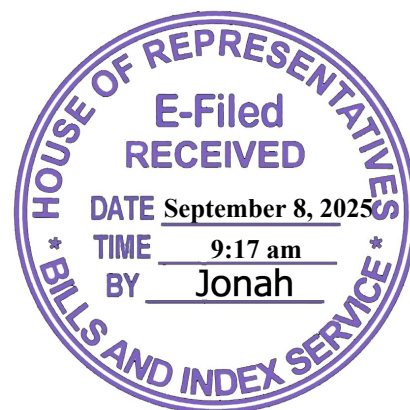


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4386



Introduced by Representatives Bryan B. Revilla, Lani Mercado-Revilla, and Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

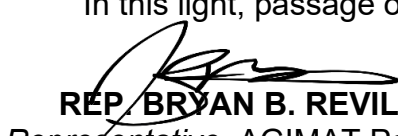
More tropical cyclones are entering the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) than anywhere else in the world. An average of 20 tropical cyclones enter this region per year, with about 8 or 9 of them crossing the Philippines¹.

According to the Office of Civil Defense, at least 1.9 million individuals across the country have been affected by Tropical Storm Crising, the southwest monsoon or habagat, and a low-pressure area (LPA).² This figure represents the first major storm system to impact the Philippine archipelago in the 2025 typhoon season.

Countless lives and properties from disasters could have been saved if proper information is communicated and well understood. The general public could have prepared and evacuated if they were given adequate and useful information, in clear and vivid terms, as to the scale and impact of the upcoming calamity. In the same vein, peace and order could be maintained and social panic will be prevented which is usually caused by wrong and ambiguous information.

This proposed legislation seeks to protect public health and safety by making mandatory for all government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to convert in an easily understandable form and translate to Filipino and any other appropriate regional languages or dialects all announcements and advisories relevant to disasters, including typhoons, floods and storm surges, volcanic activities, earthquakes, landslides, human-induced hazards and public health emergencies.

In this light, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. BRYAN B. REVILLA
Representative, AGIMAT Party-list


REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
Representative, 2nd District of Cavite


REP. RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III
Representative, 1st District of Cavite

¹ <https://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/climate/tropical-cyclone-information>

² <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2086016/habagat-crising-affect-1-9m-filipinos-ocd>

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Jolo B. Revilla III

AN ACT
REQUIRING DISASTER-RELATED INFORMATION TO BE STATED IN
ACCESSIBLE LANGUAGE TO ENSURE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING THEREOF
AND TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

*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 “*Language Accessibility of Public*
2 *Information on Disasters Act*”

3
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The right of the people to information on matters of
5 public concern is recognized in our Constitution. Indeed, communication and
6 information occupy a vital role in nation-building. In times of disaster and other
7 emergencies, and to render meaningful and effective the right of the people to
8 information, it shall be ensured that announcements, advisories and similar public
9 communications are accessible in terms of the language or dialect used.

10
11 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

12 a) *Disaster* is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society
13 involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses
14 and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society
15 to cope using its own resources.

16 Disasters are often described as a result of the combination of the exposure
17 to a hazard, the conditions of vulnerability that are present, and insufficient
18 capacity or measured to reduce or cope with the potential negative
19 consequences. Disaster impacts may include loss of life, injury, disease and
20 other negative effects on human, physical, mental and social well-being,
21 together with damage to property, destruction of assets, loss of services,
22 social and economic disruption and environmental degradation.

23 b) *Emergency* is unforeseen or sudden occurrence, especially danger,
24 demanding immediate action;

25 c) *State of Calamity* is a condition involving mass casualty and/or major
26 damages to property and roads, disruption of means of livelihoods and
27 normal way of life in the affected areas as a result of the occurrence of
28 natural or human-induced hazard.

1
2 Sec. 4. *Scope of Application.* – This Act shall cover disasters and other kinds of
3 emergencies which are (1) national in scope, as declared through a State of Calamity
4 or State of National Emergency by the President of the Philippines and (2) provincial,
5 city or municipal in scope, as declared through a State of Calamity or Emergency by
6 the appropriate local government unit.
7

8 Sec. 5. *Language Accessibility of Disaster-Related Information.* – In relation to
9 disasters and other emergencies covered by Section 4 of this Act, it shall be mandatory
10 for all government agencies and local government units to convert in an easily
11 understandable form and translate to Filipino and any other appropriate regional
12 language/s or dialect/s all their announcements, advisories, press releases, issuances
13 and any other information relevant to such disaster or emergency, including:

- 14 a) Tropical Cyclones, signals, flood warning, storm surge, dry spell/drought,
15 and other advisories by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and
16 Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA);
- 17 b) Volcanic activity and eruption, earthquake, tsunami and landslide advisories
18 and bulletins by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology
19 (PHIVOLCS);
- 20 c) Announcements, bulletins and other advisories of the National Disaster Risk
21 Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Local Disaster Risk
22 Reduction and Management Councils (LDRRMC) and network of Disaster
23 Risk Reduction and Management Councils composed of national, regional,
24 provincial, city, municipal DRRM councils and barangay committees;
- 25 d) Information on epidemics, disease outbreaks, infestation, and other public
26 health emergencies of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department
27 of Agriculture (DA);
- 28 e) Advisories and warnings released by the Department of Environment and
29 Natural Resources (DENR) – Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and
30 the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), human-induced hazards, and human
31 security concerns of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the
32 Philippine National Police (PNP); and
- 33 f) Information on the Social Amelioration Program, emergency assistance and
34 other social protection measures of the Department of Social Welfare and
35 Development (DSWD).
36

37 As much as practicable, such disaster-related information shall be issued and
38 disseminated using plain language and devoid of scientific jargon or technical
39 terminologies. It shall also contain specific information on the extent and scale of
40 impending impact and damage down to barangay level.
41

42 Sec. 6. *Translation to Filipino and Other Regional Language or Dialect.* – The
43 translation of the information covered by this Act shall be to Filipino and other regional
44 language/s or dialect/s, as deemed necessary by the government agency and local
45 government unit concerned considering the geographical location of the affected
46 communities and the intended recipients of the information. The translated information
47 shall be disseminated as widely as possible through all available media and
48 communication channels.
49

1 Sec. 7. *Role of the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino.* – The Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino
2 (KWF) shall render the necessary technical assistance and expertise to the
3 government agencies and local government units including the Bangsamoro
4 Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and monitor their compliance with
5 the duties mandated by this Act.

6
7 Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the
8 effectivity of this Act, the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF), in consultation with
9 other relevant agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
10 regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

11
12 Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
13 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
14 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

15
16 Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
17 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or
18 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
19 accordingly.

20
21 Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
22 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

23
24 *Approved,*