

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **7324**



Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Islands have perennially been a victim of calamities. Most notably, numerous typhoons, ranging from the harmless to disastrous, visit the Philippines due to the islands' tropical climate and their proximity to the Pacific Ocean.

According to a study conducted by the Geneva-based United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the Philippines is the fourth most disaster prone country in the world. It also revealed that Philippines is one of the top 10 countries with most number of people afflicted by such disasters.¹

Disaster preparation has always been a challenge to Filipinos. Numerous catastrophic typhoons such as Haipong, Yolanda, Ondoy and Reming, have wreaked havoc to properties and lives and yet, it seems that with every strike of a typhoon, Filipinos seems to have never learned.

This bill seeks to strengthen the Filipino people's disaster preparation by equipping each barangay with portable communication radio device ("PCRD"). It aims to provide communication means to all barangays – the smallest territorial and political subdivisions of the country, and the closest to the people – in order that real time information could be quickly dispatched to concerned sectors. The use of PCRDs all the more becomes vital considering that cellular phones and landlines are normally unusable during typhoons.

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, belonging to Scott Davies S. Lanete, M.D.

SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.
Representative
Third District, Province of Masbate

¹ See <http://www.m2comms.com/blog/2016/8/3/10-worst-typhoons-that-went-down-in-philippine-history>

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**AN ACT PROVIDING PORTABLE COMMUNICATION RADIO
DEVICES IN EVERY BARANGAY**

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

Section 1. Title. - This Act Shall be known as the *"Portable Communication Radio Devices for Every Barangay Act of 2018."*

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. — The State shall establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of disaster risk reduction and preparedness vital to the needs of the people, the country and society-at-large.

Sec. 3. Coverage. - This Act shall cover all existing barangays in the country.

Sec. 4. Provision of portable communication radio devices – All barangays shall be equipped with at least two units of portable communication radio devices ("PCRD") which shall be used solely for calamity and emergency purposes. Every city or municipality and provinces, as the case may be, shall be equipped with radio command equipment ("RCE") capable of transferring and receiving information from PCRDs. RCEs shall also be used solely for calamity and emergency purposes.

Sec. 5. Device Custodian. – The Chairman of each barangay, in case of PCRDs, and the Mayor of a City/Municipality or Governor of a province, in case of RCEs, or their duly appointed personnel shall be entrusted with the control and safekeeping of the PCRDs and RCEs. They shall ensure access to the PCRDs and RCEs at all times.

Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local

Government shall issue implementing rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act, in consultation with the stakeholders.

Sec. 7. *Funds.* – The amount necessary to cover the purchase of PCRDs and RCEs shall be appropriated from the savings of the Philippine Charity and Sweepstakes Office.

Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All law, executive orders, rules and regulations or any part hereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional and invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved.