

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. **5128**

Introduced by HON. DANILO E. SUAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The geographical region of the Philippines renders the country especially vulnerable to storms, cyclones, earthquakes and volcanic activity. An average of 20 typhoons hit the Philippines every year, leaving multiple casualties and billions in infrastructure damage. Talks of an imminent magnitude-7.2 earthquake pose threat to multiple cities within Metro Manila.

Infrastructure development is one of the key determinants of economic growth. It is unfortunate that it is already an accepted practice that government infrastructures are expected to break down during times of disaster. These structures are then repaired or rebuilt after. Over the years, the government allotted millions of pesos to repair and rehabilitate government infrastructures. The biggest budget allocation was given to public infrastructure projects, in the amount of PhP 3 Billion. While we acknowledge that there are natural calamities that render the strongest of structures vulnerable, we should be building high quality, safe, and calamity-proof structures that would save us from the costs of repairs and gradually wean away from the “build, repair, and re-build” practice.

This bill seeks to mandate the adoption of calamity-proof designs for public infrastructure. Not only will the government save money from unnecessary and preventable repairs, the safety of the people are also ensured. Through this bill, it is hoped to bring in strong and sturdy structures, with the input and shared knowledge of other government agencies. This aims to pave the way for the “Golden Age of Infrastructure” envisioned for this administration.

DANILO E. SUAREZ

Representative
3rd District, Quezon Province

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1 AN ACT MANDATING THE ADOPTION OF CALAMITY-PROOF DESIGNS IN CON-
2 STRUCTION OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURES

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

3 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy** - All government buildings and infrastructures must
4 adopt calamity-proof designs that will withstand magnitude-8 earthquakes and level-5 typhoons.

5 **SEC. 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations** – The Department of Public Works and
6 Highways (DPWH), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC),
7 and Department of Interior and Local Government shall issue the necessary rules and regula-
8 tions for the effective implementation of this Act.

9 **SEC. 3. Repealing Clause** – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances
10 or part thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, re-
11 pealed, or modified accordingly.

12 **SEC. 4. Effectivity** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
13 the Official Gazette or in any two newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines, which-
14 ever comes earlier.

Approved.