

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Sixteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6181



Introduced by Honorable Sherwin T. Gatchalian

Explanatory Note

The occurrence of natural or human-induced disasters do not give us warnings nor the time to make quick judgements. Because of their age and vulnerability, children most likely, will be helpless and susceptible to panic and despair. Their response may be inadequate to prepare them for the eventuality of catastrophic events. To equip them to better understand the occurrence of these events and empower them with the knowledge to guide their response, this bill is proposing for the creation of a school-based disaster management committee that will develop a disaster management plan in coordination with the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, public order and safety offices and the law enforcement agencies.

Notable provisions in the Republic Act No. 10121, also known as the “*Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010*” are the following:

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It shall be the policy of the State to:

xxx

(e) Develop, promote, and implement a comprehensive National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP) that aims to strengthen the capacity of the national government and the local government units (LGUs), together with partner stakeholders, to build the disaster resilience of communities, and to institutionalize arrangements and measures for reducing disaster risks, including projected climate risks, and enhancing disaster preparedness and response capabilities at all levels;

xxx

(h) Institutionalize the policies, structures, coordination mechanisms and programs with continuing budget appropriation on disaster risk reduction from national down to local levels towards building a disaster-resilient nation and communities;

xxx

(k) Recognize the local risk patterns across the country and strengthen the capacity of LGUs for disaster risk reduction and management through decentralized powers, responsibilities, and resources at the regional and local levels;

xxx

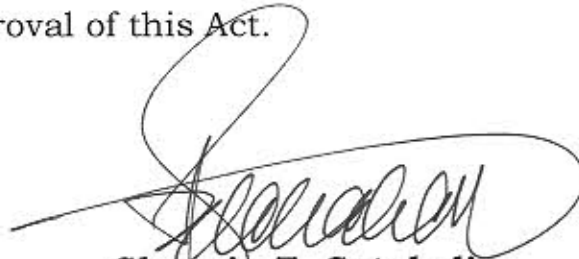
(n) Develop and strengthen the capacities of vulnerable and marginalized groups to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of disasters;

xxx.”

The school being the second home of our children, we entrust to them the responsibility of inculcating a culture of resilience through an enhanced capacity of preparedness and adequate training to respond to incidents of these nature.

The bill shall institutionalize the conduct of regular drills and provide evaluations for an effective assessment of the disaster management plan. In order that schools adopt the minimum requirements set forth in this Act, penalties shall likewise be imposed to ensure compliance.

Because of climate changes and the inevitability of natural and human-induced disasters to occur, we urge for the immediate approval of this Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sherwin T. Gatchalian', with a large, stylized flourish above it.

Sherwin T. Gatchalian
Representative, 1st District, Valenzuela City

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE CREATION OF A SCHOOL DISASTER
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT SAFETY DRILLS
FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS IN ALL SCHOOLS

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 “*Disaster Preparedness in Schools Act.*”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.**—It is the policy of the State to train the people, particularly students and school staff, on how to appropriately respond to emergency situations including human-induced or natural calamities in order to reduce the risk on their lives, limbs and property whenever a calamity or emergency occurs at school when classes are on-going or in the locality where the school is located. The State also recognizes the importance of generating the highest level of awareness among the public on disaster risk reduction

concerns and to assess the capacity level of schools and the community in the eventuality of disasters and emergencies. Towards this end, the State shall mandate the conduct of earthquake, fire, and other safety drills for emergency situations in all schools.

SEC. 3. ***Creation of the School Disaster Management Committee.*** –Each school shall establish and maintain a School Disaster Management Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, to oversee disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities to be undertaken by the school's staff and students.

The Committee shall develop, adapt, implement, and update the school disaster management plan. It shall meet at the beginning of each school year or semester and quarterly during the school year, or as it may deem necessary. It shall encourage personal and organizational preparedness, guide mitigation work, ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act, lead in the conduct of the monthly drills, evaluate the results, and adjust the school disaster management plan accordingly.

The Committee shall also maintain formal links between the school and the local disaster risk reduction and management council.

SEC. 4. ***Members of the School Disaster Management Committee.*** – The Committee shall be composed of the following:

- a) School principal or president as head and focal person;
- b) Representative of the school's teaching personnel;
- c) Representative of the school's non-teaching personnel;
- d) Representative from the parents-teacher association;
- e) Representative of the barangay council;
- f) Representative of the community where the school is situated;
- g) Representative of the students, preferably an elected representative from the student body, when applicable; and a
- h) Representative from the religious sector.

SEC. 5. ***Duties and Responsibilities of the Disaster Management Committee.*** – a) *Conduct of drills in schools*– It

shall be the mandate of every School Disaster Management Committee in all elementary schools, high schools, and higher education institutions including technical-vocational schools and training schools, whether public or private, to conduct an earthquake, fire, or safety drills for other emergency situations in their respective premises periodically. All students and staff of the school shall actively participate in the drills.

i. During the school year, all elementary and high schools are expected to conduct a minimum total of five (5) safety drills which shall include two (2) fire drills, two (2) earthquake drills, and one (1) other risk-related drill. The School Disaster Management Committee, which shall be established by the schools in accordance with Section 4 of this Act, should consider possible high-risk local events including flooding, tsunami, or lahar flow occurrences in the locality when deciding what other risk-related drill shall be conducted in the school. It may conduct additional drills as it may deem necessary.

ii. All higher education institutions including technical-vocational schools and training schools shall conduct an earthquake, fire, or safety drills for other emergency situations every semester or at least twice a year.

- iii. Teachers or faculty members, in case of HEIs, shall be designated as safety officers to ably assist the students and other participants during the conduct of the safety drills.

For purposes of this Act, elementary schools shall include pre-school learning institutions. In succeeding sections of this Act, the term school refers to elementary schools, high schools, and higher education institutions including technical-vocational schools and training schools.

b) *Identify high risk areas in the school*– The Committee shall assess and identify risks in the school premises by considering potential hazards and evaluating existing conditions of vulnerability that together could potentially harm the students, the people in the community near the school, and their property.

The Committee shall prepare a school site map and community maps to record and visualize risks and resources in the school premises and in the community. The school map shall indicate high risk areas, vulnerabilities and resources in the school premises and should be displayed in corridors and other important areas in the school. It shall also mark evacuation routes on this map.

c) *Develop a school disaster management plan*—The Committee shall develop a school disaster management plan which includes strategies that are coordinated with the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, public order and safety offices, and law enforcement agencies aimed at the prevention of, education about, and response to potential incidents involving natural or human-induced disasters, crime, and violence on or near the school campus.

The school disaster management plan shall be reviewed annually by the Committee at the start of the school year and, as the need arise, necessary revisions should be made accordingly.

d) *Coordinate with local authorities* – The Committee shall ensure close coordination by the school with the concerned regional, municipal and barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils, law enforcement agencies, and other concerned agencies prior to the conduct of the safety drills to ensure the success of the activity and safety of the participants.

e) *Evaluate the conduct of drills* –Drill evaluation forms prepared by the Department of Education in coordination with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

shall be filed and submitted by the Committee to the Department of Education Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office. The drill evaluation form shall indicate, among others, the drill conducted, level of participation, school evaluation and school disaster management plan evaluation and assessment.

SEC. 6. ***Penalties.*** - Any person in charge of the administration or management of schools, who refuses or fails to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be given a warning for the first offense; a fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) for the second offense; a fine of Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00) for the third offense; and imprisonment of one (1) month and a fine of Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (P300,000.00) for subsequent offenses. The fines shall go to the funds of the local NDRRMC office and shall be used for disaster prevention and mitigation programs of the locality.

SEC.7. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education, in consultation and coordination with the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, National Disaster Risk Reduction and

Management Council and the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC.9. ***Repealing Clause.*** –All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulation or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. ***Effectivity.***– This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,