



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1356

Introduced by 4Ps Partylist Representative
JC M. ABALOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire. This is the region where a lot of volcanic and seismic activities are recorded. Moreover, the Philippines is also part of the Typhoon Belt, making the country prone to at least 20 storms a year. Out of the twenty typhoons each year, it is seen that at least five of these are expected to make landfall. It is for this reason that the Philippines is considered one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

This bill aims to complement the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction Act signed into law in 2010 by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The bill mandated a framework to ensure swift, efficient, and orderly preparation for natural calamities. This also led to the institutionalization of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan. As a complement to the aforementioned law, this will ensure an institutionalized structure for natural calamities.

The creation of the Department of Risk Reduction will ensure risk reduction, disaster preparedness, and response, and swift rehabilitation and recovery every time there is a natural calamity. It will also capacitate local government units, and other agencies, in ensuring that government response is harmonious with other simultaneous efforts. Moreover, the Department of Disaster Resilience would aid the government in disaster preparation, coordination, and immediate assistance,

especially in times of calamity where losses of life, injury, and destruction of property are seen and/or expected.

This measure, initially envisioned by Rep. Yedda Romualdez in the 17th Congress, was subsequently refiled in the 18th Congress as a consolidation of several related bills passed by the House of Representatives. It has also been refiled during the 19th Congress.

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



JC M. ABALOS
Representative
4Ps Partylist



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**AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RESILIENCE,
DEFINING ITS MANDATE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**CHAPTER 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SECTION 1 . *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “Department of Disaster Resilience Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policies and Principles.* – The State shall carry out and harmonize the policies on disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management, environmental management, and climate change adaptation, and sustainable development to uphold the welfare of the people particularly the vulnerable sectors of society.

The state shall uphold its commitment to the achievement of the sustainable development goals specifically, integrating and implementing policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change,

resilience to disasters, and develop and implement a holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

The State shall uphold its commitment to the United Nations, Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, achievable within a time frame sufficient to allow the natural adaptation of the ecosystem to climate change, to ensure food production and food security, and to ensure sustainable economic development.

The State shall integrate and accelerate the implementation of the principles and concepts of climate change, disaster risk and vulnerability reduction contained in the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030, the 2015 Asia - Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 in various phases of policy formulation, development plans and investments, poverty reduction strategies and other development tools and techniques by all national and local agencies, institutions and instrumentalities of the government to enhance the country's climate change adaptive capacity.

It shall be the duty of the State to:

1. Uphold the people's constitutional right to life and property by minimizing, if not eradicating, the root causes of vulnerabilities to disasters, strengthening the country's institutional capacity for disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management, and building the resilience of local communities to disasters including climate change impacts, and human induced disasters;
2. Incorporate internationally accepted principles of disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management, and climate change adaptation, including the universal principles and standards for humanitarian assistance, developing and implementing national, regional and local sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies, policies, plans and budgets, as part of the country's commitment to overcome human suffering due to disasters;
3. Ensure a science based in a whole of society approach and bottom -up participation, representation, and decision - making in climate - disaster risk governance, risk assessment, risk reduction and risk management, and adopt a comprehensive, integrated, and proactive

approach to lessening the socio – economic and environmental impacts of disasters and climate change;

4. Promote and advance the implementation of a comprehensive Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Reduction Plan (DRVRP) that aims to strengthen the capacity of the national government and local government units (LGUs), together with development partners, stakeholders in building disaster resilience of communities, and institutionalize arrangements and measures for reducing disaster risks, including projected climate risks, and enhance disaster preparedness and response capabilities at all levels;
5. Recognize the role of, and work with international humanitarian and development partners especially those with established presence in the country;
6. Develop, maintain, and ensure the accessibility of climate and geospatial information and services to the public through OPEN DATA, which means data that can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone, subject to limitations on account of national security. This may include the use of impact based forecast models, and probabilistic hazard maps;
7. Ensure transparency and accountability in climate disaster risk governance by facilitating access to financial records of public and disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management data, and ensure the transparency of humanitarian assistance from all sources;
8. Ensure that disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and climate change adaptation measures are gender, disability and vulnerability sensitive and culturally sensitive, recognizing indigenous knowledge systems and practices, and respecting human rights;
9. Recognize and strengthen the capacities of LGUs, communities and multiple stakeholders in mitigating and preparing for, responding to and recovering from the impact of disasters through identification of local risk patterns, and decentralized powers, responsibilities, and resources at the regional and local levels;
10. Adopt and implement a comprehensive, integrated, efficient and responsive disaster risk and vulnerability reduction program that is incorporated in the development plan at various levels of government

adhering to transparency accountability and other principles of good governance within the context of poverty alleviation and environmental protection;

11. Mainstream disaster risk and vulnerability reduction in government by ensuring risk - informed planning, programming, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, and the use of quality management, accountability, and performance systems in measuring and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of disaster risk and vulnerability reduction management processes across all government levels, including those offices which manage peace processes and conflict - resolution approaches, so as to minimize loss of lives and damage to properties and ensure that communities in conflict zones can immediately resume their normal lives at the conclusion of episodes of intermittent conflicts;
12. Adopt a disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management approach that is holistic, comprehensive, integrated, and proactive in lessening the socio - economic and environmental impacts of disaster including climate change, and promote the involvement and participation of all sectors and stakeholders concerned, at all levels, especially the local communities;
13. Prioritize the development of disaster prevention and mitigation measures involving all levels of society and government;
14. Adopt risk sharing and risk transfer mechanisms to ensure the appropriate efficient and timely recovery of disaster - stricken communities, especially for the poorest and the most vulnerable;
15. Adhere to the principle of “Build Forward Better” in recovery and rehabilitation efforts by applying sustainable standards, programs, technologies and techniques which enhance resilience against future hazards;
16. Recognize and respond to the differentiated concerns and needs of vulnerable groups such as women and girls, children and youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, urban poor, and indigenous peoples with respect to disaster risk reduction and management, at the same time, recognizing their inherent capacities to contribute to resilience;

17. Create an enabling environment for substantial and sustainable participation of civil society organizations (CSOs), private groups, volunteers and communities, and recognize their contributions to the disaster risk reduction and management efforts of the government; and
18. Ensure the use of advanced science and the most up to date technologies in climate adaptation, disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management through engagement, consultation, and employment with a regular department funding of academe or higher education institutions, such as the University of the Philippines Resilience Institute, University of the Philippines Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards Center and other scientific research and academic institutions that have a track record and expertise recognized both locally and internationally as well as the capacity to implement science and engineering requirements necessary for effective climate change adaptation, and disaster risk and vulnerability reduction;

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- a. *Adaptation* – refers to the adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climactic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.
- b. *Assisting Actor* – refers to any Assisting International Actor and any Assisting Domestic Actor responding to a disaster in the country.
- c. *Assisting Domestic Actor* – refers to any not – for – profit entity established under domestic laws, which is responding to a disaster in the country.
- d. *Assisting International Actor* – refers to any foreign state, organization, entity or individual responding to a disaster within or transiting through the country to respond to a disaster in another country.
- e. *Build Forward Better* – refers to an approach to building and/or reconstructing an area or community, which entails a shift from simple recovery and restoration to a safer, more adaptive, resilient, and inclusive community.
- f. *Capacity* – refers to the combination of all strengths, attributes and resources available within a community, society or organization that can reduce the level of risk, or impacts of a disaster. Capacity may

include infrastructure and physical means, institutions, societal coping abilities, as well as human knowledge, skills and collective attributes such as social relationships, leadership and management. Capacity may also be described as capability.

- g. *Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)* - refer to non - state actors whose aims are neither to generate profits nor seek governing power, but to unite people to advance shared goals and interests. They have a presence in public life, expressing the interests and values of their members or others, based on ethical, cultural, scientific, religious or philanthropic considerations. CSOs include non-government organizations (NGOs), professional associations, foundations, independent research institutes, community based organizations (CBOs), faith - based organizations, people's organizations, social movements, and labor unions.
- h. *Climate Change* - refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists in an extended period, typically decades or longer, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity as defined under RA 9729, otherwise known as the "Climate Change Act of 2009". These include internal processes or external forces such as modulation of the solar cycles, volcanic eruptions and persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere on land use.
- i. *Climate Change Adaptation* - refers to the adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climactic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.
- j. *Climate Finance* - refers to finance that aims at reducing emissions, and enhancing sinks of greenhouse gasses and aims at reducing vulnerability of, and maintaining, and increasing the resilience of, human and ecological systems to negative climate change impacts.
- k. *Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (CBDRRM)* - refers to a process of disaster risk reduction and management I which at risk communities are actively engaged in the identification, analysis, treatment, monitoring and evaluation of disaster risks in order to reduce their vulnerabilities and enhance their capabilities, and where

the people are at the heart of decision – making and implementation of disaster risk reduction and management activities.

- l. *Complex Emergency* – refers to a form of human – induced emergency in which the cause of the emergency as well as assistance to the afflicted is complicated by intense levels of political considerations.
- m. *Contingency Planning* - refers to a management process that analyzes specific potential events or emerging situations that might threaten society or the environment and establishes arrangements in advance to enable timely, effective and appropriate responses to such events and situations.
- n. *Dangerous Anthropogenic Interference* – refers to the effect in the climate system as a result of the increase of greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere that leads to widespread climate change impacts such as widespread demise of coral reefs.
- o. *Disability* – refers to an evolving concept that results from the interaction between persons with impairments , societal barriers, as defined under RA 7277, and attitudinal environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.
- p. *Disaster* – refers to 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.
- q. *Disaster Mitigation* – refers to the lessening or limitation of the adverse impacts of hazards and related disasters. Mitigation measures encompass engineering techniques and hazard – resistant construction as well as improved environmental policies and public awareness, land use planning, and climate change.
- r. *Disaster Preparedness* – refers to knowledge and capacities developed by governments, professional response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, recover from, the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions. It includes preparedness for response such as contingency planning, stockpiling of equipment and supplies, the

development of arrangements for coordination, evacuation, and public information, and preparedness for recovery such as procurement of land for resettlement sites.

- s. *Disaster Prevention* - refers to the outright avoidance of adverse impacts of hazards. It expresses the concept and intention to completely avoid potential adverse impacts through action taken in advance such as construction of dams or embankments that eliminate flood risks, land-use regulations that do not permit any settlement in high-risk zones, and seismic engineering designs that ensure the survival and function of a critical building in any likely earthquake.
- t. *Disaster Response* - refers to the provision of emergency services and public assistance during or immediately after a disaster in order to secure and save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected. Disaster response includes disaster relief focused on immediate and short-term needs of the victims and the vulnerable.
- u. *Disaster Risk* - refers to the potential disaster losses in lives, health status, livelihoods, assets and services that could occur to a particular community or society in the future, and is determined by a combination of the vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment.
- v. *Disaster Risk Governance* - refers to the way in which the public authorities, civil servants, media, private sector, and civil society coordinate at community, national and regional levels in order to manage disaster and climate related risks. This means ensuring that sufficient levels of capacity and resources are made available to prevent, prepare for, manage, and recover from disasters. It also entails mechanisms, institutions, and processes for citizens to articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights and obligations, and mediate their differences.
- w. *Disaster Risk Management* - refers to the systematic process of using administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills and capacities to implement strategies, policies and improved coping capacities in order to lessen the adverse impacts of hazards and the possibility of disaster.

- x. *Disaster Risk Reduction* - refers to the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.
- y. *Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Reduction* - refers to the concept and practice of reducing potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets or disrupted which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically and conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or system to the impacts of hazards through systematic efforts to analyze and reduce the causal factors of disasters all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development.
- z. *Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Information System* - refers to a specialized database which contains, among others, information on disasters and their human, material, economic, and environmental impact, risk assessment and mapping, and vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- aa. *Early Warning System* - refers to the set of capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals, communities and organizations threatened by a hazard to prepare and to act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss. A people-centered early warning system necessarily comprises four (4) key elements: knowledge of the risks; monitoring, analysis and forecasting of the hazards; communication or dissemination of alerts and warnings; and local capabilities to respond to the warnings received. The concept of "end-to-end warning system" emphasizes that warning systems need to span all steps from hazard detection to community response. Early warning systems include systems developed at the level of communities or based on indigenous knowledge.
- bb. *Ecosystem Management and Restoration* - refers to an integrated process to conserve, improve and restore the health of the ecosystem that sustains ecosystem services for human well-being.

- cc. *Eligible Assisting Actor* - refers to any assisting actor that has been determined to be eligible to receive legal facilities as provided in this Act and its implementing rules and regulations.
- dd. *Emergency* - unforeseen or sudden occurrence, especially danger, demanding immediate action.
- ee. *Emergency Management* - the organization and management of resources and responsibilities for addressing all aspects of emergencies, in particular preparedness, response and initial recovery.
- ff. *Exposure* - The situation of people, infrastructure, housing, production capacities and other tangible human assets located in hazard-prone areas.
- gg. *Forced Evacuation* - An order of last resort from competent authority to forcibly evacuate residents to an appropriate evacuation area to forestall their exposure to an imminent disaster or to prevent further exposure to residual risks after the onslaught of a disaster.
- hh. *Gender-based Violence* - the violence that is directed against a woman because of her gender, or that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty.
- ii. *Geographic Information System (GIS)* - refers to a system used to capture, store, manipulate, manage and display all types of spatial or geographical data.
- jj. *Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Area (GIDA)* - the areas with a marginalized population which is physically and socio-economically separated from the mainstream society and characterized by physical factors isolated due to distance, weather conditions and transportation difficulties (island, upland lowland, landlocked, hard to reach and underserved communities); and/or socio-economic factors – (high poverty incidence, presence of vulnerable sector, communities in or recovering from situation of crisis or armed conflict).
- kk. *Hazard* - refers to a dangerous phenomenon, either natural or human-induced, that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihood and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

- ll. *Home-based evacuees* - refer to displaced affected population staying with relatives, friends, other host families, community facilities aside from the official evacuation center
- mm. *Human-Induced Hazard* - refers to an event caused by humans and occurs in or close to human settlements or a particular environmental area. This can include environmental degradation, technological or industrial conditions, pollution, accidents such as high density events, industrial and transport accidents, complex emergencies, armed conflict, situations of generalized or organized violence, and violation of human rights.
- nn. *International Disaster Response and Early Recovery Period* - the period which commences upon the issuance of a request for international disaster assistance or upon acceptance of an offer, and shall continue until terminated pursuant to guidelines set in the implementing rules and regulations.
- oo. *Humanitarian Assistance* - Covers disaster response and recovery assistance designed to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain and protect human dignity during and in the aftermath of disasters, in line with the principles of humanity, impartiality, and neutrality.
- pp. *Imminent Disaster* - Refers to a situation where on the basis of official forecasts it could reasonably be expected that a disaster will occur in a particular geographical area and within an estimated period of time, and where necessary preparedness actions or financing are required.
- qq. *International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Period* - refers to the period which commences upon the issuance of a request for international disaster assistance or upon acceptance of an offer, and shall continue until terminated pursuant to guidelines set in the implementing rules and regulations.
- rr. *Internally Displaced Persons* - persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence within national borders, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized and/or organized violence, violations of human rights, implementation of development projects, or natural or human-induced disasters.

- ss. *International Humanitarian Assistance* - Any aid and action taken by any duly coordinated foreign government or organization in the form of financial donations, international relief workers and in-kind donations, for the benefit of disaster affected areas, aimed at providing emergency response, rehabilitation, and recovery operations to mitigate and address the effects of disasters or major emergencies.
- tt. *International Relief Workers* - the staff and volunteers of any assisting actor providing disaster relief or initial recovery assistance being persons who are neither citizens of nor domiciled in the Philippines prior to their recruitment by the international assisting actor.
- uu. *Land-Use Planning* - the process undertaken by public authorities to identify, evaluate and decide on different options for the use of land, including consideration of long-term economic, social and environmental objectives and the implications for different communities and interest groups, and the subsequent formulation and promulgation of plans that describe the permitted or acceptable uses.
- vv. *Legal Facilities* - the special entitlements and exemptions that are made available to eligible assisting actors under this Act.
- ww. *Mitigation* - refers to effort to reduce or limit greenhouse gas emissions or enhance greenhouse gas sequestration.
- xx. *National Continuity Policy* - refers to a policy aimed at the development of an organizational culture that has the ability to provide a minimum level of service during interruptions, emergencies, and disasters, and return to full operations quickly.
- yy. *National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework* - the comprehensive, all hazards, multi-sectoral, inter-agency and community-based approach to disaster risk reduction and management.
- zz. *National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP)* - the document to be formulated by the NDRRMC and implemented by the Department that sets out goals and specific objectives for reducing disaster risks together with related actions to accomplish these objectives. The NDRRMP shall provide for the identification of hazards, vulnerabilities and risks to 'be managed at the national level; disaster risk reduction and management approaches and strategies to

be applied managing said hazards and risks; agency roles, responsibilities and lines of authority at all government levels; and vertical and horizontal coordination of disaster risk reduction and management in the pre-disaster and post-disaster phases. It shall be in conformity with the national disaster risk reduction and management framework.

- aaa. *National Service Reserve Corps* - refers to the entity composed of all graduates of non-ROTC components of the National Service Training Program in accordance with Republic Act 9163, the National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001.
- bbb. *Natural Hazards* - naturally occurring physical phenomena caused either by rapid or slow onset events which can be geological (earthquakes ground rupture, liquefaction, landslides, tsunamis, sinkholes, and volcanic activity), hydrological and meteorological (floods, severe winds, typhoons, storm surges), climatological variability (extreme temperatures, El Niño, La Niña, forest fires), or biological (disease, epidemics and insect/animal plagues and pandemics).
- ccc. *Older persons/senior citizen/elderly* - refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old.
- ddd. *Open Data* - data that can be freely used, shared and built-on by anyone, anywhere, for any purpose. It must be available in bulk, it should be available free of charge, or at least at no more than a reasonable reproduction cost. The information should be digital, preferably available by downloading through the internet, and easily processed by a computer too. It also must permit people to use it, re-use it, and redistribute it, including intermixing with other datasets and distributing the results. Lastly, it does not allow conditions to be placed on how people can use Open Data, but it does permit a data provider to require that data users credit them in some appropriate way, make it clear if the data has been changed, or that any new datasets created using their data are also shared as open data.
- eee. *Persons with Disabilities* - those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

- fff. *Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment* - a process to evaluate a hazard's level of risk given the degree of exposure and vulnerability in a specific area likely to be affected by an imminent hazard. It presents the possible impacts on the population and forms a basis to determine the appropriate level of response actions from the national level government agencies down to the local government units. It is hazard-specific, area focused and time-bound.
- ggg. *Preemptive Evacuation* - An order from competent authority to voluntarily evacuate residents to an appropriate evacuation area to forestall their exposure to an imminent disaster
- hhh. *Post-Disaster Recovery* - the restoration and improvement where appropriate, of facilities, livelihood and living conditions of disaster-affected communities, including efforts to reduce disaster risk factors, in accordance with the principles of "build back better".
- iii. *Private Sector* - private corporations, households, non-profit institutions serving households, and other economic enterprises outside of government.
- jjj. *Public Sector Employees* - all persons in the civil service.
- kkk. *Recovery* - the restoring or improving of livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets, systems, and activities, of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and "build back better", to avoid or reduce future disaster risk.
- lll. *Reconstruction* - The medium-and long-term rebuilding and sustainable restoration of resilient critical infrastructures, services, housing, facilities, and livelihoods required for the full functioning of a community or a society affected by a disaster, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and "build back better", to avoid or reduce future disaster risk.
- mmm. *Rehabilitation* - The restoration of basic services and facilities for the functioning of a community or a society affected by a disaster.
- nnn. *Relief Goods* - Refer to food packs and non-food items to be given directly to the victims of a disaster or other emergency in order to meet their immediate humanitarian needs.

- ooo. *Resilience* - The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform, and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.
- ppp. *Response* - any effort to provide assistance or intervention during or immediately after a disaster to meet the life preservation and basic subsistence needs of affected people and in the restoration of essential public activities and facilities.
- qqq. *Risk Assessment* - a methodology to determine the nature and extent of risk by analyzing potential hazards and evaluating existing conditions of vulnerability that together could potentially harm exposed people, property, services, livelihood and the environment on which they depend.
- rrr. *Probabilistic Risk Assessment* - simulates those future disasters which, based on scientific evidence, are likely to occur (UNISDR, 2015). As a result, these risk assessments resolve the problem posed by the limits of historical data (UNISDR 2015). Probabilistic models "complete" historical records by reproducing the physics of the phenomena and recreating the intensity of a large number of synthetic events (UNISDR, 2015). Probabilistic Risk Assessment considers all possible scenarios, their likelihood, and associated impacts. It is characterized by inherent uncertainties partly related to the natural randomness of hazards, and partly because of our incomplete understanding and measurement of the hazards, exposure, and vulnerability.
- sss. *Deterministic Risk Assessment* - refers to an assessment that considers the possible disaster impacts of a single scenario. This is in contrast to probabilistic risk assessment which considers all possible scenarios, their likelihood, and associated impacts.
- ttt. *Risk Transfer* - refers to the process of formally or informally shifting the financial consequences of particular risks from one party to another whereby a household, community, enterprise, or state authority will obtain resources from the other party after a disaster occurs, in exchange for ongoing or compensatory social or financial benefits provided to that other party.

- uuu. *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.
- vvv. *Sustainable Development* - the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- www. *Underlying Disaster Risk Drivers/ Underlying Risk Factors* - Processes or conditions, often development-related, that influence the level of disaster risk by increasing levels of exposure and vulnerability or reducing capacity.
- xxx. *Vital Facility Items* - refers to government risk reduction and preparedness equipment, accessories and other items such as radars, weather forecasting equipment, flood monitoring instruments, seismographs, tsunami warning systems, and automated weather systems.
- yyy. *Vulnerability* - refers to the characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard. Vulnerability may arise from various physical, social, economic, and environmental factors.
- zzz. *Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups* - those who are at risk due to poverty and other underlying risk factors including, but not limited to, women, children, elderly, differently-abled people, and ethnic minorities.
- aaaa. *Whole-of-society Approach* - the meaningful participation of and synergy of stakeholders that represent different interests in all aspects of climate change adaptation, disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management across all levels. "Acknowledge the contribution of an important role played by all relevant stakeholders, including individuals, families and communities, intergovernmental organizations and religious institutions, civil society, academia, the media, voluntary associations and, where and as appropriate, the private sector and industry."
- bbbb. *Whole of Government Approach* - an approach that integrates the collaborative efforts of the departments and agencies to achieve unity of effort toward a shared goal to broaden the government's options,

increases efficiency to maximize all available resources in a collaborative effort.”

cccc. *Whole of Nation Approach* - refers to an approach that seeks to bring about a concerted effort towards national peace and security by creating consensus and understanding of security that is shared not just among core security forces and oversight government institutions, but also by civil society and all the nation’s communities.

dddd. *Youth* - refers to those persons aged fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years old, as provided for under Republic Act No. 8044, otherwise known as “Youth in Nation-Building Act”.

CHAPTER II DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RESILIENCE

SEC. 4. *Creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience.* – There is hereby created a Department of Disaster Resilience, herein after referred to as the Department. The Department shall be the primary government agency responsible for leading, organizing, and managing the national effort to reduce disaster risk, prepare for and respond to disasters, recover and rehabilitate, and build forward better after the occurrence of disasters. The Department shall oversee and coordinate the preparation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of disaster and climate resilience plans, programs, projects, and activities, provide leadership in the continuous development of strategic and systematic approaches to disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, to anticipatory adaptation strategies, measures, techniques and options. The Department shall augment the capacity of local governments units in collaboration with relevant national government agencies and other stakeholders to implement disaster risk reduction and management and climate change action plans, programs, projects, and activities.

SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of the Department.* – The Department shall exercise and perform the following functions:

Risk Reduction:

1. Oversee, direct, and undertake programs and projects to identify, assess, prioritize and localize hazards and risks in the country, in consultation with national government agencies, local governments units, communities, and stakeholders that shall be involved in disaster risk reduction efforts;

2. Monitor and ensure the integration of disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management and climate change adaptation policies into national development plans;
3. Design and implement an incentive system for greater private and public investment, both local and national, in disaster risk reduction;
4. Oversee and ensure the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in development planning, including disaster-proofing and climate-proofing of land use plans and the preparation of contingency plans;
5. Create an enabling environment for the design of relevant and appropriate risk-sharing and risk-transfer instruments;
6. Create an enabling environment that shall promote broader multi-stakeholder participation and integrate climate change mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk and vulnerability reduction;
7. Coordinate directly with local government units and private entities to address climate vulnerabilities and disaster risk assessment (CVDRA) of regions and provinces at the meso-scale, cities and municipalities at the micro-scale, and barangays at the meta-scale;
8. Establish and monitor local and national capacity for disaster risk financing and insurance and other risk transfer strategies in coordination with the Department of Finance (DOF), the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), and the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP);
9. Formulate the National Disaster Resilience Framework, National Disaster Resilience Plan, and the National Continuity Policy;
10. Oversee and direct the comprehensive implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, plans, and programs, as embodied in the Disaster Resilience Framework and Disaster Resilience Plan;
11. Coordinate directly with local government units and private entities to address Disaster Risk Assessment (DRA) of regions and provinces at the meso-scale, cities and municipalities at the micro-scale, and barangays at the meta-scale;

12. Review and evaluate local disaster resilience plans and other local plans to ensure their consistency with the Climate-Disaster Resilience Framework and Plan; and
13. Ensure that all disaster risk reduction programs, projects, and activities requiring regional and international support shall be in accordance with duly established national policies and aligned with international agreements that the State is a party to.

Resilience, Framework and Plan

Ensure that all disaster risk reduction programs, projects, and activities requiring regional and international support shall be in accordance with duly established national policies and aligned with international agreements that the State is a party to,

Disaster Preparedness and Response

1. Oversee and maintain a national early-warning and emergency alert system that shall provide accurate, timely, and accessible information to national and local emergency response organizations and the general public;
2. Coordinate information-sharing and other risk reduction protocols following the principle of interoperability among national government agencies and local government units;
3. Establish and maintain a national humanitarian logistics system with a network of warehouses, transport, and resources, including response assets and disaster relief items, such as food and non-food items;
4. Exercise command and control over relevant government agencies, including government-owned and controlled corporations, the Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies, during an imminent or actual disaster. Such command and control shall include the authority to utilize available services, assets, equipment, personnel, facilities, and other resources;
5. Call on the reserve force, as defined in Republic Act No. 7077, otherwise known as the "Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act", to assist in relief and rescue operations during disasters;

6. Work with the private sector and civil society organizations for assistance with regard to the use of facilities and resources for the protection and preservation of life and property;
7. Deploy rapid assessment teams composed of government personnel and non-government stakeholders, gather information, and, guided by the principle of inter-operability, coordinate information-sharing and other disaster risk reduction and management protocols among national and local government agencies before, during and after a disaster;
8. Establish a National Disaster Resilience Research and Training Center that shall provide a ladderized training program on disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management for DRRM and CCAM professionals and other stakeholders in the public and private sector. It shall assist local government units in cascading national and regional training programs locally and conduct research programs to upgrade knowledge and skills and document best practices thereon. It shall ensure/oversee the mainstreaming of DRR training in academic institutions in coordination with DepEd/CHED. The Research and Training Center shall accredit disaster resilience trainers or instructors, practitioners and institutions;
9. Monitor and support local government units in the management of evacuation centers and ensure the welfare and dignity of internally-displaced persons;
10. Procure goods and services during emergencies, in accordance with existing emergency procurement rules and regulations;
11. Issue special procurement and auditing rules for preparedness, response and recovery activities including those prompted by a declaration of state of calamity and a state of imminent disaster; and
12. Assist in mobilizing the necessary resources to increase the overall capacity of local government units, specifically those with low income and situated in high-risk areas.

Rehabilitation and Recovery

1. Prepare, organize, lead, implement, and manage post-disaster assessment and recovery and rehabilitation programs, in coordination

with the affected local government units, national government agencies, and other stakeholders;

2. Implement the cluster approach to expedite reconstruction efforts and orchestrate and serve as the clearinghouse for the participation of assisting actors in such efforts; and
3. Ensure that the principle of Building Forward Better is applied to rehabilitation and recovery efforts.

Other Powers and Functions

1. Establish the DDR Council Secretariat and an operating facility to be known as the National Disaster Resilience Council Secretariat and Operations Center (NDRCSOC) under the operational control of the Secretary and functional supervision of the Operations Service that shall be operated and staffed on a twenty-four (24) hour basis;
2. Establish and monitor local and national capacity for climate-disaster risk financing and insurance and other risk transfer strategies in coordination with the Department of Finance (DOF), the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), and the Land Bank of The Philippines (LBP);
3. Coordinate information-sharing and other disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and climate change adaptation protocols following the principle of interoperability among national government agencies and local government units before, during, and after a disaster. Administer, oversee, and monitor the utilization of National Disaster Resilience Fund (NDRF), the Disaster Resilience Support Fund (DRSF) for third (3rd) to sixth (6th) class provinces and municipalities, and other grants and donations for disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation, unless otherwise specified;
4. Receive, administer, mobilize, report and monitor and oversee the utilization of the National Disaster Resilience Fund, recovery and rehabilitation funds, and donations for disaster risk and reduction and management, unless otherwise specified and subsequently subject to the regular accounting and auditing procedures or COA rules and regulations;

5. Formulate and recommend the necessary guidelines and procedures on NDRRM Fund and the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRM Fund) releases, as well as utilization, accounting and auditing thereof in consultation with DOF, DBM, and COA.
6. Use of advanced science and technologies in disaster risk reduction and management by engaging, consulting with, employing and regularly funding the academe or higher education and research institutions such as the University of the Philippines Resilience Institute and the University of the Philippines Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards Center or other institutions that have a recognized and credible track record, as well as the capacity to conceptualize and implement the science and engineering requirements necessary for effective climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
7. Establish a Disaster resilience information system to facilitate the creation of an integrated risk assessment platform that is built from the inputs of government and private scientific and academic institutions, national government agencies and local government units, local communities and other stakeholders, and is able to provide readily accessible and actionable information for purposes of risk governance and humanitarian action;
8. Develop the criteria and procedure for the enlistment of accredited community disaster resilience volunteers (ACDRVs), and organize, train, equip and supervise emergency response teams and ACVs, ensuring that humanitarian workers have been given proper training and are equipped with basic skills, including the management of the differentiated needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups child protection, gender-sensitive case management and handling cases of gender-based violence in times of disasters. It shall include a manual of operations for the volunteers which shall be developed by the Department in consultation with various stakeholders;
9. Create and continuously update, in consultation with stakeholders, a manual of operations for accredited community disaster resilience volunteers and institutions.
10. Perform such other functions as may be necessary for effective operations and implementation of this Act.

CHAPTER III
GENERAL WELFARE AND EMERGENCY MEASURES

SEC. 6. *General Welfare.* – The Department shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare, such as the implementation of emergency measures including preemptive and forced evacuation, in anticipation of, during, and in the aftermath of emergencies, hazards and disasters and only when there is imminent danger of loss of lives and/or damage to property.

SEC. 7. *Emergency Measures at the National Level.* – The Department may require the assistance of law enforcement agencies and uniformed services, such as the PNP and the AFP, as well as emergency responders, to assist in the implementation of emergency measures.

SEC. 8. *Emergency Measures at the Local Level.*

- a. Local government units shall enact an ordinance on and implement through the LDRO the necessary and appropriate emergency measures, including preemptive and forced evacuation, in anticipation of, during, and in the aftermath of emergencies, hazards and disasters, and only when there is imminent danger of loss of lives and/or damage to property.
- b. Emergency measures, including preemptive and forced evacuation, shall be carried out in a manner that is humane, respectful of the dignity and culture of persons, without using disproportionate force, without discrimination, and with conscious attention to the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- c. All measures shall be taken to inform the population, in a manner and language that they can understand, of the need for emergency measures and evacuation for their safety, as well as the location where they will be taken and for how long they are going to stay there. Adequate evacuation centers and transportation to and from the affected area shall be provided by the local government.

SEC. 9. *Hierarchy of Evacuation Measures.*

1. Preemptive evacuation shall be the preferred and primary mode of evacuation of people that will be affected by emergencies, hazards and disasters.

2. Forced evacuation shall be considered as an emergency measure of last resort that may be undertaken in anticipation of, during or after an emergency, hazard or disaster and be carried out by the affected local government in accordance with a duly issued order by the local chief executive: Provided, That in case of the failure of the local government to appropriately issue such order, the forced evacuation shall be implemented by the Department, which may direct and compel the assistance of law enforcement and other relevant national agencies to implement said emergency measure.

During such forced evacuation, government officials may direct and compel the population to be affected or is currently affected by an emergency, hazard or disaster to relocate to safer locations for their own safety.

SEC. 10. *Release from Liability in Case of Refusal to Evacuate.*

1. Any person who willfully and deliberately disregards or opposes the order of forced evacuation issued by the local chief executive or the Department, releases the local government or the Department from any liability for injury, death, damage to or loss of property attributed to said disobedience.
2. During evacuation, priority assistance shall be given to the vulnerable groups and persons who willfully comply with the order of forced evacuation.

SEC. 11. *Inspection and Implementation Powers.* - The Department shall have inspection, visitorial and examining authority over government and non-governmental entities to ensure that all funds and assets allocated for disaster resilience are actually used for said purposes. The Department shall likewise have the power to inspect and examine the status of projects and programs being undertaken in furtherance of disaster resilience efforts. Whenever it becomes necessary, the Department may assume responsibility over the implementation of and directly implement any program or project in anticipation of, during, and in the aftermath of emergencies, hazards and disasters.

SEC. 12. *Utilization of Private Property for Public Purpose.* – The Department shall have the power to utilize any private property for urgent public purpose in anticipation of, during, and in the aftermath of emergencies, hazards and disasters and only when there is imminent danger of loss of lives and/or damage to property, subject to payment of just compensation in appropriate cases.

SEC 13. *Emergency Powers.* – Whenever it becomes necessary, the Department, subject to the approval of the President, may call on the AFP or the PNP, in coordination with the Secretary of National Defense and the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, to prevent or suppress lawless violence and ensure the protection and preservation of life or property in anticipation of, during, and in the aftermath of emergencies, hazards and disasters.

Whenever warranted by circumstances, the department may call upon other agencies and instrumentalities of the government, as well as non-government and for the protection and preservation of life and/or property in anticipation of, during, and in the aftermath of emergencies, hazards and disasters. Private organizations, for assistance in the use of their facilities and resources.

SEC. 14. *Emergency Arrangements.* – The Department shall have the power to negotiate, enter into, institutionalize and coordinate arrangements with any private person or juridical entity for the purpose of ensuring the adequate and prompt availability of all goods and services necessary in anticipation of, during, and in the aftermath of emergencies, hazards and disasters and only when there is imminent danger of loss of lives and/or damage to property.

CHAPTER IV ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

SEC. 15. *Office of the Department Secretary.* – The Department shall be headed by a Secretary with the rank and emoluments of a Cabinet Secretary. The Secretary shall be appointed by the President, subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

All appointees shall be universally acknowledged and recognized experts in the field of disaster risk reduction and management and climate change and of proven honesty and integrity.

SEC. 16. *Powers and Functions of the Secretary.* – The Secretary of the Department shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- a. Establish policies and standards for the effective, efficient, and economical operation of the Department in accordance with the programs of the Government;
- b. Exercise executive direction over the operations of the Department and administrative supervision over its attached agencies;

- c. Manage the financial and human resources of the Department;
- d. Appoint officers and employees of the Department, except presidential appointees, in accordance with civil service law, rules, and regulations;
- e. Exercise disciplinary authority over officers and employees of the Department in accordance with law;
- f. Call upon any and all agencies and instrumentalities of the State as well as non government and civic organizations for assistance in terms of the use of their facilities and resources for the protection and preservation of life and properties in the whole range of disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation. This Department includes the power to call on the reserve force as defined in Republic Act No. 7077 to assist in relief and rescue during disasters or calamities;
- g. Create regional and field offices and such other service units and divisions as may be necessary;
- h. Advise the President on the promulgation of executive and administrative issuances and the formulation of regulatory and legislative proposals on matters pertaining to disaster resilience;
- i. Serve as the Vice-Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission;
- j. In coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs, represent the Philippines in the climate change negotiations and articulate the national contribution to global, regional, and other inter-governmental disaster risk reduction and humanitarian platforms;
- k. Call upon the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to render assistance in disaster-affected areas; and
- l. Perform such other functions as may be necessary or proper to attain the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 17. *Organizational Structure, Functions and Management.* - The Department shall be composed of the following officials and offices:

- a. The Secretary, as provided for under this Act;
- b. Five (5) Undersecretaries, to be appointed by the President, who shall assist the Secretary in administering the affairs of the Department, one

to be responsible for Resilience, one to be responsible for Policy and Governance, one to be responsible for Operations, one to be responsible for Administration and Finance, and the Senior Undersecretary. The Undersecretaries shall have functional and operational supervision over the bureaus, divisions, offices and units assigned to their respective functional areas;

- c. Ten (10) Assistant Secretaries, to be appointed by the President, who shall assist the Secretary in administering the affairs of the Department to be responsible for overall staff supervision, Internal Audit, Administration, Disaster Resilience Fund Management, Fiscal Management, Operations, Mobilization, Plans and Programs, Legal, Project Management and Sustainable Development;
- d. Eleven (11) Service Directors who shall head the following Services: the Administrative and Financial Management Service, the Logistics and Resource Management Service, the Operations Service, the Responders Management Service, the Policy Development and Development Service, the Capacity Building and Training Service, the Legal Affairs and Compliance Service, the Disaster Risk Reduction Service, the Climate Change Service, the Recovery and Reconstruction Service, and the Strategic Communications Service;
- e. The Administrative and Financial Management Service shall provide the Department with economical, efficient and effective services relating to human resource management and development, financial management and general administration services to support civil defense and disaster risk reduction and management operations and functions;
- f. The Logistics and Resource Management Service shall be responsible for the efficient and effective management of all the assets and resources of the Department; the efficient and effective gathering, maintenance and updating of a database of pertinent assets and resources belonging to any and all agencies and instrumentalities of the Government, as well as non-government and civic organizations in support of operational readiness for utilization by the Department; and the procurement of necessary assets and resources to be maintained and utilized by the Department;
- g. The Operations Service shall be responsible for formulating, implementing and monitoring the operational plans of the Department

and ensuring its operational readiness, as well as the effective functional management of the Emergency Management Operations Center;

- h. The Responders Management Service shall be responsible for the efficient and effective gathering, management, and updating of a national roster of individuals and groups from the civilian sector, volunteer organizations, uniformed services and the reserve force in support of operational readiness for utilization by the Department;
- i. The Policy Development and Planning Service shall be responsible for providing responsive, efficient and effective services relating to research, planning, programming, budgeting, project development, and policy formulation of civil defense and disaster risk reduction and management projects and activities;
- j. The Capacity-Building and Training Service shall be responsible for building and developing the capacity of the Department's personnel, civil defense practitioners, communities and other stakeholders;
- k. The Legal Affairs and Compliance Service shall provide legal advice to the Department; interpret laws and rules affecting the administration and operations of the Department; prepare and review contracts and instruments to which the Department is a party; interpret provisions of contracts covering work involving the Department; and monitor the compliance with regulatory and reportorial matters involving the Department;
- l. The Disaster Risk Reduction Service shall be responsible for reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts and programs of the Department to analyze and reduce the causal factors of disasters such as exposure to hazards, lessening vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improving preparedness and early warning for adverse events are all examples of disaster risk reduction;
- m. The Climate Change Service shall lead in the development and mainstreaming of evidence-based climate adaptation and mitigation policies of the Department through optimum coordination among key stakeholders towards achieving a climate-resilient and climate-smart Philippines with healthy, safe, prosperous, and self-reliant communities;

- n. The Rehabilitation and Recovery Management Service shall provide responsive, efficient and effective services relating to the formulation of standards for rehabilitation and recovery programs, projects, activities, and their subsequent implementation;
- o. The Strategic Communications Service shall be responsible for the formulation and implementation of the strategic communications plans and programs of the Department; serve as the public affairs arm of the Department tasked with directing, supervising and controlling the Department's public information programs and activities as well as establishing and maintaining rapport with the media and the general public;
- p. Divisions, units and offices as may be created by the Department and whose officers and employees shall be appointed in accordance with civil service law, rules, and regulations;
- q. The National Climate and Disaster Resilience Research, Education, and Training Institute under the Capacity Building and Training Service, to be headed by a Director with the rank of Director IV;
- r. Regional and other field Offices of the Department that shall be established in each administrative region, each to be headed by a Regional Director with the rank of Director IV;
- s. Bureaus that are under the supervision and control of the Department;
- t. Seconded personnel from relevant agencies and detailed service from the uniformed services, as appropriate;
- u. Grievance desks in every region, which shall serve as a referral mechanism and shall work jointly with relevant agencies, to receive complaints from the public regarding violations of this Act. It shall assist the complainant in the gathering of relevant documentation and other evidence to support said complaint. The grievance desk shall facilitate the forwarding of the complaint to the appropriate office within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof, and shall provide timely feedback and updates regarding the status of the complaint. The grievance desk shall use the best available technology to ensure that complaints are endorsed to the proper office and are addressed in a timely manner; and

- v. Seconded personnel from relevant agencies and detailed service from the AFP, as appropriate.

CHAPTER V FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 18. *Fiscal Management.* - The Department shall manage all funds appropriated to it by Congress and from other sources. This shall include all donations, as contemplated under the succeeding paragraph, subject to provisions of Section 3, paragraph (D) of Article 9, of the 1987 Constitution on the auditing powers of the Commission on Audit.

SEC. 19. *Donation.*

- a. The Department shall have the power to receive donations and grants from any person, government institution, corporation, international organization and other similar entities, and the power to recommend the procurement of developmental assistance for the purpose of disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management and climate change adaptation.
- b. It shall be mandatory for the Department to acknowledge and certify the receipt of all DDR grant and donated funds and ensure their judicious management including their proper and accurate audit reporting to constituents.
- c. The importation and donation of food, clothing, medicine and equipment for relief and recovery and other disaster management and recovery-related supplies is hereby authorized in accordance with, Section 800, Chapter 1, Title 8, of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs and Tariff Modernization Act”, as amended, and the prevailing provisions of the General Appropriations Act covering national internal revenue taxes and import duties of national and local government agencies;

All imports and donations under Section 11 (c) of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CTMA)” shall be considered as importation or donation to the Department, subject to the approval of the Office of the President.

CHAPTER VI
WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT AND WHOLE OF NATION APPROACH

SEC. 20. *National Disaster Resilience Council.* – Thereby created the National Disaster Resilience Council (NDRC), which shall serve as the policy advisory body to the Department on disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation, consistent with the policies and scope as defined in this Act.

1. The NDRC shall be chaired by the Secretary of Disaster Resilience and shall be composed of the following:
 - a. Secretary of Science and Technology;
 - b. Secretary of the Interior and Local Government;
 - c. Secretary of Social Welfare and Development;
 - d. Secretary of National Defense;
 - e. Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority;
 - f. Secretary of Health;
 - g. Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources;
 - h. Secretary of Agriculture;
 - i. Secretary of Education;
 - j. Secretary of Energy;
 - k. Secretary of Finance;
 - l. Secretary of Trade and Industry;
 - m. Secretary of Transportation;
 - n. Secretary of Budget and Management;
 - o. Secretary of Public Works and Highways;
 - p. Secretary of Foreign Affairs;
 - q. Secretary of Justice
 - r. Secretary of Labor and Employment;
 - s. Secretary of Tourism;
 - t. Secretary of Human Settlements and Urban Development
 - u. Secretary of Information and Communications Technology;
 - v. Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process;
 - w. Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education;
 - x. Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;
 - y. Chief of the Philippine National Police;
 - z. Head of the Presidential Communications Operations Office;
 - aa. Secretary-General of the Philippine National Red Cross;
 - bb. Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights;
 - cc. Executive Director of the Council for Welfare of Children;
 - dd. Lead Convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission;
 - ee. Chairperson of the Philippine Commission on Women;

- ff. Chairperson of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council;
 - gg. Chairperson of the National Council for Disability Affairs;
 - hh. Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Filipinos;
 - ii. Chairperson of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos;
 - jj. Chairperson of the National Youth Commission;
 - kk. President of the Government Service Insurance System;
 - ll. President of the Social Security System;
 - mm. President of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation;
 - nn. President of the Home Development Mutual Fund;
 - oo. President of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines;
 - pp. President of the League of Provinces of the Philippines;
 - qq. President of the League of Cities of the Philippines;
 - rr. President of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines;
 - ss. President of the Liga ng mga Barangays;
 - tt. Maximum of six (6) representatives from the academia and other relevant research institutions;
 - uu. Maximum of six (6) representatives from the Civil Society Organizations; and
 - vv. Maximum of six (6) representatives from the private sector.
3. Composition - The Council is hereby organized into five (5) clusters, namely, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation to be led by DOST, Disaster Preparedness to be led by DILG, Disaster Response by DSWD, Logistics led by DND, and Recovery and Sustainable Development led by NEDA;
 4. Technical Management Advisory Group - The Department may constitute, as the need arises, a technical management advisory group from the different stakeholders, that shall coordinate and meet with the Department as often as necessary to effectively manage and sustain national efforts on disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and emergency management, and climate change adaptation and mitigation; and
 5. Guidelines for the Department of Disaster Resilience Fund (DDRF) and Local Disaster Resilience Fund (LDRF) - The Department shall provide the necessary guidelines and procedures on the DDRF and the LDRF releases as well as utilization, accounting and auditing thereof.

SECTION 21. *Monitoring, Reporting and Validation*

1. Monitoring and Reporting. On or before the last quarter of the preceding year, member-agencies of the National Disaster Resilience Council shall submit to the Department through the Council Secretariat

their respective DDR annual work and financial plans (AWFPs) for the next year. The AWFPs shall be based on the DDR Plan.

The member-agencies shall submit to the Secretariat quarterly progress reports of their implementation of the AWFPs within thirty (30) days from the end of each quarter.

The Department is likewise accountable, liable and responsible for monitoring and requiring the appropriate implementation of remedial measures by member-agencies of the Council during a state of calamity. It shall have the authority and power to require reports from the appropriate member-agencies regarding implementation of such measures.

2. Validation. The Secretary shall require the submission of reports from LGUs to validate the progress reports of the Council member-agencies. Submission shall be through the local field offices of the DDR.

Every two (2) years, the implementation of the Climate-Disaster Resilience Plan (CDRP) and utilization of the Local Disaster Resilience Fund (LDRF) of each province, LGUs, independent city shall be evaluated by the Regional Disaster Resilience Council (RDRC) based on appropriate criteria, such as the award, recognition, citation criteria for provinces, cities and municipalities, barangay and stakeholders.

- a. The Regional Disaster Resilience Councils (RDRC) – The Regional Disaster Resilience Councils (RDRCs) shall coordinate, integrate, supervise, and evaluate the activities of the LDRCs. It shall be accountable, responsible and liable for ensuring climate-disaster risk sensitive and inclusive regional development plans, and in case of emergencies shall convene the different regional line agencies and authorities, concerned institutions, developmental partners and multiple stakeholders.

The Regional Directors of the Department shall serve as chairpersons of the RDRCs and the Regional Directors of the DSWD, the DILG, and the NEDA shall serve as cluster heads. In the case of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the Chief Minister shall be the RDRC Chairperson. In the case of Metro Manila, the MDRC shall be headed by the Chairperson of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

The RDRCs shall establish the RDRC Secretariat and operating facility to be known as the Regional Disaster Resilience Council Secretariat and Operations Center (RDRC). The RDRCs shall be composed of concerned regional agencies, offices, LGUs and other multiple stakeholders.

- b. LDRC Budgetary Requirements of LDRO - The budgetary requirements for personal services, maintenance and other operating expenditures, and capital outlay of the LDRO shall be sourced from the General Fund of the LGU, subject to Section 76 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991, as amended. The enforcement of Sections 325(a) and 331(b) of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended shall be waived to enable the LGUs to fund the initial year requirements for the creation of the minimum five (5) mandatory positions of the LDRO.

Other maintenance and operating expenditures, and other capital outlay requirements of the LDRO in the implementation of disaster risk and vulnerability reduction management and climate change adaptation programs shall be charged to the Local Climate-Disaster Resilience Fund of the LGUs.

- i. Establish linkage or network with other LGUs for disaster risk and vulnerability reduction, climate change adaptation and emergency response purposes;
- ii. Recommend through the LDRC, the enactment of local ordinances consistent with the requirements of this Act;
- iii. Establish a Provincial City, Municipal, and Barangay Climate and Disaster Resilience Operations Center; and
- iv. Encourage Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations OCCs to establish their own Climate and Disaster Resilience Operations Center within their territories.

SEC. 22. *Synergy with Stakeholders.* - The Department shall ensure seamless synergy and coordination with stakeholders, including CSOs, the academe, and the private sector, in relation to disaster resilience programs and projects and the development and promotion of research, education, and training mechanisms with relevant stakeholders. The Department shall establish a platform, paradigm, and mechanisms for convergence and coordination with stakeholders, including the development of standards, protocols, and procedures for collaboration for disaster resilience.

SEC. 23. *Establishment of a Multi-Stakeholders Convergence Unit.* – The Department, with the assistance of other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, shall establish a Multi-Stakeholders Convergence Unit (MSCU), which shall align the disaster resilience efforts of the private sector, CSOs, academe, and other stakeholders with the Department by assisting, coordinating, or providing services that strengthen public-private cooperation and coordination in disaster resilience, including the following:

1. Establishment and implementation of business continuity practices to ensure the continued delivery of products and services, in the event of disasters.
2. Establishment and implementation of a National Continuity Policy to ensure service continuity during power and utilities interruptions, emergencies, and disasters and ensure the quick return to full operations.
3. Establishment, incorporation, and application of business continuity plans as part of the disaster resilience plans of local government units.
4. Facilitation or assistance in obtaining or processing incentives for the private sector or other non-government stakeholders.
5. Preparation and facilitating the issuance of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), such as mechanisms involving procurement and liquidity to create enabling environments for disaster preparedness and recovery.

The MSCU shall establish a platform that includes, among others, a database for monitoring and coordinating efforts and resources of stakeholders.

CHAPTER VII DISASTER RISK AND VULNERABILITY REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MAINSTREAMING, INTEGRATION AND CONVERGENCE

SEC. 24. *Integration of DRR and Climate Change Adaptation in the Climate and Disaster Resilience Framework and Plan.* – The existing National Disaster Resilience Framework and plan and the National Climate Change Strategic Framework and Plan shall be enhanced by the Climate and Disaster Resilience Framework and plan which provides for the comprehensive probabilistic multi-hazards, multi-scenario, multi-sectorial, resilience-building, and community risk-based approach and management of disaster and climate risk, and provide for the integration of disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and climate change

adaptation, as well as the mainstreaming in other sectoral policies. It shall be reviewed every three (3) years.

The Climate and Disaster Resilience Plan shall provide for the following:

1. Identification of the underlying factors of risk, or the nature and degree of hazards, vulnerabilities, exposures and capacities, which need to be managed at the national level;
2. Disaster risk and vulnerabilities reduction and management approaches and strategies to be applied in managing said hazards and risks;
3. Agency roles, responsibilities, and lines of authority at all government levels; and
4. Vertical and horizontal coordination of climate change adaptation, disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management before, during, and after a disaster. The Climate and disaster resilience plan shall be in conformity with the framework.

The climate and disaster resilience framework and plan for climate-disaster risk governance, climate vulnerability assessment, risk assessment and risk management shall be formulated and jointly approved by the NDRC and the CCC.

SEC. 25. *Ecosystem-Based Approach to Prevention and Mitigation, Rehabilitation and Recovery from Disaster.* – The Department shall ensure the application of ecosystems-based approaches in disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and climate change adaptation, particularly through ecosystem management and restoration as defined in this Act, and ensuring that environmental and natural resource policies are risk-informed.

CHAPTER VIII

CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESEARCH EDUCATION, AND TRAINING INSTITUTE

SEC. 26. *Creation of the Climate and Disaster Research, Education, and Training Institute.* –

1. Within one (1) year from approval of this Act, the Department shall establish the Climate and Disaster Research, Education, and Training Institute in collaboration with higher education institutions and Private and State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) which shall be a world-class center of

excellence for learning and research in the field of disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management and climate change adaptation;

2. The Climate and Disaster Research, Education, and Training Institute shall be headed by a Director. The organizational structure and staffing pattern shall be determined by the Department in consultation with the DBM and in accordance with civil service laws, rules and regulations;
3. The Climate and Disaster Research, Education, and Training Institute shall have the following functions:
 - a. Establish regional branches as well as provincial, city or municipal branches if deemed necessary, to train individuals from the public and private sectors in the fields of disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management, climate change adaptation, and ecosystem management and restoration, among others;
 - b. Develop and implement an inclusive and ladderized curricula on climate change adaptation, and disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management;
 - c. Develop research programs and a knowledge management system on climate change adaptation and disaster risk and vulnerability reduction management for the purpose of innovation and capacity building and development;
 - d. Partner with public and private academic and research institutions, the private sector, civil society, community-based disaster risk and vulnerability reduction management and climate change adaptation practitioners, and other relevant sectors in developing research opportunities and programs on climate vulnerability and disaster risk assessment;
 - e. Establish a resource center for information, education and communication materials, research, publications, best work practices, lessons identified and learned, and other knowledge products on disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management, and climate change adaptation;
 - f. Consolidate and prepare information, education and communication and training materials or publications to assist disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management, and climate change

adaptation practitioners in the planning and implementation of their plans, programs, projects and activities;

- g. Organize and recognize a community of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and management practitioners; and
- h. Accredite, recognize, monitor and evaluate climate change adaptation, disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management training institutions.

4. Financial Support to the Center:

- a. The budget for the Climate and Disaster Resilience Research and Training Center shall be sourced from the annual General Appropriations Act.
- b. The Department shall assist in the establishment of Research and Training Centers at the provincial, city, and municipal governments, as appropriate. The funding for such local Climate and Disaster Research and Training Centers may be sourced from the eighty (80%) percent portion of the LDRF and other financial sources of the local government unit concerned.

CHAPTER IX

INTEGRATION MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNICATION CONVERGENCE

SEC. 27. *The Department shall establish a National and Regional Information Management System for Climate and Disaster Resilience.* – It shall constitute a physical central database of all disaster risk reduction and climate change data, including a geographic information system on geo-hazard assessments and climate risk. It shall be the repository of current and multi-temporal information for wide-scale disaster risk analysis and climate change vulnerability assessment. The CDRIMS shall at all times be made available to the Emergency Operations Center of the National and Regional Climate and Disaster Resilience Council (NRCDRC) development partners and multi-stakeholders to access critical information and ensure that the collection processing, analysis and dissemination of information is timely, reliable and accurate to support overall decision making and effective coordination both at the national and sub-national level.

SECTION 28. *Disaster Resilience and Climate Change Education and Training.* –

1. The Department of Education, CHED, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in coordination with the National Youth Commission (NYC), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and other relevant agencies, developmental institutions, and non-government organizations shall integrate disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and climate change adaptation education in the school curricula at all levels of education, from K to12 to tertiary levels, including the early and adult learning programs, National Service Training Program (NSTP), and education for children and persons with special needs, whether private or public, including formal and non-formal, technical-vocational, indigenous learning, out-of-school youth courses and programs, and other channels of educational integration, including media, church, entertainment centers (malls), international and domestic airports and transport terminals.
2. The Civil Service Commission (CSC), Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC), and other licensure bodies shall integrate disaster risk and vulnerability reduction management and climate change adaptation questions in all professional and licensure examinations.
3. In coordination with the Department and the Disaster Resilience Research and Training Institute shall develop a curriculum for courses or subjects specific to disaster risk and vulnerability reduction management and climate change adaptation, and shall mandate all tertiary learning institutions to offer these subjects.
4. The Parents and Teachers Community Associations shall initiate, support, and participate in disaster risk and vulnerability reduction management and climate change adaptation related activities in schools and host communities.
5. The DepEd, the CHED, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and other developmental institutions, community-based practitioners and organized non-governmental organizations shall formulate and institutionalize flexible learning options such as online modules, supplemental learning materials, resources and platforms, as part of its climate

change adaptation, disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and governance, analysis, and management strategy.

6. The DepEd, CHED, TESDA, developmental institutions and community-based organizations shall regularly review, monitor, evaluate and report to the Council the status of integration, mainstreaming and implementation of climate change adaptation, disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management in public-private schools and other learning institutions.
7. The LDROs shall form formal partnerships with tertiary learning institutions within their respective jurisdictions to provide standard and ladderized training programs for LGU officials and other disaster risk and vulnerability reduction management and climate change adaptation.
8. The DRC, the RDRCs, the LDRCs, the LDROs, the BDRCs, and the Sangguniang Kabataan shall encourage the community, specifically the youth, participation in disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and climate change adaptation activities, such as Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaigns organizing quick response groups, particularly in identified disaster-prone areas, as well as the inclusion of DRVR-climate change adaptation programs as part of programs and projects of the Sangguniang Kabataan, youth organizations and community-based disaster risk and vulnerability reduction management and anticipatory adaptation initiatives.
9. There shall be a mandatory training climate change adaptation-DRVR for public and private sector employees, including teachers and Climate-Disaster Resilience Coordinators from both the public and private learning institutions, shall be trained in emergency preparedness and response in compliance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 29. *Standard Mechanism for Cascading Information, Education and Communication on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Reduction Management.*

1. The DRC shall promote and advocate a culture of resilience and responsible-accountable, liable and responsible citizenship through information, education and communication that is appropriate, integrated, calibrated, inclusive, localized, science- and risk-based, gender, culture and disability sensitive and accessible using multimedia. Information, education,

and communication on climate change adaptation and disaster risk and vulnerability reduction management should be compelling but not alarming.

2. The NDRC shall formulate a Strategic Risk Communications Plan to encompass the entirety of disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and climate change adaptation to achieve the desired behavioral and attitudinal change towards responsible citizenship and culture of resilience. It shall serve as a reference on continuous awareness raising and education at all levels of the government and multiple stakeholders.
3. A Climate and Disaster Resilience Information Officer shall be designated at all levels of the Department to ensure implementation of the disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management and climate change adaptation information, education, and communication campaign and shall serve as the primary coordinator for the dissemination of information, education, and communication on climate change adaptation and disaster risk and vulnerability reduction management.

SEC 30. *Declaration of Imminent Disaster.* – The DDR shall provide guidance and operating guidelines to LDRCs for the declaration of imminent disaster in their respective areas which shall allow them to implement preemptive measures and use their quick response funds in order to save lives and minimize damage to property, loss of livelihood and other assets;

SEC. 31. *Flash Appeal or Appeal for International Assistance.* – Upon consultation with the NDRC and in cognizance of the urgency, criticality and intensity of an imminent risk, the DDR shall issue a flash appeal to the family of nations, under regional and multilateral conventions, for assistance in preparedness including preemptive measures, search, rescue and retrieval, relief, recovery, and reconstruction.

CHAPTER X

CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK INSURANCE AND INCENTIVES

SEC. 32. *Climate and Disaster Risk Transfer, Insurance and Social Welfare* –

1. The Department shall oversee all climate and disaster risk-sharing and risk-transfer instruments and other related initiatives to ensure the protection of property and livelihood, both public and private.
2. The Department shall ensure the mandatory insurance of all assets and properties of national government agencies including

government-owned or controlled corporations, and those over which the government has insurable interest, as prescribed under Republic Act No. 656, otherwise known as the “Property Insurance Law”. The insurance shall be provided by any government insurance agency.

3. The Department shall oblige the local government units the mandatory insurance coverage of assets, properties and livelihood of vulnerable and marginalized groups for unforeseen or contingent potential losses, damages and disruption from natural hazards and human-induced disasters chargeable against the LDRF.
4. Recognition and Incentives. - Unless otherwise provided, the Department shall establish an incentives program that recognizes outstanding performance of LDRC, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), private sectors, schools, hospitals, and other stakeholders in promoting and implementing significant disaster risk and vulnerability reduction management-climate change adaptation programs and innovations, and meritorious acts of individuals, groups or institutions during natural or human-induced disasters.

CHAPTER XI PREPAREDNESS AND INTEGRATED EARLY WARNING

SEC. 34. *Standards for Disaster Preparedness Activities.* -

1. The NDRC shall establish standards for disaster preparedness, contingency planning, localizing and operationalizing disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management, preparedness for disaster response, preparedness for early recovery, continuity of essential services, and other relevant preparedness activities.
2. LGUs shall identify safe or strategic sites, and establish evacuation centers with appropriate and adequate facilities in accordance with government-approved standards as provided under Republic Act No. 10821, otherwise known as “The Children’s Emergency Relief Protection Act”, in order to avoid disruption of school classes and lessen the use of school buildings and facilities as evacuation centers.

The LGUs shall immediately compensate schools used as evacuation centers. The schools may seek compensation, renovation or repairs of damaged facilities for such use.

SEC. 35. *Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Risk Communication Standards.*

- a. There shall be a streamlined policy governing early warning systems and risk communication protocols to ensure effective and efficient measures to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from possible risk caused by natural and human-induced hazards and climate risk. The NDRC shall issue and the Department shall oversee and monitor the implementation of this policy.
- b. The Department and all other concerned agencies with an integrated early warning and information mandate shall collaborate with the local executives and officers to disseminate climate-disaster risk information through the involvement of local government units, community-based organizations, civil society organizations, and other non- governmental organizations.

SEC. 36. *Early Warning Mandate. -*

1. The department shall issue an integrated early warning for hydro-meteorological, geologic, or terrestrial phenomena to the appropriate government agencies or government-accredited organizations for forecasting and early warning purposes. The Department shall recognize and proactively support local or indigenous modes of early warning systems and allow open access to real-time data from both local and international sources made available through various platforms such as websites, mobile apps, and social media to empower local communities and individuals.
2. The Department shall enhance and strengthen Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) mandates under Republic Act No. 10692 and Executive Order No. 128 s. 1987, respectively.
3. The Department shall recognize and proactively support local or indigenous modes of early warning systems and allow open access to real-time data from both local and international sources made available through various platforms such as websites, mobile apps, and social media to empower local communities and individuals.
4. Transmission of Early Warning. A person who transmits early warning concerning the above mentioned phenomena by means of signs in

designs, colors, lights, or sound shall do so in compliance with the methods recognized or approved by the NDRC.

5. The NDRC at the national and subnational level shall consider the use of integrated early warning system to ensure it is consistent and locally contextualized with the communication protocol and safe evacuation procedure of the affected communities to achieve zero casualty, to zero death.
6. The Department shall consider working with other agencies or organizations on pre-crisis information mapping of the humanitarian needs of the at-risk community that will enhance the overall prepositioning of resources at the national and local level.

CHAPTER XII DISASTER RESPONSE AND EARLY RECOVERY

SEC. 37. *Declaration of State of Calamity.* – The Department shall declare a cluster of barangays, municipalities, cities, provinces, and regions under a state of calamity, and the lifting thereof, based on the criteria set by the NDRC.

The declaration and lifting of the state of calamity may also be issued by the local Sanggunian, upon the recommendation of the LDRO, based on the results of the damage assessment and needs analysis. Provided: That the Department, through the LDRC, may seek from the local legislative body or Sanggunian, the declaration of a state of imminent disaster to enable the local executives to implement pre-emptive evacuation and precautionary measures in order to save lives and minimize damage to property, loss of livelihoods, and disruption of livelihood that require the use of funds and resources under the LDRF.

SEC. 38. *Emergency Management.* – The respective Climate and Disaster Resilience Councils shall lead in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the effects of any disaster, upon due consideration to the economics of classification, capacity and vulnerability of the local governments concerned:

1. The BDRC, if one barangay is affected;
2. The city/municipal DRCs, if two (2) or more barangays are affected;
3. The provincial DRC, if two (2) or more cities/municipalities are affected;
4. The regional DRC, if two (2) or more provinces are affected; and
5. The NDRC, if two (2) or more regions are affected

SEC. 39. *Humanitarian Assistance Action Center.* – The DRC shall institutionalize a one-stop shop mechanism through the Humanitarian Assistance Action Center for the processing and release of goods, articles or equipment intended for humanitarian assistance and the processing of necessary documents for international assisting actors. The Humanitarian Assistance Action Center shall be managed by the Department and shall be composed of the following NDRC agencies:

1. Department of Finance-Bureau of Customs;
2. Department of Foreign Affairs;
3. Department of Social Welfare and Development;
4. Department of Health;
5. Food and Drug Administration;
6. Department of Agriculture;
7. Department of Energy;
8. Philippine National Police;
9. Philippine Coast Guard; and
10. Department of Justice - Bureau of Immigration

SEC. 40. *Accreditation, Mobilization, and Protection of Disaster Volunteers and National Service Reserve Corps, CSOs and the Private Sector.* – The government agencies, CSOs, private sector and LGUs may mobilize individuals or organized volunteers to augment their respective personnel complement and logistical requirements in the delivery of disaster risk reduction programs and activities. The agencies, CSOs, private sector, and LGUs concerned shall take full responsibility for the enhancement, welfare and protection of volunteers, and shall submit the list of volunteers to the Department, through the LDROs, for accreditation and inclusion in the database of community disaster volunteers.

A national roster of Accredited Community Disaster Resilience Volunteers (ACDRVs) and institutions, National Service Reserve Corps, CSOs and the private sector shall be maintained by the Department through the LDROs. Accreditation shall be done at the municipal or city level.

The mobilization of volunteers shall be in accordance with this Act and implementing guidelines to be formulated by the NDRC. Any volunteer who died or was injured while engaging in any of the activities defined under this Act shall be entitled to compensatory benefits and individual personal accident insurance as may be defined under the guidelines.

SEC. 41. *Reporting of Humanitarian Assistance.* – The concerned local government unit shall submit a report to the Department, all domestic or

international humanitarian assistance received and distributed within its area of responsibility.

CHAPTER XIII INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

SEC. 42. *International Humanitarian Assistance.* – The Department shall promulgate guidelines on international humanitarian assistance, including the initiation, entry, facilitation, transit, regulation, and termination thereof, as well as those involving international disaster relief and personnel assisting international actors, visa waiver, recognition of foreign professional qualifications, entry of international disaster goods and equipment, and exemption from port duties, taxes and restrictions.

SEC. 43. *Assessment of the Need for International Humanitarian Assistance.*

1. Immediately after the declaration of a state of calamity by the sanggunian of a local government unit or by the Department, as the case may be, the Department shall determine as to whether domestic capacities are likely to be sufficient to attend to the needs of affected persons for international humanitarian assistance, this determination may also be made by the President, prior to the onset of an imminent disaster.
2. In the event the Department determines that domestic response capacities are not likely to be sufficient due to the impact of the disaster, the Department shall recommend to the President that a request be made for international humanitarian assistance.
3. A determination that domestic capacities are likely to be sufficient and that international humanitarian assistance is therefore unnecessary may be reviewed and rescinded by the Department, with the approval of the President, at any time, in light of prevailing circumstances and available information.

SEC. 44. *Request for International Humanitarian Assistance.* – The President may request for international humanitarian assistance upon the advice of the Department. Such a request may be specifically directed to particular assisting international actors, or it may be a general request directed to the international community.

SEC. 45. *Humanitarian Assistance Action Center.* – The Department shall institutionalize an inter-agency one-stop shop mechanism called through the Philippine International Humanitarian Assistance Reception Action Center (PIHARAC) for the processing and release of entry and facilitation of goods, articles or equipment, and services of international relief workers for the provision of international humanitarian assistance, and the processing of necessary documents for assisting international actors.

CHAPTER XIV OFFER AND FACILITATION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN STATES

SEC. 46. *Offer and Facilitation of International Humanitarian Assistance to Foreign States.* – In the event of a disaster occurring in a foreign state for which international humanitarian assistance is required, the Department may offer, facilitate and provide international humanitarian assistance to such foreign state, which shall be subject to guidelines to be promulgated by the Department for the purpose.

SECTION 47. *Accreditation.* – The Department, in coordination with relevant government agencies and organizations, shall provide and facilitate the necessary training and accreditation to the respective government personnel to be deployed for such offer, facilitation and provision of international humanitarian assistance to a foreign state.

CHAPTER XV LEGAL FACILITIES FOR ELIGIBLE ASSISTING INTERNATIONAL ACTORS

SECTION 48. *Guidelines for Coordination of International Humanitarian Assistance.* – The DRC shall issue comprehensive guidelines on the initiation, entry, facilitation, transit and regulation of international relief goods and personnel, as well as eligibility guidelines to utilize the legal facilities for assisting international actors provided hereunder.

SECTION 49. *Visa Waiver.* – Eligible assisting international actors shall be entitled to waiver of entry visa requirements, including any associated fees or charges, to perform Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance work for their sponsoring entities without the requirement to seek a separate residence or work permit.

SECTION 50. *Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications.* –

1. Eligible assisting international actors wishing to deploy international personnel for tasks requiring legal recognition of their foreign professional qualifications shall certify the validity of those qualifications under the law of the country where they were obtained and the competence of their personnel for the tasks envisaged.
- 2.
3. The Department shall establish the guidelines and scope for recognition of foreign professional qualifications for disaster response and early recovery.
4. Recognition of qualifications shall remain valid until the end of the International Initial Recovery Period, absent individual criminal conduct or other professional misconduct sufficient to bar the individual from professional practice in the country.

SEC. 51. *Recognition of Foreign Driving Licenses.* – Foreign driving licenses of eligible assisting international actors shall be accorded temporary recognition during the International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Periods.

SEC. 52. *Facilitation of Access.* – The international personnel of eligible assisting international actors shall be allowed access to disaster-affected areas and persons requiring Disaster Relief or Initial Recovery Assistance, subject to coordination requirements as mandated by the Authority and limitations based on national security, public order or public health, weighed in the context of the urgency of the disaster needs. They shall be permitted to provide their goods and services directly to affected persons.

A. ENTRY OF INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF GOODS AND EQUIPMENT

SEC. 53. *Customs Facilitation and Priority Treatment.* – The Department shall facilitate the rapid importation of consignments of goods and equipment by eligible assisting actors and shall accord them priority treatment in handling.

SEC. 54. *Duty of Compliance by Eligible Assisting Actors.* – In order to benefit from the aforementioned legal facilities, eligible assisting international actors shall:

- a. Declare that all the goods and equipment they seek to import under this Part are exclusively for Disaster Relief or Initial Recovery Assistance and that they comply with any relevant standards under Philippine laws; and

- b. Pack, classify and mark their consignments in accordance with the requirements described in this Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 55. Exemption from Import Duties, Taxes and Restrictions. – Consignments of goods and equipment by or on behalf of eligible assisting international actors shall benefit from:

1. Exemption from all duties and taxes;
2. Waiver of economic prohibitions and restrictions except for categories of special goods and equipment that may be indicated by the Department; and
3. Clearance without regard to the country of origin or the country from which the goods have arrived, subject to monitoring for reasons of public health and security.

B. EXPEDITED ENTRY AND USE RESTRICTION FOR SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF GOODS AND EQUIPMENT

SEC. 56. *Simplification of Documentation Requirements.* –

- a. Consignment of goods and equipment sent by or on behalf of eligible assisting international actors shall be cleared or released on the basis of a simplified goods declaration providing the minimum information necessary for the Bureau of Customs to identify the goods and equipment and subject, when deemed necessary, to completion of a more complete declaration within a specified period.
- b. The requirements for the declaration for all imports of goods or equipment by or on behalf of eligible assisting international actors and any supporting documents relating to said consignment, release and clearance of goods or equipment shall be simplified and lodged without fee.

SEC. 58. *Medications.* – Eligible assisting international actors shall be permitted to import and transport medications and medical equipment for the purpose of Disaster Relief or Initial Recovery Assistance so long as they conform to the implementing rules and regulations to be provided by the NDRC.

SEC. 59. *Food.* – Food imported by eligible assisting international actors for disaster relief and recovery shall be admitted pursuant to expedited procedures set out by the DRC.

SEC. 60. *Imported Vehicles.* – The granting of local registration and plates for vehicles imported by eligible assisting international actors shall be expedited.

C. PERMITTED DISPOSITION OF EQUIPMENT AND UNUSED GOODS.

SEC 61. *Disposition of Equipment and Unused Goods.* – The DRC shall provide for the guidelines for retention, re-exportation, donation and disposal of unused goods and equipment after the termination of Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance operations.

CHAPTER XVI RECOVERY

SEC. 62. *Standards for Recovery.* – The Department shall observe internationally accepted standards for recovery, planning, programming and implementation of the recovery process shall:

1. Improve the community's physical, social and economic resilience, consistent with the principle of "build forward better";
2. Use locally-driven and centrally-supported processes based on legal mandates with supplementary capacity support when requested;
3. Redirect development outside danger zones to minimize loss of lives and structures resulting from typhoons, flooding, landslides, and other hazards;
4. Employ outcome-driven planning and implementation;
5. Maximize use of private-public sector partnership where possible;
6. Consider local conditions such as culture, security situation, and existing capacities of communities in identifying programs and projects;
7. Ensure access to public transport, physical and mental health services, markets, schools, sustainable livelihoods, and other public services in planning for settlement areas; and
8. Ensure restoration of peace and order and recovery of government functions.

CHAPTER XVII
REMEDIAL MEASURES UNDER STATE OF CALAMITY

SEC. 63. Remedial Measures under State of Calamity. – Upon the declaration of the state of calamity, the following remedial measures shall be immediately undertaken by concerned government agencies both of national and local levels:

1. Imposition of price ceiling on basic necessities and prime commodities by the National Price Control Council, as provided for under Republic Act No. 7581, otherwise known as the "Price Act", as amended by Republic Act. No.10623;
2. Monitoring, prevention and control by the Local Price Coordination Council of overpricing/profitteering and hoarding of prime commodities, medicines and petroleum products;
3. Programming/reprogramming of funds for the repair of critical facilities or public infrastructures that are vital for the quick delivery of humanitarian assistance, to reduce further threat to lives and arrest further deterioration of properties and loss of livelihoods in the affected communities, following the "build better forward" principle:
 - a. Grant of no-interest loans by government financing or lending institutions to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups or individuals; and
 - b. tax exemptions, incentives or reliefs under such terms and conditions as may be deemed necessary by the affected local government unit.

CHAPTER XVIII
PROCUREMENT

SEC. 64. General Rule on Procurement. – Any procurement of goods, services, consultancy or infrastructure for disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and climate risk, whether at the national or local level shall conform to the provisions and Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as "Government Procurement Reform Act", as amended.

SECTION 65. Emergency Procurement. – In order to expedite disaster response and early recovery, the procurement or lease of equipment and delivery of goods and services through emergency procurement or purchase at site shall be allowed. Periods of action on procurement activities may also be waived for the same purpose and conditions.

CHAPTER XIX
PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES

SEC. 66. *Prohibited Acts.* - Any public official, private person, group or corporation who commits any of the following prohibited acts shall be liable and be subjected to the criminal and administrative penalties as provided for in Section 67 of this Act, without prejudice to the imposition of other criminal, civil and administrative liabilities under existing laws.

1. Prohibited Acts Of Public Officials - The following acts, if committed by public officials without justifiable cause, shall be considered as gross neglect of duty:
 - a. Dereliction of duties which leads to destruction, loss of lives, critical damage of facilities and misuse of funds;
 - b. Failure to create a functional LDR Office within six (6) months from approval of this Act;
 - c. Failure to appoint a permanent local disaster resilience officer within six (6) months from approval of this Act;
 - d. Failure to prepare and implement a Contingency and Adaptation Plan for hazards frequently occurring within their jurisdictions;
 - e. Failure to formulate and implement the LDRP with the corresponding budget allocation;
 - f. Sexual exploitation and abuse, and other forms of sexual misconduct to the affected population or at-risk communities shall be punishable under existing criminal and administrative laws.
2. Prohibited Acts of Public Officials and Private Persons or Institutions
 - a. Delaying, without justifiable cause in the delivery or improper handling or storage of aid commodities, resulting to damage or spoilage;
 - b. Withholding the distribution of relief goods due to (a) political or partisan considerations; (b) discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, or gender; and (c) other similar circumstances;
 - c. Preventing the entry and distribution of relief goods in disaster-stricken areas, including appropriate technology, tools, equipment, accessories, disaster teams or experts;

- d. Buying, for consumption or resale, from disaster relief agencies any relief goods, equipment or other and commodities which are intended for distribution to disaster affected communities;
- e. Buying, for consumption or resale, from disaster affected persons, relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities received by them;
- f. Selling of relief goods, equipment, or other aid commodities which are intended for distribution to disaster victims;
- g. Forcibly seizing relief goods, equipment, or other aid commodities intended for or consigned to a specific group of victims or relief agency;
- h. Diverting or misdelivery of relief goods, equipment, or other aid commodities to persons other than the rightful recipient or consignee;
- i. Accepting, possessing, using or disposing relief goods, equipment or other aid commodities not intended for nor consigned to them;
- j. Misrepresenting the source of relief goods, equipment, or other aid commodities by:
 - i. Repacking the goods, equipment, or other aid commodities into containers with different markings to make it appear that the goods came from another agency or persons or was released upon the instance of a particular agency or persons; and
 - ii. Making a false verbal claim that the goods, equipment or other commodities in their untampered original containers actually came from another agency or persons or was released upon the instance of a particular agency or persons.
- k. Substituting or replacing relief goods, equipment, or other aid commodities with the same items or of inferior/cheaper quality;
- l. Illegal solicitations by persons or organizations representing others as defined in the standards and guidelines set by the NDRC;
- m. Deliberate use of false or inflated data in support of the request for funding, relief goods, equipment, or other aid commodities for emergency assistance or livelihood projects;

- n. Stealing, taking, or possessing of any of the equipment, accessories and other vital facility or items or any part thereof;
- o. Selling or buying stolen equipment, accessories, and other vital facility items or any part thereof;
- p. Tampering with or stealing hazard monitoring and disaster preparedness equipment and paraphernalia.
- q. Attempting to commit any of the abovementioned prohibited acts; and
- r. Benefitting from the proceeds or fruits of any of the abovementioned prohibited acts knowing that the proceeds or fruits are derived from the commission of the prohibited acts.
- s. Over pricing, profiteering and hoarding of prime commodities, medicines and petroleum products as defined in section 5 of RA 7581.
- t. Unnecessary increase of price on basic commodities during disaster subject to rules and regulations of DTI, LPCC, and other related agencies.
- u. Dissemination of false information that caused panic, injury, and death.

SEC. 67. Penalties. – The following penalties shall be imposed on any individual, corporation, partnership, association or other juridical entity that commits any of the prohibited acts in the preceding section:

- a. Imprisonment of not less than twelve (12) years but not more than fifteen (15) years or a fine of not less than One million pesos (Php1,000,000.00) but not more than Three million pesos (Php3,000,000.00), or both imprisonment and fine at the discretion of the court shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of violating subsections (b)(1) to (b)(16), as well as the confiscation or forfeiture in favor of the government of the objects and the instrumentalities used in the commission of the prohibited acts;
- b. Imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but not more than eight (8) years or a fine of not less than Five hundred thousand pesos (Php500,000.00) but not more than One million pesos (Php1,000,000.00), or both imprisonment and fine at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed

upon any person who attempts to commit any of the prohibited acts in the preceding section, in violation of subsection (b)(17) thereof;

c. Imprisonment of not less than two (2) years but not more than six (6) years or a fine of not less than Two hundred thousand pesos (Php200,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (Php500,000.00), or both imprisonment and fine at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of unlawfully benefiting from the proceeds or fruits of any of the prohibited in the preceding section, in violation of subsection (b)(18) thereof;

d. Perpetual disqualification from public office aside from the penalty of fine or imprisonment or both, shall be imposed if the offender is a public officer, and confiscation or forfeiture in favor of the government of the objects and the instrumentalities used in the commission of any of the prohibited in the preceding section;

e. If the offender is a corporation, partnership or association, or other juridical entity, the penalty shall be imposed upon the officer or officers of the corporation, partnership, association or entity responsible for the violation without prejudice to the cancellation or revocation of these entities' registration, license or accreditation issued to them by any licensing or accredited body of the government. If such offender is an alien, the person shall, in addition to the penalties prescribed in this Act, be deported without further proceedings after service of the sentence;

f. Payment of the full cost of repair or replacement of the government risk reduction and preparedness equipment, accessories and other vital facility items, or any part thereof, which is the object of the crime shall likewise be imposed upon any person who shall commit any of the prohibited acts in the preceding section; and

g. The prosecution for offenses set forth under the preceding section shall be without prejudice to any criminal liability for violation of Act No. 3815, as amended, otherwise known as the "Revised Penal Code", and other existing laws, as well as the imposition of applicable administrative or civil liabilities.

CHAPTER XX APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 68. *Appropriations.* -

1. The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current fiscal year's unexpended appropriation of all agencies herein absorbed, transferred, and attached to the Department. Thereafter, the amount needed for the operation and maintenance of the Department shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.
2. National Disaster Resilience Fund (NDRF). The utilization and allocation of the entire NDRF (Calamity Fund) and its quick response fund component shall be managed by the Department except as provided for by specific laws.
3. Local Disaster Resilience Fund (LDRF). Not less than seven percent (7%) of the estimated revenue from regular sources shall be set aside as the LDRF to support disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation programs, projects and activities. The LDRC shall monitor and evaluate the use and disbursement of the LDRF based on the LDRP as incorporated in the local development plans and annual work and financial plan. Upon the recommendation of the LDRO and approval of the sanggunian concerned, the LDRC may transfer the said fund to support the disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and climate change adaptation work and initiatives of other LDRCs that are declared under a state of calamity.
4. Of the amount appropriated for LDRF, twenty percent (20%) shall be allocated as Quick Response Fund (QRF) or stand-by fund for prepositioning of goods and relief and early recovery programs in order that the situation and living conditions of people in communities or areas stricken by disasters, epidemics, or complex emergencies, may be normalized as quickly as possible.
5. Of the annual appropriation of LDRF, eighty percent (80%) shall be appropriated for climate change adaptation, disaster risk and vulnerability reduction, prevention, adaptation and mitigation programs, project ands, activities focusing on both institutional capacity building of vulnerable communities and risk-reducing infrastructure. The NDRC shall pass a resolution to set the priority

allocations and govern and trigger the acceleration and implementation of this section.

6. Of the amount appropriated for the Disaster Resilience Fund, twenty percent (20%) shall be allocated as Quick Response Fund (QRF) or stand-by fund for prepositioning of goods and equipment and relief and early recovery programs in order that situation and living conditions of people in communities or areas stricken by disasters, epidemics, or complex emergencies, may be normalized as quickly as possible.
7. All departments/agencies and LGUs that are allocated with Local Disaster Resilience Fund shall submit to the Department their monthly statements on the utilization of Local Disaster Resilience Funds and make an accounting thereof in accordance with existing accounting and auditing rules.
8. All departments, bureaus, offices and agencies of the government are hereby authorized to use a portion of their appropriations to implement projects designed to address disaster risk and vulnerable reduction-climate change adaptation activities in accordance with the Disaster Resilience Plan and the guidelines to be issued by the DRC in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and Commission on Audit (COA). Unexpended LDRF shall accrue to a trust fund solely for the purpose of supporting disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation activities of the LDRCs within the next two (2) years. Any such amount still not fully utilized after two (2) years shall revert back to the general fund and will be available for other social services to be identified by the local sanggunian. The NDRC shall issue guidelines on the utilization and release of LDRF in coordination with other concerned government agencies.
9. Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness Fund for third (3rd) to sixth (6th) class provinces and municipalities. There shall be in the annual General Appropriations Act an amount allotted solely for the use of 3rd to 6th class provinces and municipalities for the purpose of augmenting their LDRF with respect to plans, programs, projects, and procurement for climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention, mitigation, and preparedness. The requirements to avail of this fund shall be laid down in rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Secretary.

CHAPTER XXI
FINAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 69. *Transfer and Attachment.* –

1. The applicable powers, functions, funds, and appropriations of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Climate Change Office (CCO), Geo-Hazard Assessment and Engineering Geology Section of Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Health and Emergency Management Bureau of the Department of Health (DOH), the Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau (DREAMB) of the DSWD, and the Bureau of Fire Protection are hereby transferred to the Department.
2. The disaster risk reduction and management functions, assets and personnel of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) currently under the DND, are hereby transferred to the Department, and the civil defense functions shall remain with the DND.
3. The existing organizational and administrative systems and processes of the transferred OCD shall serve as the core organization of the Department.
4. The Climate Change Office of the Climate Change Commission continues its functions under Republic Act No. 10174 under the Department.
5. The following agencies are hereby attached to the Department:
 - a. Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA); and
 - b. Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).
6. The employees of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) shall remain as a distinct entity within the Department including their uniformed personnel status and benefits.
7. The Department shall, by virtue of this Act, be subrogated to all the rights and assume all the liabilities of the agencies absorbed under this Act, and all their funds, records, property, assets, equipment, and such personnel as necessary, including unexpended appropriations or allocations. All contracts and liabilities of the said agencies are hereby transferred to and assumed by the Department and shall be acted upon

in accordance with the Auditing Code and other pertinent laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 70. *Separation Benefits of Officials and Employees of Affected Agencies* – National government employees displaced or separated from the service as a result of this Act shall be entitled to separation pay and other benefits in accordance with Republic Act No. 6656, otherwise known as “Government Reorganization Law” and other existing laws, rules or regulations. Provided, That those who are qualified to retire under existing retirement laws shall be allowed to retire and receive retirement benefits to which they may be entitled under applicable laws and issuances.

SEC. 71. *Magna Carta for DDR Personnel.* – Qualified employees of the DDR, Local Government Units and its attached units shall be covered by Republic Act No. 8439, known as the Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and Other Science and Technology Personnel in the Government, and Republic Act No. 7005, otherwise known as “Magna Carta for Public Health Workers.

CHAPTER XXII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 72. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department, in consultation with concerned stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from the effectiveness of this Act.

SEC 73. *Congressional Oversight Committee.* – There shall be created a Congressional Oversight Committee on Climate Change and Disaster Resilience to monitor and oversee the implementation of the provisions of this Act. The Committee shall be composed of six (6) members from the Senate and six (6) members from the House of Representatives with the Chairpersons of the Committees on National Defense and Security of both the Senate and the House of Representatives as joint Chairpersons of this Committee. The five (5) other members from each Chamber are to be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The minority shall be entitled to pro rata representation but shall have at least two (2) representatives from each Chamber.

SEC 74. *Review.* – Five (5) years after the effectivity of this Act, or as the need arises, the Congressional Oversight Committee shall conduct a systematic evaluation by the Congressional Oversight Committee of the accomplishments and impact of this Act, as well as the performance and organizational structure of its implementing agencies, for purposes of determining remedial legislation.

SEC. 75. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 76. . *Repealing Clause.* –

1. Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, is hereby repealed.
2. The following provisions are hereby amended or modified, accordingly:
 - a. Section 30 of Executive Order No. 128, Series of 1987, otherwise known as the Reorganization Act of the National Science and Technology Authority;
 - b. Section 6 of Republic Act 6975, otherwise known as the Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990;
 - c. Section 3(d) and 5 of Republic Act No. 9729, otherwise known as the Climate Change Act of 2009, as amended by Republic Act No. 10174;
 - d. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10639, otherwise known as the Free Mobile Disaster Alerts Act; and
 - e. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 10692, otherwise known as the PAGASA Modernization Act of 2016.
3. All other laws, decrees, executive orders and issuances, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended, accordingly.

SEC. 77. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,