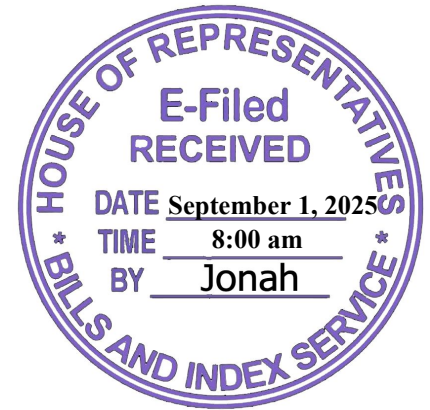




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 4204

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution directs the State to safeguard the people and uphold their right to a balanced and healthful ecology. In a disaster-prone country like the Philippines, this constitutional duty cannot be achieved without science-based planning, preparedness, and risk reduction.

The Philippines is consistently ranked among the most disaster-exposed nations worldwide. The 2024 World Risk Report placed the country at the top of the World Risk Index among 193 UN member states, with a score of 46.91—evidence of both extreme exposure and high vulnerability to natural hazards.¹ According to the World Bank’s Climate Knowledge Portal, 60% of Philippine land and 74% of its population are at risk from floods, cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides.²

From 1990 to the present, the country has suffered 565 natural disasters, claiming more than 70,000 lives and causing \$23 billion (around ₱1.3 trillion) in damages. While earthquakes and volcanic eruptions cannot be prevented, the severity and frequency of climate-related hazards—particularly typhoons and flooding—are projected to worsen. The Philippines’ position in the Northwestern Pacific Basin, the world’s most active tropical cyclone zone, further heightens this danger.

Yet despite these realities, many localities still lack updated and accessible hazard maps. This gap in reliable risk information undermines the capacity of communities and local governments to prepare for disasters, plan safe settlements, and enforce zoning regulations.

This bill therefore proposes the creation of a centralized and comprehensive National Hazard Mapping Program. It requires the responsible agencies to produce high-resolution, multi-hazard maps that are scientifically sound, regularly updated,

¹ Bundnis Entwicklung Hilft. World Risk Index 2024. Published on 9 September 2024. Available at [https://weltrisikobericht.de/worldriskreport/#iLightbox\[efa5fa0bcb29544013c\]/1](https://weltrisikobericht.de/worldriskreport/#iLightbox[efa5fa0bcb29544013c]/1) (Accessed on 8 July 2025)

² World Bank. Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Available at <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/philippines/vulnerability> (Accessed on 8 July 2025)

publicly available, and usable for local development planning, disaster risk reduction, and emergency response.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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HOUSE BILL NO. 4204

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EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A LIST OF LOW-LYING AREAS OF THE PHILIPPINE TERRITORY VULNERABLE TO RISING SEA LEVELS AS A RESULT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, AND AREAS AT HIGH RISK FOR NATURAL DISASTERS, MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION, AND OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR ITS REGULAR UPDATING, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Hazard Mapping Act.*"

2
3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to protect the safety
4 and general welfare of the public. Towards this end, the State shall endeavor to
5 formulate a science-based approach in planning, preparing, and reducing the risk of
6 natural disasters through an orderly layout of the national land mass with the
7 identification of low-lying areas vulnerable to rising sea levels as a result of climate
8 change, and areas at high risk for natural disasters.
9

10 The State shall likewise establish an organized and efficient system of
11 evacuation from these areas in the event of imminent danger.
12

13 **SEC. 3. National Disaster Map.** - Within one (1) year after the effectivity of this
14 Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the
15 National Mapping and Resources Information Authority (NAMRIA), together with the
16 Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Climate Change Commission, and
17 National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) are directed
18 to provide and issue a national disaster map of the Philippines, identifying the low-
19 lying areas vulnerable to rising sea levels as a result of climate change and areas at
20 high risk for natural disasters. It shall also contain proper identification of lands

1 bordering sea levels, exposed to volcanic eruption and lying earthquake faults, with
2 the criteria for evacuation and illustration of recommended evacuation sites and routes.

3
4 Information sources for the national disaster map should not be limited to
5 scientific instrument-based data, but shall utilize a holistic approach which may include
6 indigenous peoples' knowledge, fieldwork, and historical disaster data.

7
8 The national disaster map shall be updated regularly to reflect the latest data and
9 risk assessments and shall be made available and easily accessible to the public and
10 Local Government Units.

11
12 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
13 of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the
14 implementing agencies under this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary
15 for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General
16 Appropriations Act.

17
18 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
19 unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall
20 remain in force and effect.

21
22 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
23 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions
24 of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

25 **SEC. 7. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
26 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

27
28 *Approved,*