

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5774



Introduced by REP. ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Climate change is a daunting reality that we have to deal with. Over the years, its ill effects have manifested in the worst ways possible.

Here in the Philippines, natural calamities are a common occurrence. We witnessed several typhoons which caused massive damage to lives and properties. The deadliest of which was Supertyphoon Yolanda (Haiyan) that left over 6,000 people dead and affected over 14 million when it hit Leyte and its neighboring provinces in the Visayas Region in November of 2013.

Left with no choice, we have learned to cope with disasters through our resilience and spirit of volunteerism. It is not unusual for Filipinos to be one another's source of strength and support during the hard times. In the wake of typhoons, we can expect several volunteers who willingly take on jobs needed for rescue, relief and recovery operations.

In view of the impending dangers that climate change is most likely to bring in the country, it is mandatory to intensify the disaster preparedness efforts and make them proactive. As we gear towards that direction, it is fitting to involve the youth sector in this discourse and institutionalize its participation. The young people should be tapped in both the national and local disaster risk reduction and management initiatives. After all, they should be given the ownership and responsibility to advocate for their right to a balanced and healthy ecology.

This measure seeks to amend Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as "The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010" by including youth participation as represented by the National Youth Commission (NYC). It is hoped that the youth will be empowered to take an active part in the decision-making and planning on prevention, preparedness, service and education on issues relative to climate change

It is for the foregoing reasons that the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
INCLUDING RESPONSIVE, EMPOWERED AND SERVICE-CENTERED YOUTH IN
THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL IN ALL
LEVELS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10121,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND
MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2010

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

Section 1. This Act shall be known as the "Youth Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2014."

Section 2. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10121 is hereby amended as follows:

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following shall refer to:

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(PP) **"YOUTH"** – REFERS TO THOSE PERSONS AGED FIFTEEN (15) TO THIRTY (30) YEARS OLD AS PROVIDED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8044.

(QQ) **"YOUTH PARTICIPATION"** – REFERS TO THE PROCESS OF INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE INSTITUTIONS AND DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEIR LIVES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ORGANIZING GROUPS FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIONS, PLANNING THEIR PROGRAMS, AND ADVOCATING THEIR INTERESTS IN THE COMMUNITY TO RAISE CONSCIOUSNESS, EDUCATE OTHERS, AND PROVIDE SERVICES.

Section 3. Section 5 of RA No. 10121 is hereby amended as follows:

Section 5. *National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.* – The present National Disaster Coordinating Council or NDCC shall henceforth be known as the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, hereinafter referred to as the NDRRMC or the National Council.

The National Council shall be headed by the Secretary of the Department of National Defense (DND) as Chairperson with the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) as Vice Chairperson for Disaster Response, the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) as Vice Chairperson for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, and the Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) as Vice Chairperson for Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery.

The National Council's members shall be the following:

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(v) Commissioner of the National Anti-Poverty Commission-Victims of Disasters and Calamities Sector (NAPCVDC);

(W) CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION

[(w)] (x) Chairperson, National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women;

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Section 4. Section 7 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 7. *Authority of NDRRMC Chairperson.* – The Chairperson of the NDRRMC may call upon other instrumentalities or entities of the government and nongovernment, **CIVIC, AND YOUTH 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. This authority 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.

Section 5. Section 10 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 10. *Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Organization at the Regional Level.* – The current Regional Disaster Coordinating Councils shall henceforth be known as the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (RDRRMCs) which shall coordinate, integrate, supervise, and evaluate activities of the LDRRMCs. The RDRRMC shall be responsible in ensuring disaster sensitive regional development plans, and in case of emergencies shall convene the different regional line agencies and concerned institutions and authorities.

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Section 6. Section 11 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 11. *Organization at the Local Government Level.* – The existing Provincial, City and Municipal Disaster Coordinating Councils shall henceforth be known as the Provincial, City, and Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils. The Barangay Disaster Coordinating Councils shall cease to exist and its powers and functions shall henceforth be assumed by the existing Barangay Development Councils (BDCs) which shall serve as the LDRRMCs in every barangay.

(a) Composition: The LDRRMC shall be composed of, but not limited to, the following:

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(15) The President of the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC), member;

(16) A LOCAL YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE LGU, IN CONSONANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES ISSUED BY NYC AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG);

[(16)] **(17)** The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), member;

[(17)] **(18)** Four (4) accredited CSOs, members; and

[(18)] **(19)** One (1) private sector representative, member.

Section 7. Section 12 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 12. *Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (LDRRMO).* –

- (a) There shall be established an LDRRMO in every province, city and municipality, and a Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (BDRRMC) in every barangay which shall be responsible for setting the direction, development, implementation and coordination of disaster risk management programs within their territorial jurisdiction.

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- (b) The provincial, city and municipal DRRMOs or BDRRMCs shall perform the following functions with impartiality given the emerging challenges brought by disasters of our times:

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(8) Conduct continuous disaster monitoring and mobilize instrumentalities and entities of the LGUs, CSOs, private groups and organized volunteers, **INCLUDING YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS**, to utilize their facilities and resources for protection and preservation of life and properties during emergencies in accordance with existing policies and procedures;

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(17) MONITOR AND ENSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESPONSE AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, SUCH AS MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SERVICES, GENDER SENSITIVITY AND SECURITY, LIVELIHOOD, AND EDUCATION;

[(17)] **(18)** Within its area, promote and raise public awareness of and compliance with this Act and legislative provisions relevant to the purpose of this Act;

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- (d) The BDRRMC shall be regular committee of the existing BDC and shall be subject thereto. The punong barangay shall facilitate and ensure the participation of at least **ONE (1) YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE, THROUGH THE GUIDELINES FORMULATED BY THE NYC AND THE DILG; THE SK CHAIRPERSON; AND** two (2) CSO representatives from existing and active community-based people's organizations representing the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in the barangay.

Section 8. Section 13 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 13. *Accreditation, Mobilization, and Protection of Disaster Volunteers and National Service Reserve Corps, CSOs and the Private Sector.* – The government agencies, CSOs, **YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS**, private sector and LGUs may mobilize individuals or organize volunteers to augment their respective personnel complement and logistical requirements in the delivery of disaster risk reduction programs and activities. The agencies, CSOs, **YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS**, private sector and LGUs concerned shall take full responsibility for the enhancement, welfare and protection of volunteers, and shall submit the list of volunteers to the OCD, through LDRRMOs, for accreditation and inclusion in the database of community disaster volunteers.

A national roster of ACVDs, National Service Reserve Corps., CSOs, **YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS**, and the private sector shall be maintained by the OCD through the LDRRMOs. Accreditation shall be done at the municipal or city level.

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THE YOUTH ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION PROGRAM (YORP) OF THE NYC, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT SPECIALIZE IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT, SHALL BE TAPPED BY THE NDRRMS TO ASSIST IN PREPARING FOR, RESPONDING TO, AND RECOVERING FROM DISASTERS.

Mobilization of volunteers shall be in accordance with the guidelines to be formulated by the NDRRMC consistent with the provision of the Act. Any volunteer who incurs death or injury while engaged in any of the activities defined under this Act shall be entitled to compensatory benefits and individual personnel accident insurance as may be defined under the guidelines.

Section 9. Section 14 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 14. *Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction Education into the School Curricula and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Program and Mandatory Training for the Public Sector Employees.* – The DepED, the CHED, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in coordination with the OCD, the National Youth Commission (NYC), the DOST, the DENR, the DILG-BFP, the DOH, the DSWD and other relevant agencies, shall integrate disaster risk reduction and management education in the school curricula of secondary and tertiary level of education, including the National Service Training Program (NSTP), whether private or public including formal and non-formal, technical-vocational, indigenous learning, and out of school youth courses and programs.

The NDRRMC, the RDRRMCs, the LDRRMCs, the LDRRMOs, the BDRRMCs, the SK councils, **AND THE BARANGAY YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**, shall **ENSURE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, SPECIFICALLY THE YOUTH**, [encourage community, specifically the youth participation] in disaster risk reduction and management activities, such as organizing quick response groups, particularly in identified disaster-prone areas, as well as the inclusion of disaster risk reduction and management program as part of the SK programs and projects.

The public sector employees shall be trained in emergency response and preparedness. The training is mandatory for such employees to comply with the provision of this Act.

Section 10. Section 15 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 15. *Coordination During Emergencies.* – The LDRRMC shall take the lead in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the effects of any disaster based on the following criteria:

- (a) The BDC, if a barangay is affected;
- (b) The city/municipal DRRMCs, if two (2) or more barangays are affected;
- (c) The provincial DRRMC, if two (2) or more cities/municipalities are affected;
- (d) The regional DRRMC, if two (2) or more provinces are affected; and
- (e) The NDRRMC, if two (2) or more regions are affected.

The NDRRMC and the intermediary LDRRMC shall always act as support to LGUs which have the primary responsibility as first disaster responders. Private sector and civil society groups, **INCLUDING YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS**, shall work in accordance with the coordination mechanism and policies set by the NDRRMC and concerned LDRRMCs.

Section 11. Section 21 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 21. *Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF).* – The present Local Calamity Fund shall henceforth be known as the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF). Not less than five percent (5%) of the estimated revenue from regular sources shall be set aside as the LDRRMF to support disaster risk management activities such as, but not limited to, pre-disaster preparedness programs including training, purchasing life-saving rescue equipment, supplies and medicines, for post-disasters activities, and for the payment of premiums on calamity insurance. The LDRRMC shall monitor and evaluate the use and disbursement of LDRRMF based on the LDRRMF as incorporated in the local development plans and annual work and financial plan. Upon the recommendation of the LDRRMO and approval of the sanggunian concerned, the LDRRMC may transfer the said fund to support disaster risk reduction work or other LDRRMCs which are declared under state of calamity.

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NOT LESS THAN FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE LDRRMF SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO SUPPORT YOUTH-ORIENTED PRE- AND POST-DISASTER ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN THE YOUTH PLAN SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TREE-PLANTING, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION, AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION EFFORTS.

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Section 12. All other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations and other executive issuances which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

Section 13. If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 14. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.