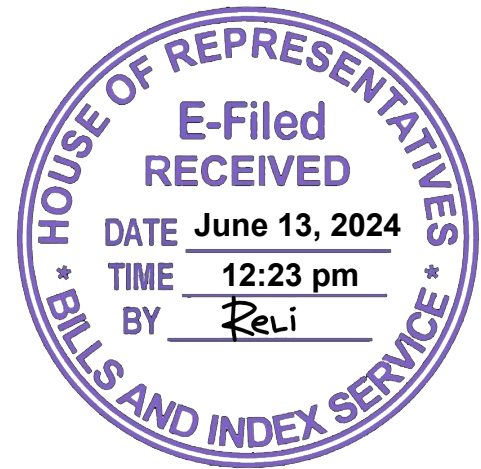


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10530**



Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Last 2010, **Republic Act 10072 or “The Philippine Red Cross Act of 2009,”** authored by Senator and PNRC Chairman Gordon, was signed into law by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, officially changing the name of the organization from PNRC to **Philippine Red Cross (PRC)**.

Then in 2011 The nationwide Red Cross Million Volunteer Run was held, in celebration of the **UN Declaration of the year 2011 as International Year of Volunteers**, and December 5 as International Day of Volunteers.

Came 2013, The PRC leadership called for an emergency meeting with Movement Partners to discuss actions to be taken to address the needs of the vulnerable population affected by Typhoon Yolanda (**Haiyan**)

PRC mobilized its staff and volunteers to dispatch cadaver bags to assist the government in the retrieval and management of the dead. A refrigerated van was also deployed to store bodies waiting for proper identification.

2014, To solve access problems encountered in delivering relief to affected areas of Typhoon Yolanda, PRC and delegates from Partner National Societies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) agreed to purchase a 195-foot military prototype vessel that can dock even on the shallowest water. Said vessel would be used to aid the movement in its humanitarian efforts in the Philippines and Asia Pacific.

2015, PRC Chairman Gordon led the inauguration of the Philippine Red Cross Tower. The PRC's new building stands as a symbol of the PRC's growth through the years and a mark of its strong commitment to humanitarian service.

2017, As of March 24, 77,066 shelters have already been built for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. Five hundred fourteen classrooms and 85 health facilities have also been rehabilitated and reconstructed.

On its 70th Anniversary, the PRC welcomes the country's first ever humanitarian ship, the **M/V PRC Amazing Grace**. PRC launched its humanitarian vessel at the Philippine Navy National Headquarters, Roxas Boulevard, Manila, with the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, as the guest of honor.

The Philippine Red Cross, through the effort of its staff and volunteers has incessantly stepped up its humanitarian efforts for the affected people since the conflict started in Marawi.

This House Bill seeks to provide protection and assistance to people affected by disasters and conflict, thus providing modernization funding to the **Philippine Red Cross**.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael L. Romero', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 10530

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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE **PHILIPPINE RED CROSS**, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, TO PROVIDE QUALITY LIFE-SAVING SERVICES, TO PROTECT THE LIFE AND DIGNITY ESPECIALLY OF INDIGENT FILIPINOS IN ALL VULNERABLE SITUATIONS, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 the **Philippine Red Cross Modernization Act of 2024.**

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY — It is a declared policy of the State in conformity with the mandate of the Constitution, to provide humanitarian network.

The Movement is to be neutral and impartial and;

To provide protection and assistance to people affected by disasters and conflicts. as having priority over its other functions.

Pursuant to Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution which provides for the adoption of the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land, the State shall at all times act in conformity with the **Geneva Conventions of 1949** and their additional protocols, and the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and shall establish and promote the development of a duly recognized independent and autonomous nongovernmental Red Cross Society that shall provide humanitarian relief and assistance in times of peace and armed conflict.

The State shall at all times respect the adherence by the Red Cross Society to the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

SECTION 3. MODERNIZATION FUNDING. – The amount of Two Billion Pesos (**Php 2, 000,000,000.00**) for the operation and administration of the **Philippine Red Cross** shall be chargeable against funds for the purpose and other sources recommended by the **Department of Budget and Management (DBM)**.

Thereafter, appropriations for the **Philippine Red Cross**, shall be included in the budget proposals under the **Office of the President**.

The Department of Budget and Management (**DBM**) shall rationalize the existing organizational structure and staffing pattern of the (**Philippine Red Cross**) in accordance with the prevailing provisions and relevant compensation and position classification laws, rules and regulations.

Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of the modernization program shall be included in the annual **General Appropriations Act (GAA)**.

SECTION 4. PHILIPPINE RED CROSS MODERNIZATION FUND –

There is hereby created the **Philippine Red Cross Modernization Fund** to be used exclusively for the **Philippine Red Cross Modernization** Program.

The **Philippine Red Cross** Modernization Fund shall be administered by the **Office of the President** in accordance with existing government budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. PROGRESS REPORT – The **Office of the President** shall prepare an annual report on the status of the implementation of the **Philippine Red Cross** Modernization Programs which shall be submitted, to the **President of the Republic** and to the Chairpersons of the Committee on Economic Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SECTION 6. INCREASE OF PERSONNEL. – The **Philippine Red Cross** shall maintain a sufficient staffing pattern. Hence, it is authorized to increase its manpower to meet such required and may continue to increase personnel per percentage rate increase of committed mandates annually or as the need arises.

SECTION 7. PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION – The modernization program under this Act shall be implemented for an initial period of three **(3)** years:

Provided, that payments for multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period:

Provided, further, That the **Philippine Red Cross** shall continue to develop, modernize and constantly update its operational capabilities to keep pace with best global practices.

SECTION 8. SUPERVISING AND ASSESSMENT CONCERNS. — the Office of the President, shall provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to ensure effective operations and build-up.

SECTION 9. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY. — Office of the President

SECTION 10. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. — Within ninety **(90)** days from the effectivity of this Act, the **Office of the President** shall, in consultation with other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 11. TRANSITORY PROVISION – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the **IRR** or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

The agencies concerned shall provide for the continued maintenance, operation, and management of all the facilities and equipment.

SECTION 12. PERIODIC REPORTS - The **Office of the President** shall submit periodic reports on its findings and make recommendations on actions to be taken by both Congress and Senate and the appropriate departments, in order to carry out the objectives and mandates of this Act.

SECTION 13. AUTOMATIC REVIEW - Every three **(3)** years after the effectivity of this Act, an independent review panel composed of experts to be appointed by the **President of the Republic** shall review the policies and programs in the defense and security sector and shall make recommendations, based on its findings, to the President and to both Houses of Congress.

SECTION 14. POWERS & FUNCTIONS – The **Philippine Red Cross** shall be as follows:

(a) To cooperate with public authorities in the prevention of disease, the promotion of health and the mitigation of human suffering by their own programs in such fields as education, health and social welfare, for the benefit of the community;

(b) To organize, in liaison with public authorities, emergency relief operations and other services to assist the sick and wounded of armed forces in time of armed conflict, in accordance with the spirit of and under the conditions prescribed by the Geneva Conventions to which the Republic of the Philippines proclaimed its adherence;

(c) For the purposes mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, to perform all duties devolving upon the Philippine Red Cross as a result of the adherence of the Republic of the Philippines to the said Convention;

(d) To act in matters of voluntary relief and of communication between the people of the Republic of the Philippines and their Armed Forces, in time of peace and in time of armed conflict, and to act in such matters between similar national societies of other countries and the Governments and people and the Armed Forces of the Republic of the Philippines;

(e) To establish and maintain a system of national and international relief in time of peace and in time of armed conflict and apply the same in meeting emergency needs caused by typhoons, floods, fires, earthquakes, and other natural or man-made disasters, and to devise and carry on measures for alleviating the suffering caused by such disasters;

(f) To devise and promote such other services in time of peace and in time of armed conflict as may be found desirable in improving the health, safety and welfare of the Filipino people, and of all peoples in general; and

(g) To devise such means as to make every citizen and/or resident of the Philippines a member of the Philippine Red Cross.

SECTION 15. PENAL CLAUSE. – Any person, whether natural or juridical, violating any section of this Act shall, upon conviction, therefore, be liable to a fine of not less than two hundred thousand pesos (**P200,000.00**) or

imprisonment for a term not less than one **(1)** year, or both, at the discretion of the court for each and every violation.

In case the violation is committed by a corporation or an association, the penalty shall devolve upon the president, director, or any other officer responsible for such violation.

SECTION 16. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 17. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 18. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,