



Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

NINETEENTH (19th) CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1237



---

Introduced by: Hon. Ma. Victoria Co - Pilar

---

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Odette, Yolanda, Covid-19 and others. These names will always remind us how mother nature challenged our resiliency and adaptability to govern. These events judged the timeliness and efficacy of our policies and how we put it in action. Mother nature showed how we adapted to survive.

Action towards foresight mitigates risk. Government proved this when Sen. Sotto in 1996 filed a bill establishing the local calamity fund. This amendment in the Local Government Code allowed local government units to respond during and after disasters with haste, and within the bounds of laws. Yet, we must not forget that it is the experience of Sen. Sotto that brought about the urgency in him to push for the amendment of RA 7160. In 1991, Sen. Sotto was a Vice Mayor of Quezon City when Mt. Pinatubo erupted and the Quezon City Government took in the people affected by the eruption. The small amount of budget savings and law limited the City Government's response to assist the people. Acting towards foresight and from experience, Sen. Sotto wasted no time to equip and prepare our local government. We may be unable measure the impact that the amendment generated, but we cannot also deny the benefits it effected.

The 5% calamity fund provided by the Local Government Code must adapt with time. The Judicial branch recognised this adaptation through the Mandanas ruling. This increased the fiscal resources of the local government units. Also, the Executive Branch adapted to change by issuing E.O. 138,s.2021

which devolved some functions of the National Government to the Local Governments. This devolution of functions aims to strengthen local autonomy and the full use of financial resources. In the past 2 years we have seen our Local governments fulfilling their mandate despite the obstacles of the pandemic. We have seen our officials rising up to challenge, by meeting new demands that neither of us are trained for.

In view thereof, this Bill aims to increase the present 5% calamity fund to 10%. This is a recognition of the unconventional demand in government response because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Further, this will allow our local government units fluidity in fiscal spending in times of need.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.





Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

NINETEENTH (19th) CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1237

---

Introduced by: Hon. Ma. Victoria Co - Pilar

---

1  
2 **AND ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8185, OTHERWISE KNOWN**  
3 **AS AND ACT AMENDING SECTION 324(D) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO.**  
4 **7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF**  
5 **1991**  
6

7 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*  
8 *Congress assembled:*  
9

10 **SECTION 1, Section 324 (d) (as amended) of Republic Act No. 7160 is**  
11 **hereby amended to read as follows:**  
12

13 **“(d) Ten Percent (10%) of the estimated revenue from regular**  
14 **sources shall be set aside as annual lumpsum appropriations for**  
15 **relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and other works or services in**  
16 **connection with calamities and pandemics which may occur**  
17 **during the budget year: Provided, however, That such fund shall**  
18 **be used only in the area, or a portion thereof, of the local**  
19 **government unit or other areas affected by a disaster, calamity or**  
20 **pandemic as determined and declared by the local sanggunian**  
21 **concerned.”**  
22  
23

1

2           **SECTION 2. Separability Clause** - If any provision of this Act is held  
3 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in  
4 force and effect.

5

6           **SECTION 17. Repealing Clause** - All laws, decrees, orders and rules and  
7 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
8 repealed or amended accordingly.

9

10           **SECTION 18. Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
11 its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

12

13           Approved.

14