

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 170

Introduced by Hon. Kenneth T. Gatchalian

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Flooding remains one of the most destructive and recurring natural disasters in the Philippines, exacting heavy tolls on human life, public infrastructure, economic productivity, and national development. According to the World Bank, 64% of the country's land area is vulnerable to multiple hazards, with flooding as the most common and costly event, affecting an average of 20 typhoons a year and impacting millions of Filipinos annually.¹

At present, various national government agencies and local government units implement flood control initiatives, often on a per-project or per-region basis. However, the absence of a unified, long-term, and science-based national framework has resulted in fragmented planning, duplicated efforts, inefficient resource utilization, and inconsistent implementation. These systemic gaps have led to suboptimal flood management outcomes and the persistent recurrence of flooding across the country.

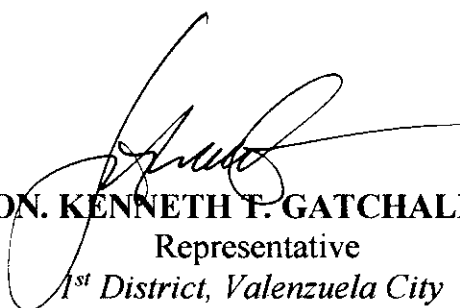
This bill seeks to establish a National Flood Management Masterplan (NFMM) as a long-term, science-based, and integrated strategy to reduce flood risks and strengthen climate resilience nationwide. The NFMM will serve as the official national framework for all flood-related initiatives – ensuring policy coherence, setting technical standards, and providing implementation roadmaps that align the efforts of national government agencies, local government units, and civil society organizations.

¹ <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/philippines/vulnerability>

Moreover, the proposed Masterplan aligns with the country's international commitments under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028, and the National Climate Change Action Plan.

Similar bills were filed during the 19th Congress, filed by Rep. Stella Quimbo (H.B. No. 492), Rep. Gus Tambunting (H.B. 8961), and Rep. Michael L. Romero, Ph.D. (H.B. 10653).

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



HON. KENNETH T. GATCHALIAN
Representative
1st District, Valenzuela City

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A MASTERPLAN FOR FLOOD MANAGEMENT,
INCREASING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL
LAWS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Flood
2 Management Act of 2025”.

3 **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared policy of the State
4 to protect life, health, property, and the environment by developing and
5 institutionalizing a comprehensive, science-based, and climate-resilient flood
6 management program.

7 **SEC. 3.** *Establishment of a National Flood Management Masterplan.* –
8 There is hereby established a National Flood Management Masterplan to serve as
9 the comprehensive and integrated framework for all flood risk reduction,
10 mitigation, and resilience efforts in the country. Within two (2) months from the
11 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development
12 (DepDev) is hereby directed to review and assess the current Flood Management

1 Masterplan for Metro Manila and Surrounding Areas (the “Masterplan”) approved
2 by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board in 2012 and
3 identify targets and reforms, as needed, for the purpose ensure its expedient and
4 efficient implementation.

5 The Department is likewise directed to expand the Masterplan to cover
6 other areas of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, with concentrated efforts in
7 metropolitan areas.

8 **SEC. 4. *Inter-agency Task Force for Flood Management.*** – There is
9 hereby created an Inter-Agency Task Force for Flood Management (the “Task
10 Force”) which shall ensure oversee the implementation of the adopted Masterplan
11 and coordinate the programs and activities of its member-agencies.

12 The Task Force shall be headed by the DepDev Secretary as Chairperson,
13 with the Secretary of Public Works and Highways, Secretary of Environmental and
14 Natural Resources, Chairperson of the National Commission in Indigenous
15 Peoples, Director of the University of the Philippines-Diliman-National Institute
16 for Geological Sciences, Administrator of the Philippine Atmospheric,
17 Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), and the chief
18 executives of concerned LGUs as members.

19 The Task Force is hereby directed to coordinate with national government
20 agencies and local government units for the efficient implementation of the
21 Masterplan. It shall also submit an annual report to the Oversight Committee
22 referred to in Section 12 hereof regarding the status of the structural and non-
23 structural interventions in the Masterplan.

24 **SEC. 5. *Duties and Functions of the DPWH.*** – The Department of Public
25 Works and Highways (DPWH is hereby designated as the lead implementing
26 agency of the Masterplan. As such, it shall:

- 27 a. Implement the Masterplan immediately after the DepDev has
28 established the same;

- 1 b. Propose a budget for the implementation of the Masterplan, in
2 coordination with the Task Force;
3 c. Submit a quarterly report to the Task Force regarding the progress of the
4 implementation of the Masterplan; and
5 d. Coordinate and consult with concerned agencies, including but not
6 limited to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
7 (DENR) and PAGASA, regarding complementary activities within the
8 purview and the technical expertise of the said agencies which are
9 necessary for the effective implementation of the Masterplan.

10 **SEC. 6. *Panel of Experts.*** – The Task Force shall engage a panel of
11 international and local experts for technical support and to ensure that projects
12 implemented under the Masterplan adhere to international quality standards.

13 **SEC. 7. *The Increased Penalty for Illegal Quarrying.*** – Section 108 of
14 Republic Act No. 7942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 **“Section 108. Violation of the Terms and Conditions of the**
16 **Environmental Compliance Certificate.** – Any person who willfully
17 violates or grossly neglects to abide by the terms and conditions of the
18 environmental compliance certificate issued to said person and which
19 causes environmental damage through pollution **OR QUARRYING** shall
20 suffer the penalty of imprisonment of ~~six (6) months to six (6) years~~ **FOR A**
21 **MINIMUM OF SIX (6) YEARS TO A MAXIMUM OF TWELVE (12)**
22 **YEARS** ~~or AND a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) to Two~~
23 ~~hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00), or both,~~ **FIVE HUNDRES**
24 **THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00) TO FIVE MILLION PESOS**
25 **(P5,000,000.00), at the discretion of the court.”**

1 Section 77 of Presidential Decree No. 705 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 “Section 77. Cutting, Gathering and/or collecting Timber, or Other Forest
4 Products Without License. – Any person who shall cut, gather, collect,
5 removed timber, or other forest products from any forest land, or timber
6 from alienable or disposable public land, or from private land, without any
7 authority, or possess timber or other forest products without the legal
8 documents as required under existing forest laws and regulations, shall be
9 punished with the penalties imposed under Articles 309 and 310 of the
10 Revised Penal Code **AND A FINE OF AT LEAST FIVE HUNDRED**
11 **THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00) BUT NO MORE THAN TWO**
12 **MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00)**: Provided, That in the case of
13 partnerships, associations, or corporations, the officers who ordered the
14 cutting, gathering, collection or possession shall be liable, and if such
15 officers are aliens, they shall, in addition to the penalty, be deported without
16 further proceedings on the part of the ~~Commission on~~ **BUREAU OF**
17 **Immigration and Deportation**.

18 xxx”

19 **SEC. 8. Exclusive Authority to Issue Permit to Quarry.** – Notwithstanding
20 any law to the contrary, the DENR is hereby granted the exclusive authority to
21 issue and revoke permits to extract sand, gravel, and other quarry resources.

22 **SEC. 9. Authority of the President to Suspend the Requirements for**
23 *National and Local Permits, Licenses and Certifications, and to Streamline and*
24 *Expedite the Process for the Issuance thereof.* – Notwithstanding any law, decree,
25 order or ordinances to the contrary, the President shall have the authority to:

- 26 a. Accelerate and streamline regulatory processes and procedures for
27 applications for permits, licenses, clearance, certifications or
28 authorizations for constructing flood management infrastructures,

1 including fixing or shortening the periods provide under existing laws,
2 regulations, issuances, and ordinances; and

3 b. Suspend or waive the requirements in securing such permits, licenses,
4 clearance, certifications or authorizations.

5 **SEC. 10. *Upgrading the Salary of Forest Rangers.*** – the entry-level salary
6 of the forest ranger position shall be at Salary Grade 18. In coordination with the
7 Department of Budget and Management, the DENR shall create additional
8 positions where augmentation of its enforcement manpower is necessary.

9 **SEC. 11. *Creation of an Oversight Committee.*** – For this purpose,
10 Congress shall establish a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee composed of
11 four (4) members of each House to be appointed by the Senate President and the
12 House Speaker, respectively. This Committee shall determine whether such acts,
13 orders, rules, and regulations are within the restrictions provided herein.

14 **SEC. 12. *Appropriations.*** – The corresponding amount required for the
15 construction and maintenance of flood management infrastructure nationwide
16 pursuant to the Masterplan shall be appropriated on a multi-year basis and included
17 in the General Appropriations Act each year following the effectivity of this Act.

18 The DPWH may also tap the Official Development Assistance (ODA) of
19 the Philippines' Donor countries and institutions for concessional loans on a long-
20 term repayment basis for additional funding as needed to implement the provisions
21 of this Act.

22 **SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The DepDev and DPWH
23 shall, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the
24 necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

25 **SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is held
26 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall
27 remain in full force and effect.

1 **SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, presidential
2 decrees or issuances, letter of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and
3 regulations as well as local ordinances contrary to or inconsistent with the
4 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

5 **SEC. 16. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
6 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general
7 circulation.

8 *Approved,*