

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3107



Introduced by **Hon. Bernadette S. Barbers**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In recent months and over the past several years, Metro Manila and other highly urbanized areas across the country have consistently suffered from devastating floods caused by typhoons, monsoon rains, and sudden extreme weather events. These flooding incidents, which have caused widespread damage to homes, infrastructure, livelihoods, and public services, have become more frequent and severe—clearly manifesting what President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. recently referred to as the “new normal” in the context of climate change.

Despite the allocation of billions of pesos annually for flood control projects, the persistent failure to manage and mitigate flooding highlights a glaring deficiency in the current system. At present, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) share overlapping flood control responsibilities. However, the inability of these agencies to coordinate effectively, monitor implementation, and deliver sustainable results has resulted in fragmented planning, duplication of efforts, and underwhelming outcomes.

President Marcos Jr. himself, in public statements, has expressed concern and frustration over the ineffectiveness of ongoing flood control programs, even calling out projects that have failed to deliver despite considerable funding. These remarks underscore the urgent need for a structural and institutional reform in the country’s approach to flood risk management.

In response to this recurring national problem, this proposed measure seeks to create a National Flood Control Authority (NFCA)—an independent, specialized agency mandated to take the lead in studying, planning, designing, and implementing a comprehensive National Flood Control Masterplan. This authority will have exclusive jurisdiction over flood control planning and infrastructure development nationwide, with a primary focus on high-risk and urbanized areas, especially Metro Manila.

The NFCA shall be empowered to conduct scientific studies, develop integrated engineering solutions, coordinate with local government units, and enforce standards across the country. It shall be separate and distinct from the DPWH and MMDA, ensuring

a unified and focused institutional framework that is solely dedicated to addressing flooding and its long-term impacts.

Given the worsening climate realities and the undeniable failure of past approaches, it is high time for the country to adopt a bold and specialized institutional solution. The creation of the NFCA is not merely a matter of policy innovation—it is a necessity for national survival and resilience.

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



HON. BERNADETTE S. BARBERS
2nd District, Surigao del Norte

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AN ACT
CREATING THE NATIONAL FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY DEFINING ITS
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SEC. 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*National Flood Control Authority Act of 2025.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to protect life, property, and the environment through a comprehensive and science-based flood management. Recognizing the increasing risks posed by climate change, rapid urbanization, and inadequate drainage infrastructure, the State shall institutionalize a centralized and specialized agency to study, plan, design, implement, and monitor a comprehensive national flood control masterplan to address the flooding in the country, especially in Metro Manila and other high-risk urban areas.

SEC. 3. Creation of the National Flood Control Authority (NFCA). — There is hereby created an independent agency to be known as the National Flood Control Authority (NFCA), which shall be attached to the Office of the President for purposes of policy coordination.

SEC. 4. Mandate and Functions. —The NFCA shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Formulate, update, and implement a National Flood Control Masterplan, in coordination with relevant national agencies and local government units;
- b. Plan, design, construct, operate, maintain, and monitor flood control infrastructure, including but not limited to: pumping stations, drainage systems, floodways, water retention basins, levees, dikes, and riverbanks;

- c. Conduct nationwide flood risk mapping, modeling, and forecasting, in coordination with PAGASA, NAMRIA, DENR, and other concerned agencies;
- d. Coordinate with LGUs to ensure local flood control programs are aligned with the national masterplan;
- e. Undertake research and development on flood prevention, climate-resilient infrastructure, and nature-based solutions such as wetlands and watershed rehabilitation;
- f. Implement emergency flood mitigation responses in coordination with NDRRMC and other disaster response agencies;
- g. Exercise regulatory powers over the construction of drainage, flood mitigation structures, and land developments that may affect floodplains or waterways;
- h. Enter into contracts and public-private partnerships (PPP) for the design, construction, and financing of flood control infrastructure; and
- j. Perform such other acts as may be necessary or incidental to the fulfillment of its mandate.

SEC. 5. *Organizational Structure.* — The NFCA shall be headed by an Administrator with the rank of Undersecretary, appointed by the President. The Administrator must be a licensed civil engineer with at least twenty (20) years of relevant experience. He or she shall be assisted by four Deputy Administrators with the rank of Assistant Secretaries, each in charge of:

- Planning and Research
- Engineering and Infrastructure
- Operations and Maintenance
- Community Resilience and LGU Coordination

Said Deputy Administrators must also be licensed engineers with at least fifteen (15) years of relevant experience.

The NFMA shall have regional offices established in each of the administrative regions of the country.

SEC. 6. *Inter-agency and Local Coordination.* — The NFCA shall coordinate with the DPWH, MMDA, DENR, DOST-PAGASA, DILG, NEDA, and LGUs to

harmonize programs, avoid duplication, and ensure integrated implementation. In case of conflict, the NFCA's technical findings and flood control decisions shall prevail.

SEC. 7. *Transfer of Functions.* — The flood control functions of the DPWH, MMDA, and other related government agencies shall be transferred to the NFCA within a period of one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act. A Joint Oversight Committee composed of both Houses of Congress shall supervise the transition process.

SEC. 8 *Appropriations.* — The initial amount of Ten Billion Pesos (₱10,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the organization and initial operation of the NFCA. Thereafter, necessary funds shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NFCA, in coordination with the Office of the President, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its implementation.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations as well as local ordinances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,