

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **4100**



Introduced by **BAYAN MUNA**
Reps. **NERI J. COLMENARES** and **CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MEMORIAL
FOR THE VICTIMS OF SUPERTYPHOON YOLANDA IN TACLOBAN CITY,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Supertyphoon Yolanda was one of the worst natural disasters to strike the country in recent memory. The death toll was apocalyptic in magnitude and the damage to property was biblical in proportion. As of February, the total death toll for all Yolanda-ravaged regions has reached 6,201, while 28,626 people were injured and 1,785 still missing according to the most recent reports of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC).

Days prior to Yolanda's landfall, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) already gave warnings that a supertyphoon was about to enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) that can generate storm surges of up to 17 feet high. President Benigno Aquino III addressed the country, confidently saying that all preparations are already in place and that the country is ready for the onslaught of the supertyphoon with an estimated packed winds of up to more than 300 kph.

But the aftermath of the disaster manifests the total lack of comprehension of the warnings released by PAGASA, from the Local Government Units to the highest office in the Executive Department. The response was dismal, there was a clear lack of body bags, the dead were left lying on the streets for days. There was inefficiency in identifying the bodies and up to today, bodies are reportedly still being found.

The massive death toll has forced the government to resort to mass graves to clear the streets of bodies, leaving many of the dead unidentified. The Memorial in Tacloban city is to serve as a marker in memory of the victims of this tragedy and a reminder to our leaders and the people to work towards a disaster-resilient nation.

In this regard, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

Approved,



REP. NERI J. COLMENARES
Bayan Muna Party-list



REP. CARLOS SAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Party-list

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THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Yolanda Memorial Act of 2014.”

SECTION 2. *Construction of the Memorial.* – A memorial for the victims of Supertyphoon Yolanda shall be constructed in Tacloban City under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in coordination with the Local Government Units (LGU).

SECTION 3. *Inscription.* – A message shall be inscribed unto the base of the memorial and shall read as:

“In memory of the thousands of victims of Yolanda

That calamities have been transformed into a monstrosity due to climate change
That the leaders of this country must employ its utmost knowledge and care for the people
To work for a disaster-resilient nation
That appropriate, decisive and climate-adaptive policies must be enforced
To help protect the lives and livelihood of the people and mitigate the effects of disasters
To prevent such loss when another calamity as Yolanda should ever come our way again.

May this never happen again.”

The inscription may be translated into Filipino and/or Waray, according to the discretion of the LGU.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Agency.* – The DPWH shall be the lead implementing agency of this project in coordination with the concerned LGU.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the allocations in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15 days) after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,