



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3595



Introduced by **HON. JASON P. ALMONTE**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT TO
ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE THE MINDANAO DISASTER-RESILIENT
RESOURCE CENTER FOR MINDANAO IN COORDINATION WITH THE MINDANAO
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) plays a crucial role in disaster response by ensuring that the Philippine government's actions are well-coordinated, adhere to established protocols, and are effectively communicated to the public.

The DSWD is also responsible for delivering emergency assistance, such as distributing relief goods and providing rehabilitation services to individuals and communities affected by both natural and man-made disasters. Additionally, the DSWD collaborates with various government agencies to ensure efficient achievement of its objectives.

The Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), based in Mindanao, serves as a coordinating body responsible for advancing and supporting sustainable economic growth and development across the region, under its mandate to promote, coordinate, and facilitate the integrated and balanced development of Mindanao.

In recent years, Mindanao has experienced increasingly severe impacts of global warming and climate change. These have led to numerous catastrophic events intensified by extreme weather conditions, further compounded by environmental deterioration caused by unchecked illegal logging and irresponsible mining operations.

Considering Mindanao's heightened vulnerability to both natural calamities and man-made crises, there is an urgent call to enhance resilience efforts, bolster disaster mitigation

strategies, and improve preparedness, early response, and recovery initiatives across the entire region.

Coordinating disaster management operations across multiple regions or throughout the whole of Mindanao poses consistent challenges in ensuring the timely and efficient distribution of relief goods and assistance. The establishment of the MDRC, in collaboration with MinDA, will function as the central hub in the Mindanao region for efficiently and promptly distributing relief goods and assistance to individuals and communities affected by natural or man-made disasters in Mindanao.

Therefore, as part of enhancing resilience, this bill seeks to establish, maintain, and operate a larger, secure, accessible MDRC equipped with complete facilities for Mindanao in coordination with MinDA. This MDRC will serve as a central hub in the Mindanao region for storing food packs and warehousing of food and non-food commodities. Its purpose is to ensure efficient and prompt distribution of assistance and early response to emergencies across various regions in Mindanao, addressing both natural and man-made disasters.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate consideration and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason P. Almonte', is positioned above the printed name.

JASON P. ALMONTE

Representative

First District, Misamis Occidental



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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 "Mindanao Disaster-Resilient Resource Center (MDRC) Act".

SEC. 2. Establishment of Mindanao Disaster-Resilient Resource Center.

- There shall be established a Mindanao Disaster-Resilient Resource Centers (MDRC) equipped with complete facilities for Mindanao in coordination with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA). This MDRC shall serve as a central disaster hub in the Mindanao region for storing food packs and warehousing of food and non-food commodities. Its purpose is to ensure efficient and timely distribution of assistance and early response to emergencies across various regions in Mindanao, addressing both natural and man-made disasters.

SEC. 3. Location of the Mindanao Disaster-Resilient Resource Center.

- The central MDRC shall be located on a 4-hectare lot at the DSWD Field Office-X in Barangay Lunocan, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon. This location is strategically located in the center of Mindanao, ensuring easy accessibility via various routes for the efficient delivery of essential services and goods across the island. Thereafter, satellite locations shall be chosen, built, and equipped in the Zamboanga Peninsula to service the island provinces, another to service eastern Mindanao and another for western Mindanao.

SEC. 4. Requirements - The MDRC shall meet the following structural requirements, amenities, facilities, and equipment to effectively fulfill its role in storing supplies while ensuring operational efficiency, safety, and compliance with relevant regulations as established in this Act:

- a. **Structural and Building Capacity.** - The MDRC shall be constructed to endure extreme weather conditions such as super typhoons with wind speeds reaching at least 300 kilometers per hour (300 KPH) and seismic events of at least magnitude 8.0. It should be disaster-resistant, constructed using durable materials, and compliant with Republic Act No. 6541, also known as the "National Building Code of the Philippines," or must meet the standards outlined in the International Building Code.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be responsible for overseeing the construction of the MDRC, which includes formulating building specifications. The DPWH ensures that these specifications adhere to standards, guidelines, and directives established by the DPWH and comply with the provisions of the National Building Code. Additionally, the DPWH guarantees that the construction of the MDRC aligns with these requirements throughout the construction phase. The specifications of the MDRC will be periodically reviewed and adjusted by the DPWH as needed.

- b. **Amenities and Accessibility.** - The MDRC shall meet the following essential requirements to maintain food safety, quality, regulatory compliance, operational efficiency, and employees' well-being.

Amenities:

1. **Storage Space:** Adequate shelving, racks, and floor space to accommodate various goods, including bulk items, pallets, and smaller packages. The layout should allow efficient organization and easy access to stored relief supplies.
2. **Climate Control:** Heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system which is essential to maintain optimal temperature and humidity levels, depending on the relief supplies being stored.
3. **Security Systems:** Perimeter fencing, security cameras, access control systems, and adequate lighting both indoors and outdoors in the MDRC to protect the stored relief supplies from theft and damage.
4. **Lighting:** Sufficient lighting throughout the MDRC to ensure safe working conditions and facilitate the easy identification, organization, and retrieval of relief supplies.
5. **Administrative Office or Meeting Room:** It provides a space for managing inventory, order processing, and maintaining important documents such as inventory records, shipping manifests, employee records, and safety

documentation required for regulatory compliance. In summary, the administrative office and conference room serve as a control office where decisions are made, communications are coordinated, and operations are monitored to ensure the MDRC functions effectively and efficiently.

6. **Security Office:** Equipped with Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) for monitoring access points and overseeing the entry and exit of individuals and vehicles on the premises.
7. **Loading Docks and Equipment:** Well-designed loading docks equipped with appropriate dock levelers, ramps, and space for trucks to maneuver. Forklifts or other material-handling equipment should be available for moving goods within the MDRC.
8. **Fire Safety:** Fire prevention and suppression systems, including fire alarms, fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, and marked emergency exit routes in compliance with fire safety regulations.

Accessibility:

1. **Safety and Regulations:** Comply with building codes, zoning regulations, and safety standards such as fire safety, and emergency exits to ensure a secure and legally compliant environment.
2. **Accessibility for Employees, Visitors, and Delivery Trucks:** Provide adequate parking lots for delivery trucks, staff, and visitors. It should be easily accessible for both incoming and outgoing shipments. This includes sufficient access points for trucks, loading docks equipped with appropriate ramps or lifts, and clear pathways inside the warehouse for maneuvering equipment like forklifts.

SEC. 5. *Operation and Management of the Mindanao Disaster-Resilient Resource Center*

- The DSWD shall be responsible for operating, supervising, and managing the MDRC established by this Act. They are also empowered to issue rules and regulations governing the appropriate use and maintenance of the MDRC, as well as its utilization when not in active use. The DSWD may impose suitable penalties for unauthorized activities that result in damage, defacement, or loss of supplies stored in the MDRC.

SEC. 6. *Coordination by DSWD with MinDA* - The DSWD shall coordinate with MinDA to oversee the regional operations of the MDRC to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Support from Relevant Agencies* - Relevant agencies such as the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) of the

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Coast Guard, the Philippine National Police and concerned local government units (LGUs) shall support the DSWD.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* - The DSWD shall, in consultation with MinDA, DPWH, and other concerned government agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions within Sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations* - The initial funding required for constructing and maintaining the MDRC, which will function as a central hub for storing food and non-food commodities, will be sourced from the budget allocated for this purpose under the DSWD. Subsequently, funds necessary for the ongoing construction and operation of the warehouse will be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause* If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions hereof shall remain fully valid and enforceable.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect Fifteen (days) after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any *newspapers* of general circulation.

Approved,