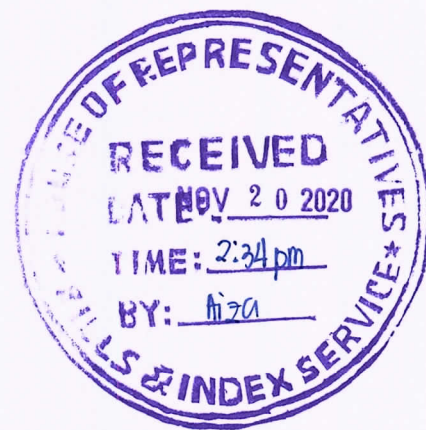


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8050



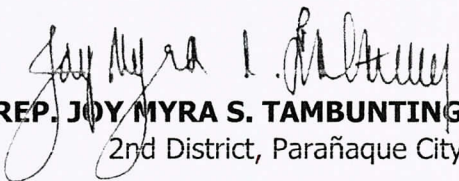
Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Information dissemination is an essential part of disaster risk reduction and management. The capacity to disseminate accurate information about an incoming typhoon or a national emergency allows people to prepare basic necessities and evacuate high-risk areas, effectively reducing their exposure to hazards. As more and more people rely on their handheld devices for accurate information regarding natural hazards and other emergencies, it is only apt that the State ensure that people can easily access all pertinent data concerning a specific disaster.

This measure provides for the creation of an Online Information Center for a specific disaster or national emergency, in the form of a website with a ".gov.ph" domain, which shall contain all relevant information concerning a disaster or national emergency. This shall include official sources of updates, news and information; a directory of government offices and emergency hotlines; and information on all government assistance programs, subsidies, grants and other social protection measures available to affected families, among others. Online Information Centers shall be created by the Philippine Information Agency and may be adopted by local government units for local disasters, calamities, or emergencies.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8050

Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ONLINE INFORMATION CENTERS
DURING NATIONAL CALAMITIES AND OTHER EMERGENCIES, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "Online Information Center during Disasters or Emergencies Act."

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building. In the Bill of Rights, the right of the people to information on matters of public concern is likewise protected and ensured. The importance of this right to information is further magnified in times of disasters and other emergencies, given the fact that the members of the public can be easily led into chaos, panic and unrest by the difficulty of the attending conditions and circumstances and the unfortunate proliferation of misinformation and fake news. In response to this, the government shall endeavor to foster transparency and the effective and widespread dissemination of true and accurate information on matters of public concern to the people.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

- a. "Disaster" – a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. Disasters are often described as a result of the combination of: the exposure to a hazard; the conditions of vulnerability that are present; and insufficient capacity or measures to reduce or cope with the potential negative consequences, Disaster impacts may include loss of life, injury, disease and other negative effects on human, physical, mental and social well-being, together with damage to property, destruction of assets, loss of services, Social and economic disruption and environmental degradation;

- b. "Emergency" – unforeseen or sudden occurrence, especially danger, demanding immediate action;
- c. "State of Calamity" – a condition involving mass casualty and/or major damages to property, disruption of means of livelihoods, roads and normal way of life of people in the affected areas as a result of the occurrence of natural or human-induced hazard.

Section 4. Scope of Application. – This Act shall cover disasters or other kinds of emergencies which are national in scope, as declared through a State of Calamity or State of National Emergency by the President of the Philippines. For disasters or emergencies not national in scope, but affecting two or more provinces or an entire region, this Act may apply at the discretion of the implementing agency in consideration of the gravity of the prevailing conditions and circumstances.

Section 5. Creation of Online Information Center during Disasters and Other National Emergencies Act. – Within seven (7) days from a declaration of a calamity or national emergency covered by Section 4 of this Act, the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) shall set-up and made available for public access an Online Information Center for that specific disaster or national emergency. This Online Information Center shall be in the form of a website with a ".gov.ph" domain. The contents of the Online Information Center created under this Act shall be the following:

- a. Websites, social media accounts/pages and other online locations of official news and information sources;
- b. Official government directory and emergency hotlines;
- c. Official data, statistics and other information on the disaster or emergency;
- d. Information and education campaign materials and explainers on the disaster or emergency concerned;
- e. Database of all relevant laws, government issuances and ordinances pertaining to the disaster or emergency concerned;
- f. Information on all government assistance programs, subsidies, grants and other social protection measures available to affected families;
- g. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page;
- h. Procedures, hotlines and forms for reporting grievances, complaints, misinformation and other violations of laws and regulations; and
- i. Other content and information that the PIA deems appropriate to include.

Section 6. Adoption by Local Government Units. – For disasters or emergencies which are only provincial, city or municipal in scope, the local government unit concerned may, at its discretion, adopt the standards and guidelines set forth under this Act and its implementing rules

and regulations. The PIA shall assist and provide technical expertise, training, personnel and/or resources to the local government unit concerned.

Section 7. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations of the PIA for the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PIA, in consultation with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other relevant government agencies, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

Section 11. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,