

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5227



Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Department of Science and Technology launched Project NOAH in 2012 to install a responsive program for disaster mitigation, specifically, for the Philippines' warning agencies to be able to provide a six-hour lead-time warning to vulnerable communities against impending floods and to use advanced technology to enhance current geo-hazard vulnerability maps.

In December, 2012, around 167,000 in Mindanao were evacuated to shelters and saved on account of accurate forecasts and timely warnings attributed to Project NOAH.¹

Unfortunately, project director Mahar Lagmay confirmed in a statement that project NOAH would run only until February 28, 2017 due to "lack of funds" with reports alleging that in-house scientists were not well-compensated.

Project NOAH is too precious an endeavor to abandon. The benefits and the advantage that it brings about far outweigh any suggestion to discard it.

Hence, it behooves the government to go for broke in order to salvage the project. It should seek to rationalize it in order to strengthen it and uphold its life-saving mission.

The immediate passage of this proposed measure is highly recommended.

WINNIE CASTELO

¹ <https://www.unisdr.org/archive/29954> Accessed March 8, 2017

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AN ACT
RATIONALIZING PROJECT NOAH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR 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 "Project NOAH Act."

SEC. 2. It is the declared policy of the State to institute measures that save lives by preventing or mitigating the effects of disasters by putting in place state-of-the-art technology for the purpose.

SEC. 3. Project NOAH is hereby rationalized in order to carry out its life-saving purpose. As such, the Department of Science and Technology is mandated to create its organizational constitution.

SEC. 4. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations for the Department of Science and Technology under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. Any laws, decrees, or rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,