

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5278



Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie"Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Typhoon Ruby (Hagupit) alone is reported to have damaged P1.04 billion worth of crops and farmlands in Bicol, Western and Eastern Visayas, 55,850 hectares of farmlands and 56,090 metric tons of crops, infrastructure damage, cost of damage to livestock sector of P809,550, other agri-fishery infrastructure and equipment of P29.993 million excluding damage to government and private properties. Some 456,386 families or 2,086,562 people were affected and 371,846 families or 1,699,041 individuals are staying in several evacuation centers or with relatives.

Natural disasters such as typhoons, storm surges, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions are bound to happen in significant frequency as would necessitate a more definitive, purposive, and planned course of action on the part of the government, at national, regional and local levels. It is already an incontrovertible geo-political given that the Philippines is the most hit country in the world in terms of tropical cyclones, heavy rains and storms, tsunamis, and the like.

Typhoon Yolanda, for another, a category five typhoon that struck central Philippines in November 2013, inflicted severe damage on the social and economic fabric of the Visayas and the MIMAROPA region. The typhoon displaced 4.1 million people and destroyed over half a million houses. Around 8,000 people died or are still missing. The loss of capital and assets, and disruption in electricity and irrigation services, have led to the collapse of local economies in the severely affected areas.

These unfortunate events and their outcomes and consequences now call for the creation of a Department of Disaster Management given the country's ongoing vulnerability to a string of disasters as it stands in the path of yearly number of typhoons and tropical cyclones. The Philippines has historically suffered from a high rate of natural disasters, but climate change is giving rise to even more frequent and more forceful weather-related disasters. Severe storms have now become the "new normal."

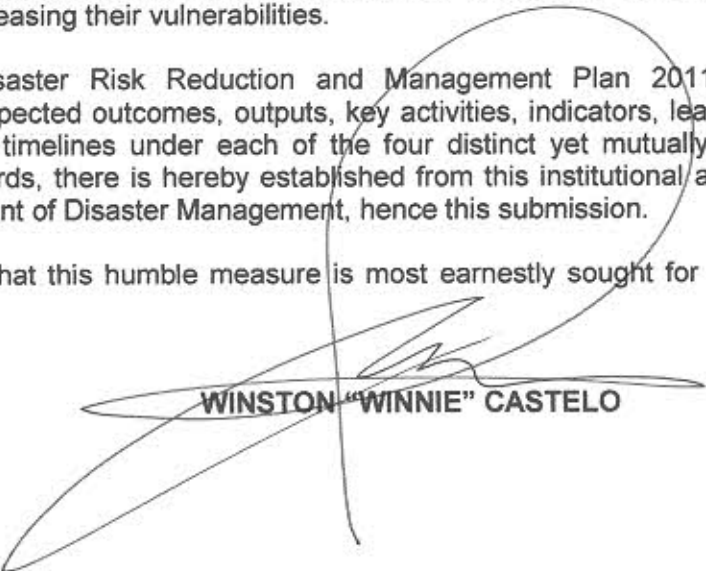
It is important to note that the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP) fulfills the requirement of RA No. 10121 of 2010, which provides the legal basis for policies, plans and programs to deal with disasters. The NDRRMP covers four thematic areas, namely, (1) Disaster Prevention and Mitigation; (2) Disaster Preparedness; (3) Disaster Response; and (4) Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery, which correspond to the structure of

the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). By law, the Office of Civil Defense formulates and implements the NDRRMP and ensures that the physical framework, social, economic and environmental plans of communities, cities, municipalities and provinces are consistent with such plan.

The NDRRMP is consistent with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework (NDRRMF), which serves as "the principal guide to disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) efforts to the country...." The Framework envisions a country of "safer, adaptive and disaster resilient Filipino communities toward sustainable development." It conveys a paradigm shift from reactive to proactive DRRM wherein men and women have increased their awareness and understanding of DRRM, with the end in view of increasing people's resilience and decreasing their vulnerabilities.

In the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan 2011-2028, the NDRRMP sets down the expected outcomes, outputs, key activities, indicators, lead agencies, implementing partners and timelines under each of the four distinct yet mutually reinforcing thematic areas. In other words, there is hereby established from this institutional arrangement the now proposed Department of Disaster Management, hence this submission.

It is all in this light that this humble measure is most earnestly sought for deliberative passage.



WINSTON "WINNIE" CASTELO

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AN ACT
CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AS DISTINCT AND
SEPARATE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Be it enacted in 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 'Department of Disaster Management Act of 2014'.

SEC. 2. The present Office of Civil Defense and/or National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council are hereby created to be known as the Department of Disaster Management, with distinct and separate mandate from the Department of National Defense to carry out safer, adaptive and disaster resilient Filipino communities towards sustainable development along the four thematic areas, namely: disaster preparedness, disaster response, disaster prevention and mitigation, and disaster rehabilitation and recovery.

SEC. 3. As Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR), the herein created Department of Disaster Management shall issue appropriate rules, regulations, guidelines, and issuances to effectively carry out the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon thirty (30) day after its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,