

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2739



Introduced by Representative Julius Cesar "Jay" V. Vergara

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Indeed, in more recent years, our country has faced natural calamities that we have not seen before. Massive flooding, mudslides, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and "supertyphoons" hit the nation almost on a regular basis, exposing the lives and the livelihood of our countrymen in great peril.

During those difficult and tragic times, we call on our disaster relief teams and volunteers to respond. These individuals, who truly deserve to be called "heroes", often risk their own life and limb to rescue or give aid or relief to victims of natural and man-made calamities. By the very nature of their job description, they expose themselves to various hazards.

Sometime in December 2020, twenty-four (24) officers of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) in Northern Samar wrote a letter to President Rodrigo Duterte to appeal for the grant of compensatory benefits to them for responding to various hazards.

"It is very disheartening and demoralizing that despite our role as 'cannon fodder' to all types of hazards, not even Republic Act 10121, nor any other law or national issuance, provides for the grant of hazard pay or other similar compensatory benefits to us," the letter stated.¹

Sadly, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Executive Director, Usec. Ricardo Jalad, rejected the appeal for the simple reason that the grant of compensatory benefits to disaster personnel is not covered by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRMF) that was established under RA 10121.

¹ CNN Philippines News, *NDRRMC: No hazard pay for disaster responders for now*, 21 December 2020, available at cnnphilippines.com.

This incident further highlighted the need to amend the provisions of the “Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010” to mandate the local government units (LGUs) to grant hazard pay to the personnel of their respective Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices (LDRRMOs) and Barangay Risk Reduction and Management Committees (BRRMCs) as well as all accredited community disaster volunteers (ACDVs) enlisted to their respective territorial jurisdictions during the State of Calamity declared by the President of the Philippines.

The immediate passage of this proposed legislation is imperative as it is about time that we truly recognize the heroism, professional commitment and the sacrifices of our disaster relief workers.

Given the foregoing, this Bill is respectfully submitted for immediate consideration and approval.



JULIUS CESAR “JAY” V. VERGARA
Third District of Nueva Ecija

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1 AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10121, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
2 “THE PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT
3 ACT OF 2010” FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO
4 DISASTER RESPONSE PERSONNEL DURING STATE OF CALAMITY
5
6

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

10 **SECTION 1.** A new sub-paragraph (e) is hereby added in Section 12 of Republic
11 Act No. 10121, to read as follows:
12

13 (e) FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE STATE OF
14 CALAMITY DECLARED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
15 ON THEIR RESPECTIVE CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, THE LGU
16 SHALL GRANT A HAZARD PAY IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO
17 THOUSAND PESOS (Php2,000.00) PER MONTH TO ALL
18 PERSONNEL OF THE LDRRMO AND BDRRMC, REGARDLESS OF
19 THE STATUS OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT, AND TO ALL ACDVs
20 ENLISTED TO RESPOND TO THEIR RESPECTIVE TERRITORIAL
21 JURISDICTIONS.”
22

23 **SECTION 2.** The grant of hazard pay under this Act shall not be subject to any
24 form of tax consistent with the very purpose of this grant of incentive to local disaster
25 relief workers.
26

27 **SECTION 3.** The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this
28 Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Interior and
29 Local Government under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such
30 amount as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be
31 included in the General Appropriations Act.
32

1 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Interior and Local Government shall issue the
2 rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.
3

4 **SECTION 5.** All other laws, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts
5 thereof that are not consistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
6 amended, or modified accordingly.
7

8 **SECTION 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication
9 in Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
10

11 *Approved,*