and the power to recommend the procurement of developmental subject to section 32 of this Act.

c.) Knowledge Management – This division shall be in charge of managing and disseminating technical knowledge and information on disaster risk and reduction in the region. It shall have the following functions:

- a.) Establish a Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Research and Training Center (RDRRM-RTC);
- b.) Expand the content and materials of the DRRM Research and Training Center and ensure that they are up to date;
- c.) Liaise with international and domestic stakeholders towards the expansion of the DRRM Research and Training Center;
- d.) Provide full and free access to the materials in the DRRM Research and Training Center;
- e.) Disseminate materials on disaster risk reduction and management to LGUs and local communities; *and*
- f.) Provide short courses and trainings on disaster risk reduction and management and its various aspects, in coordination with the relevant divisions of the RFO.

Sec. 24. *The Regional Directors.* – The RFOs shall be headed by a Regional Director who shall be assisted by three Assistant Regional Directors for Disaster Resilience, Disaster Preparation and Response, and Knowledge Management. No person shall be appointed as Regional Director unless he is a citizen and resident of the Philippines, is of good moral character, and is of proven competence/expertise in emergency management and disaster risk reduction and management over the

1 course of his career. He shall not hold any other position, whether public or private,  
2 during his tenure.

## ARTICLE V

### DISASTER MITIGATION AND PREVENTION

5 Sec. 25. *Harmonization of CCA and DRRM Plans.* – The NDRRMC shall ensure  
6 that the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan is harmonized and consistent  
7 with the National Climate Change Action Plan as defined under Republic Act No.  
8 9279, otherwise known as the "Climate Change Act of 2009" as amended. To this  
9 end, the NRRMC shall coordinate with the Climate Change Commission: *Provided*,  
10 that this provision shall not be construed as a limitation on the mandate, powers,  
11 and functions of the Climate Change Condition as set forth in R.A. No. 9279.

12 Sec. 26. *Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment.* – The Department proper shall  
13 formulate a national policy on risk assessment for environmental risk, national  
14 disaster risk, natural disaster risk and climate change risk, and shall take into  
15 consideration the interdependence of disaster risk reduction, environmental  
16 management, climate change adaptation and sustainable development. The  
17 Department proper shall develop tools and standards for Pre-disaster risk  
18 assessment and ensure that it is cascaded to the LDRRMOs through the RFOs.

19 Sec. 27. *National DRRM Information Management System.* – The Department  
20 proper shall establish a National Information Management System for DRRM. It shall  
21 be the centralized repository of all disaster risk-reduction and climate change data,  
22 which shall include a geographic information system component, down to the  
23 barangay level. The database shall be available at all times to all levels of the DRRM  
24 system, to members of academe and experts in the field of DRRM, and to the  
25 general public.

26 Sec. 28. *Risk Assessment on the Local Level.* – The LDRRMOs and BDRRMOs  
27 shall conduct and risk assessments in coordination with the appropriate RFO and  
28 other stakeholders, which shall include vulnerable and marginalized groups, and  
29 submit the same to the RFOs. The LDRRMOs, with assistance provided by the RFOs,  
30 shall also develop Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Information System and  
31 Geographic Information System-based national and local risk maps as policy,  
32 planning, and decision-making tools.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **DISASTER PREPARATION AND RESPONSE**

3 Sec. 29. *Standing Orders for Disaster Preparation and Response.* – Within one  
4 (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the NDRRMC shall formulate and publish  
5 standing orders for all its member-agencies and their respective field office which  
6 shall delineate their respective roles and functions and the chain of command during  
7 disaster preparation and response: *Provided*, that the standing orders shall take into  
8 Section 15 of R.A. No 10121.

9        Sec. 30. *Regional Field Offices as Operations Center.* – The Regional Field  
10      Offices shall serve as the Operations Center for all disaster preparation and response  
11      operations within their jurisdiction. For the purpose of effective coordination, there  
12      shall be formed a Disaster Response Committee to be composed, as a *minimum*, of  
13      the concerned local chief executives and their LDRRMO officers, the Regional  
14      Director of the RFOs, and such officers as may be assigned by the Secretary.

15 Sec. 31. *Evacuation Centers.* – LGUs shall identify and build permanent  
16 evacuation centers in accordance with standards to be issued by the Department  
17 proper to minimize the use of schools: *Provided*, that schools which are used as  
18 evacuation centers shall be provided with just compensation by the concerned LGU.

19 Sec. 32. *Donations.* – The Secretary shall have the power to receive donations and grants from any person, government institution, corporation, international organization, and other similar entities, and the power to recommend the procurement of developmental assistance for the purpose of disaster risk reduction and management: *Provided*, that the Department shall certify the receipt of all DRRM donated funds and ensure their judicious management including their proper and accurate audit reporting to constituents.

26 Sec. 33. *Procurement*. – The declaration of a state of calamity, as defined in  
27 R.A. No. 10121, shall be a sufficient basis for an LGU to undergo negotiated  
28 procurement, as defined under R.A. No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government  
29 *Procurement Reform Act*".

## ARTICLE VII

*Sec. 34. Rehabilitation Committee.* – The members of the Disaster Response Committee as defined under Sec. 30 of this Act may continue to serve as the coordinating committee for disaster rehabilitation and recovery operations.

4 Sec. 36. *Standards for Rehabilitation and Recovery.* – The Secretary shall  
5 promulgate rules and regulations which will set standards for disaster rehabilitation  
6 operations. Such rules and regulations shall, at the very least:

- 7       a) Improve the physical, social and economic resilience of the community, in  
8           accordance with the principles of "Build Back Better";  
9       b) Redirect development outside of danger zones; *and*  
10      c) Maximize the use of Public-Private Partnerships.

## ARTICLE VIII

### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

13 Sec. 37. *Community Input in Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment.* – In conducting  
14 pre-disaster risk assessments, the LDRRMO and BDRRMO shall include interviews  
15 and consultations with local communities in order to identify their vulnerabilities,  
16 Such consultations shall complement data gathered from data-oriented pre-disaster  
17 risk assessments and shall be incorporated in the formulation of all disaster risk  
18 reduction and management plans on the local and national levels.

19 Sec. 38. *Volunteers.* – The Department proper and the RFOs shall provide  
20 training in first aid, disaster management and leadership in times of disasters.  
21 Individuals who complete such training shall be deputized by the Department and  
22 considered as partners in disaster management who shall have the following  
23 responsibilities:

- 24 a) Directly receive early warning messages from the Department and  
25 disseminate the same to their communities;

26 b) Mobilize their communities away from vulnerable areas;

27 c) Disseminate the provisions of this Act as well as its corresponding rules  
28 and regulations to local communities;

29 d) Conduct interviews and consultations with local communities on their  
30 satisfaction with the DRRM programs, activities and policies of the  
31 government;

32 e) Provide first aid when necessary; *and*

- 1                   f) Aid the government in distributing goods and maintaining order during  
2                   disaster response and rehabilitation operations.

3                   **ARTICLE IX**

4                   **RESOURCES FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT**

5                   *Sec. 39. Human Resources for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.* –  
6     The department proper shall provide grants and other forms of support for  
7     individuals who study and complete courses in disaster risk reduction and  
8     management: *Provided*, that individuals shall render disaster risk reduction and  
9     management service for at least two (2) years in a community determined by the  
10   Department proper.

11                  *Sec. 40. The NDRRM Fund.* – At least three per cent (3%) of all estimated  
12   regular government revenues shall be set aside for the NDRRM Fund to be used for  
13   the purposes identified under Section 22 of R.A. No. 10121. The NDRRM fund shall  
14   not be reduced, transferred, realigned, or used for purposes other than those  
15   identified under R.A. No. 10121.

16                  **ARTICLE X**

17                  **MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

18                  *Sec. 41. Transition Period.* – The transfer of functions, assets, funds,  
19   equipment, properties, transactions, assets, funds, properties transactions and  
20   personnel of the affected agencies, and the formulation of the internal organic  
21   structure, staffing pattern, operating and revised budget of the Department, shall be  
22   completed within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, during which time  
23   the existing personnel shall continue to assume their posts in holdover capacities  
24   until new appointments are issued.

25                  *Sec. 42. Separation from Service.* – Employees separated from the service as  
26   a result of this reorganization shall, within six (6) months from their separation from  
27   the service, receive the retirement benefits to which they may be entitled under  
28   existing laws, rules and regulations.

29                  *Sec. 43. Prohibited Acts.* – The following Acts shall be prohibited:

- 30                  a) Dereliction of duties which leads to destruction, loss of lives, critical  
31                  damage of facilities and misuse of funds;

- b) Preventing the entry and distribution of relief goods in disaster-stricken areas, including appropriate technology, tools, equipment, accessories, disaster teams/experts;
- c) Buying, for consumption or resale, from disaster relief agencies any relief goods, equipment or other and commodities which are intended for distribution to disaster affected communities;
- d) Buying, for consumption or resale, from the recipient disaster affected persons any relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities received by them;
- e) Selling of relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities which are intended for distribution to disaster victims;
- f) Forcibly seizing relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities intended for or consigned to a specific group of victims or relief agency;
- g) Diverting or misdelivery of relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities to persons other than the rightful recipient or consignee;
- h) Accepting, possessing, using or disposing relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities not intended for nor consigned to him/her;
- i) Misrepresenting the source of relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities by:
  - 1. Either covering, replacing or defacing the labels of the containers to make it appear that the goods, equipment or other aid commodities came from another agency or persons;
  - 2. Repacking the goods, equipment or other aid commodities into containers with different markings to make it appear that the goods came from another agency or persons or was released upon the instance of a particular agency or persons; *or*
  - 3. Making false verbal claim that the goods, equipment or other and commodity in its untampered original containers actually came from another agency or persons or was released upon the instance of a particular agency or persons;
- j) Substituting or replacing relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities with the same items or inferior/cheaper quality;

- 1                   k) Illegal solicitations by persons or organizations representing others as  
2                   defined in the standards and guidelines set by the Authority  
3                   l) Deliberate use of false at inflated data in support of the request for  
4                   funding, relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities for emergency  
5                   assistance or livelihood projects; *and*  
6                   m) Tampering with or stealing hazard monitoring and disaster preparedness  
7                   equipment and paraphernalia.

8                 Sec. 44. *Penal Clause.* – Any individual, corporation, partnership,  
9                   association, or other juridical entity that commits any of the prohibited acts provided  
10                  for in the preceding section shall be prosecuted and upon conviction shall suffer a  
11                  fine of not less than one hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00) or any amount  
12                  not to exceed seven hundred fifty thousand pesos (Php 750,000.00) or  
13                  imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day or more than twelve  
14                  (12) years, or both, at the discretion of the court, including perpetual disqualification  
15                  from public office if the offender is a public officer, and confiscation or forfeiture in  
16                  favor of the government of the objects and the instrumentalities used in committing  
17                  any of herein prohibited acts.

18                 Sec. 45. *Appropriations.* – The amount needed for the initial implementation  
19                  of this Act shall be taken from the current fiscal year's appropriation of the NDRRMC,  
20                  OCD, and all agencies herein transferred to the Department as well. Thereafter, the  
21                  amount needed for the operation and maintenance of the Authority shall be included  
22                  in the General Appropriations Act.

23                 Sec. 46. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The members of the  
24                  NDRRMC shall within sixty (60) days from the effectiveness of this Act the implementing  
25                  rules and regulations necessary for its effective implementation.

26                 Sec. 47. *Repealing Clause.* – Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 19, and 20 of R.A.  
27                  No. 10121 are hereby repealed. The provisions of R.A. No. 10121 not expressly  
28                  repealed in this section shall remain in full force and effect: *Provided*, That all  
29                  references to the NDRRMC and OCD shall be understood to refer to the Department,  
30                  unless otherwise provided in this Act.

1        All other decrees, laws, executive orders, proclamations and administrative  
2 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are likewise  
3 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

4        Sec. 48. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared  
5 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full  
6 force and effect.

7        Sec. 49. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
8 its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general  
9 circulation.

Approved,