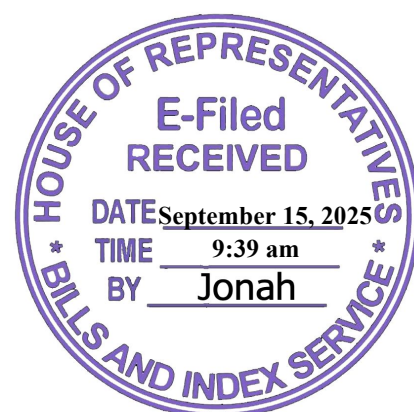


TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



HOUSE BILL NO. 4552

Introduced by Honorable Celso G. Regencia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 16 December 2011, Tropical Storm Sendong (international name *Washi*) made landfall on the eastern coast of Mindanao and swept toward its northwestern coast. Within hours, rivers overflowed and massive floods engulfed communities. By the time Sendong exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility, it had unleashed more than a month's worth of rain in a single night, leaving over 1,200 dead, 6,000 injured, 170 missing, and many others unaccounted for.¹

The scale of destruction was so extensive that it significantly impacted the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth from 2011 to 2012, underscoring the profound national impact of the disaster.² Bayug Island in Iligan City was among the hardest-hit areas. Families lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods in what remains one of the most tragic natural disasters in the history of Northern Mindanao.

In the years that followed, the Sendong Memorial Park was established in Bayug Island to honor those who perished and to provide a place of remembrance for the entire Iligan community.³ More than a decade later, there remains an urgent need to enhance, preserve, and sustain this memorial so that it may fully serve its purpose as a site of reflection, education, and resilience.

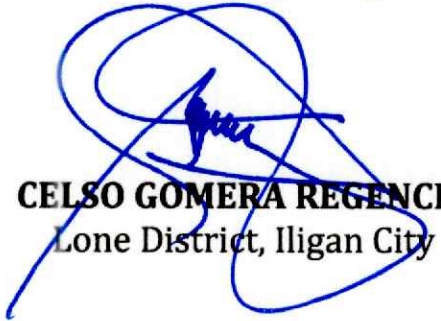
¹ United Nations. (2012, January 27). UN official surveys typhoon damage in the Philippines. UN News. Retrieved from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2012/01/401662>

² Olchondra, R. T. (2012, January 10). "'Sendong' damage to trim 2011, 2012 GDP growth." Business Inquirer. Retrieved from <https://business.inquirer.net/39015/sendong-damage-to-trim-2011-2012-gdp-growth>

³ Mindanaoan Irene. (2012, December 17). Typhoon Sendong Memorial Wall Unveiled. Mindanaoan. Retrieved from <https://mindanaoan.com/2012/12/typhoon-sendong-memorial-wall-unveiled/>

This bill seeks to institutionalize the Sendong Memorial Park in Bayug Island by officially recognizing it as a national disaster memorial site. It mandates the development, rehabilitation, and improvement of the memorial park by relevant national agencies. Furthermore, the bill requires the City Government of Iligan to allocate sufficient funds in its annual budget for its maintenance, preservation, and security. By institutionalizing the Sendong Memorial Park in Bayug Island, we preserve the collective memory of a tragedy that shaped our city and our people.

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



CELSO GOMERA REGENCIA
Lone District, Iligan City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4552

Introduced by Honorable Celso G. Regencia

AN ACT
DECLARING THE SENDONG MEMORIAL PARK IN BAYUG ISLAND,
ILIGAN CITY AS A NATIONAL DISASTER MEMORIAL SITE

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Typhoon Sendong National Disaster Memorial Site Act."

SECTION 2. *Recognition of the Sendong Memorial Park as a National Disaster Memorial Site.* – The existing Sendong Memorial Park located in Bayug Island, Iligan City is hereby declared and recognized as a National Disaster Memorial Site to commemorate the victims of Typhoon Sendong, recognize the heroism of first responders, and remind the nation of the lessons learned from the disaster.

SECTION 3. *Development, Rehabilitation, and Improvement.* – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall plan, design, and implement the development, rehabilitation, and improvement of the Typhoon Sendong National Disaster Memorial Site.

For this purpose, the DPWH shall coordinate with the Department of Tourism (DOT), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), the City Government of Iligan, and other relevant agencies to ensure that the improvements are environmentally sustainable, culturally sensitive, and aligned with the park's commemorative purpose.

SECTION 4. *Maintenance and Preservation.* – Upon completion of site rehabilitation and improvement, the City Government of Iligan shall be responsible for the maintenance, preservation, and security of the Typhoon Sendong National Disaster Memorial Site.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – The funds necessary for the development, rehabilitation, and improvement of the Typhoon Sendong National Disaster Memorial Site shall be charged against the appropriations of the DPWH under the General Appropriations Act.

The City Government of Iligan is hereby mandated to allocate sufficient funds in its annual budget to ensure the sustainability of the memorial site and to support activities commemorating Typhoon Sendong.

The DOT, the DENR, the NDRRMC, and other national agencies may provide technical assistance and program support for tourism promotion, environmental enhancement, and disaster education, without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the City Government of Iligan for maintenance.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall not be affected and shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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

Approved,