

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2882**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PM VARGAS

AN ACT
INCLUDING RESPONSIVE, EMPOWERED, AND SERVICE-CENTERED
YOUTH IN THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL IN ALL LEVELS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 10121, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE RISK
REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2010

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, located at the rim of the turbulent Pacific Ocean and in the so-called "Ring of Fire", is extremely vulnerable to the climate crisis. In recent years, the country has endured major calamities, including Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in 2013, which killed over 6,000 and affected 14 million people, the 2013 Bohol earthquake and recurring typhoons in Mindanao. Historic disasters such as the 1990 Baguio earthquake, 1991 Pinatubo eruption, and the 2009 Storm Ondoy further highlight this vulnerability.

Despite these challenges, Filipinos consistently show resilience and a strong spirit of volunteerism. The youth in particular, play a vital role—the schools serve as relief centers and youth groups lead community efforts. In Cebu City, (RAPID) Rescue Assistance Peacekeeping Intelligence Detail) has led major rescue missions, including during Typhoon Yolanda and a sea collision in Cebu. In Ormoc, the Hayag Youth Organization trains young people in disaster preparedness and water safety, contributing to the community's safety during disasters.

Given the country's history of calamities, we must shift from a reactive relief to proactive preparedness, and youth must be at the center of this effort.

This bill proposes including the Chairperson of the National Youth Commission (NYC) in the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). The NYC Chair will represent youth perspectives in disaster prevention, education, response, and recovery.

This measure acknowledges the youth's critical role in disaster management and empowers them to help communities before, during and after crises.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PM' with a stylized flourish.

REP. PM VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Youth Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act*".

SECTION 2. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10121 is hereby amended as follows:

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act, the following shall refer to:

xxx

(PP) "YOUTH" – REFERS TO THOSE PERSONS AGED FIFTEEN (15) TO THIRTY (30) YEARS OLD AS PROVIDED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8044.

(QQ) "YOUTH PARTICIPATION" - REFERS TO THE PROCESS OF INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE INSTITUTIONS AND DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEIR LIVES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ORGANIZING GROUPS FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIONS, PLANNING THEIR PROGRAMS, AND ADVOCATING THEIR INTEREST IN THE COMMUNITY TO RAISE CONSCIOUSNESS, EDUCATE OTHERS, AND PROVIDE SERVICES.

SECTION 3. Section 5 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

Section 5. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. The present National Disaster Coordinating Council or NDCC shall henceforth be known as the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, hereinafter referred to as the NDRRMC of the National Council.

xxx

The National Council's members shall be the following:

xxx

(v) Commissioner of the National Anti-Poverty Commission Victims of Disasters and Calamities Sector (NAPCVDC):

(W) CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION (NYC);

~~{{w}}~~-(X) Chairperson, National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women;

xxx

SECTION 4. Section 7 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

Section 7. Authority of the NDRRMC Chairperson. – The Chairperson of the NDRRMC may call upon other instrumentalities or entities of the government and non-government ~~{and}~~, civic, AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, for assistance in terms of 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. This authority 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.

SECTION 5. Section 10 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

Section 10. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Organization at the Regional Level. -

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The existing regional offices of the OCD shall serve as secretariat of the RDRRMCs. The RDRRMCs shall be composed of the executives of regional offices and field stations at the regional level of the government agencies~~[-]~~, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.

SECTION 6. Section 11 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

Section 11. Organization at the Local Government Level.

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- (a) Composition: The LDRRMC shall be composed of, but not limited to, the following:

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(17) A LOCAL YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE LGU, IN CONSONANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES ISSUED BY NYC AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG);

~~[(17)]~~ (18) Four (4) accredited CSOs, members; and
~~[(18)]~~ (19) One (1) private sector representative, member.

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SECTION 7. Section 12 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

Section 12. Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (LDRRMO) –

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- (c) The provincial, city and municipal DRRMOs or BDRRMCs shall perform the following functions with impartiality given the emerging challenges brought by disasters of our times:

xxx

(8) Conduct continuous disaster monitoring and mobilize instrumentalities and entities of the LGUs, CSOs, private groups and organized volunteers, INCLUDING YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, to utilize their facilities and resources for the protection and preservation of life and properties during emergencies in accordance with existing policies and procedures;

xxx

(17) MONITOR AND ENSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESPONSE AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, SUCH AS MENTAL HEALTH AND

PSYCHO-SOCIAL SERVICES, GENDER SENSITIVITY AND
SECURITY, LIVELIHOOD AND EDUCATION;

~~{{17}}~~ (18) Within its area, promote and raise public awareness of and compliance with this Act and legislative provisions relevant to the purpose of this Act;

xxx

(d) The BDRRMC shall be a regular committee of the existing BDC and shall be subject thereto. The punong barangay shall facilitate and ensure the participation of at least ONE (1) YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE, THROUGH THE GUIDELINES FORMULATED BY THE NYC AND THE DILG; AND two (2) CSO representatives from existing and active community-based people's organizations representing the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in the barangay.

SECTION 8. Section 13 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

Section 13. Accreditation, Mobilization, and Protection of Disaster Volunteers and National Service Reserve Corps, CSOs, YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, and the Private Sector. – The government agencies, CSOs, YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, 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, YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, 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 OCD, through the LDRRMOs, for accreditation and inclusion in the database of community disaster volunteers.

A national roster of ACDVs, National Service Reserve Corps, CSOs, YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, and the private sector shall be maintained by the OCD through the LDRRMOs. Accreditation shall be done at the municipal or city level.

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THE YOUTH ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION PROGRAM (YORP) OF THE NYC, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT SPECIALIZE IN DISASTER RISK, REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT, SHALL BE TAPPED BY THE NDRRMC TO ASSIST IN PREPARING FOR, RESPONDING TO, AND RECOVERING FROM DISASTERS.

Mobilization of volunteers shall be in accordance with the guidelines to be formulated by the NDRRMC consistent with the provisions of this Act. Any volunteer who incurs death or injury while engaged in any of the activities defined under this Act shall be entitled to

compensatory benefits and individual personnel accident insurance as may be defined under the guidelines.

SECTION 9. Section 14 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

Section 14. Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction Education into the School Curricula and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Program and Mandatory Training for the Public Sector Employees.

The NDRRMC, the RDRRMCs, the LDRRMCs, the LDRRMOs, the BDRRMCs, ~~[and]~~ the SK councils, AND THE BARANGAY YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE, shall ~~[encourage]~~ ENSURE community, specifically the youth, participation in disaster risk reduction and management activities, such as organizing quick response groups, particularly in identified disaster-prone areas, as well as the inclusion of disaster risk reduction and management programs as part of the SK programs and projects.

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SECTION 10. Section 15 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

Section 15. Coordination During Emergencies. –

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The NDRRMC and intermediary LDRRMCs shall always act as support to LGUs which have the primary responsibility as first disaster responders. Private sector and civil society groups, INCLUDING YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, shall work in accordance with the coordination mechanism and policies set by the NDRRMC and concerned LDRRMCs.

SECTION 11. Section 21 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

Section 21. Local Disaster Risk” Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF). –

The present Local Calamity Fund shall henceforth be known as the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF). Not less than five percent (5%) of the estimated revenue from regular sources shall be set aside as the LDRRMF to support disaster risk management activities such as, but not limited to, pre-disaster preparedness programs including training, purchasing life-saving rescue equipment, supplies and medicines, for post-disaster activities, and for the payment of premiums on calamity insurance.

NOT LESS THAN FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE LDRRMF SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO SUPPORT YOUTH-ORIENTED PRE- AND POST-

DISASTER ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN THE YOUTH PLAN SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TREE-PLANTING, TRAINING, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION, AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION EFFORTS.

The LDRRMC shall monitor and evaluate the use and disbursement of the LDRRMF based on the LDRRMP as incorporated in the local development plans and annual work and financial plan. Upon the recommendation of the LDRRMO and approval of the sanggunian concerned, the LDRRMC may transfer the said fund to support disaster risk reduction work of other LDRRMCs which are declared under state of calamity.

xxx

SECTION 12. *Non-Impairment Clause.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,