

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES

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SENATE  
P.S. Res 100

BY:

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Introduced by Senator Poe

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON THE PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2010 TO IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT A SUNSET REVIEW PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 26 AND 27 OF R.A. 10121, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2010" FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION AS WELL AS TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE, FULL-TIME, PERMANENT CABINET-LEVEL DISASTER RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, WHICH SHALL SERVE AS THE FOCAL AGENCY FOR INTEGRATED DISASTER RESILIENCE, CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.**

**Whereas**, the Philippines is the most vulnerable and riskiest country in the Southeast Asian region, ranking either second or third in the world under various world risk indices, and experiences the most number of climate-related extreme weather events.<sup>1</sup>

**Whereas**, the aftermath of Super typhoon Yolanda had accentuated the government's slow response immediately following the mega-disaster, lack of coordination between national and local governments, general breakdown of the chain of command, lack of transparency and accountability over donor funding, and severely delayed implementation of rehabilitation projects;

**Whereas**, R.A. 10121, otherwise known as the "Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010" (hereinafter "DRRM Law"), mandates that the Congressional Oversight Committee (hereinafter "Committee") created thereunder<sup>2</sup> shall conduct a "sunset review" within five (5) years after the effectivity of the law or "as the need arises"<sup>3</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., World Risk Index, UN University 2014; Global Climate Risk Index, German Watch 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Section 26, R.A. 10121.

<sup>3</sup> Section 27, R.A. 10121

**Whereas**, it is high time for the Committee to conduct a sunset review as the mandated five-year period had lapsed in the year 2015;

**Whereas**, “sunset review” requires a systematic evaluation by the Committee of the accomplishments and impact of the DRRM Law, as well as the performance and organizational structure of its implementing agencies, for purposes of determining remedial legislation;<sup>4</sup>

**Whereas**, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NCRPMC), despite reorganization under the DRRM Law in 2010, is still an *ad hoc* council, still mainly operates under the structure of its predecessor, the National Disaster Coordinating Council, and, as a consequence, active operations occur in disaster and post-disaster operations but are lacking during pre-disaster phase;<sup>5</sup> the pre-disaster phase is a vital phase for the implementation of disaster mitigation activities such as capacity building of personnel and completion of adaptability mechanisms in preparation for the next disaster;

**Whereas**, issues remain over the lack of full-time, professional local and national DRRM personnel armed with the necessary technical expertise to address pre and post-disaster needs;

**Whereas**, post-Yolanda responses underscore the failure to immediately bridge aid from donors to communities: for example, as late as 2015, the Emergency Shelter Assistance (ESA) grant, which is supposed to serve as a form of immediate relief, had yet to be fully distributed to all Yolanda-afflicted residents in Central Visayas;<sup>6</sup>

**Whereas**, it is thus vital to ensure that National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (NDRRM) Funds which are coursed through local governments are properly expended according to the defined purposes of the Fund;

**Whereas**, there is a growing need to consider establishing a separate, full-time, permanent cabinet-level disaster resilience and emergency management agency, which shall serve as the focal agency for integrated disaster resilience, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and emergency management;

**Whereas**, this independent agency should be characterized by the ability to coordinate and implement DRRM programs and projects; exercise centralized management over a DRRM database which should include risk information; adequate and competent manpower; sufficient financial resources (capital and non-capital assets); administrative independence with respect

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> For example, in the 2012 Performance Review and Assessment of the NDRRM Plan, the OCD reported no accomplishments under the Disaster Preparedness component. See *Commission on Audit (2014). Disaster Management Practices in the Philippines: An Assessment.*

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.interaksyon.com/article/104428/p1-9-billion-dswd-rules-on-emergency-shelter-aid-rules-need-review---cebu-mayors>

independence with respect to hiring and other personnel action; and budget and fiscal flexibility to address some of the restrictive provisions of RA 9184 (Government Procurement Law) and other accounting and auditing policies and regulations to be more responsive to situational demands during disaster situations;

**Whereas**, the establishment of this agency aims to supersede coordination with a more integrated and unified approach, institute accountability in the actions and initiatives of the government towards disasters, and establish executive leadership in all aspects of disaster risk reduction initiatives;

**Whereas**, the independence of the proposed agency is a resounding answer to the questions and realizations that have been accumulated throughout the country's recent catastrophes, most notably the "New Normal" brought about by Typhoon Yolanda, which all point to the need of a strong and independent regulator and monitoring body that will ensure the accountability of duty-bearers in the performance of DRRM duties;

**BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Philippines, urging the Congressional Oversight Committee on the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 to immediately conduct a sunset review pursuant to Sections 26 and 27 of R.A. 10121, otherwise known as the "Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010" for purposes of determining remedial legislation as well as to consider establishing a separate, full-time, permanent cabinet-level disaster resilience and emergency management agency, which shall serve as the focal agency for integrated disaster resilience, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and emergency management.

*Adopted,*

  
GRACE POE