



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6116



Introduced by **HON. BAMBI B. EMANO**

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING DISASTER RESPONSE CAPACITY IN
MINDANAO THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MINDANAO
DISASTER-RESILIENT RESOURCE CENTER UNDER THE DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, IN COORDINATION WITH
THE MINDANAO DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, being one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, consistently ranks among the nations most vulnerable to natural calamities such as typhoons, earthquakes, floods, and landslides. The frequency and magnitude of these disasters pose recurring threats to life, livelihood, and infrastructure, particularly in Mindanao, where geographical isolation, logistical challenges, and socio-political conditions often hinder swift government response.

Recognizing the persistent gaps in disaster logistics and response capacity in the island, the undersigned formally proposed the establishment of a Mindanao-based disaster resource and response hub to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) during the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Deliberations and the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), in his capacity as the Chairman of the Mindanao Affairs Committee in the 19th Congress. This early groundwork laid by the Congressman helped shape the direction of inter-agency discussions and highlighted Mindanao's urgent need for an institutionalized facility to address large-scale emergencies.

While the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) currently maintains National Resource and Logistics Management Centers in Luzon and Visayas, there remains no permanent and fully equipped disaster resource and response center in Mindanao. This gap significantly affects the timeliness and efficiency of humanitarian operations across the island, especially during widespread emergencies and inter-regional calamities.

The DSWD Field Office X in Barangay Lunocan, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, now possesses a four-hectare lot, a property strategically situated at the heart of Mindanao. The location's central accessibility, proximity to the Mindanao International Container Port in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, and elevation of approximately 460 meters above sea level make it an ideal and secure site for the establishment of the Mindanao Disaster-Resilient Resource Center (MDRC). The area's terrain is favorable for long-term storage, with low humidity and no recorded flash floods, ensuring optimal preservation of stored goods.

The establishment of the MDRC is a timely and critical intervention. It will serve as a centralized logistics and command hub capable of storing, processing, and dispatching food and non-food relief commodities to all regions of Mindanao, including the Zamboanga Peninsula, Davao Region, SOCCSKSARGEN, Caraga, and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Moreover, it will enhance DSWD's capacity to coordinate disaster response operations and facilitate inter-agency collaboration with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), NDRRMC, Office of Civil Defense (OCD), AFP, PNP, and local government units (LGUs).

The proposed MDRC will feature modern and resilient infrastructure, including:

- Climate-controlled warehouses for food and non-food supplies;
- A disaster response and command center;
- A mechanized food packing facility;
- A training and research center for capacity-building and logistics simulation; and
- A dormitory and administrative complex for on-site personnel and responders.

These facilities will not only improve response time but also contribute to long-term disaster resilience and regional development, promoting safety, sustainability, and efficient resource management.

This measure further aligns with the mandates of Republic Act No. 10121, or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, and Republic Act No. 9729, or the Climate Change Act of 2009, which both call for strengthened institutional mechanisms to mitigate and respond to disasters effectively.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought to ensure that the people of Mindanao are afforded equal access to prompt and efficient disaster response and humanitarian assistance, because every life matters, and preparedness saves lives.


BAMBI B. EMANO
2ND DISTRICT, MISAMIS ORIENTAL



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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".

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to strengthen disaster preparedness, response, and recovery mechanisms through the establishment of a resilient logistical infrastructure in Mindanao. Recognizing the region's vulnerability to both natural and human-induced disasters, the State shall ensure the creation of a centralized, climate-resilient resource hub that guarantees the efficient and equitable delivery of humanitarian assistance and post-disaster rehabilitation support.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of Mindanao Disaster-Resilient Resource Center.* - There is hereby established a Mindanao Disaster-Resilient Resource Center (MDRC) under the supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA).

The MDRC shall serve as the primary disaster response and logistics hub for Mindanao, designed for the prepositioning, storage, and distribution of food and non-food relief items, as well as the coordination of emergency operations across the island's regions.

SECTION 4. *Location.* - The central MDRC shall be situated on a four (4)-hectare parcel of land within the DSWD Field Office X premises in Barangay Lunocan, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, strategically located to ensure accessibility and logistical efficiency across Mindanao. Bukidnon's

central position on the island allows for equitable and rapid deployment of relief goods to all Mindanao regions, minimizing transit time during large-scale emergencies. Its high elevation and absence of recorded flash floods make it a secure and resilient site suitable for long-term storage of critical supplies. Additionally, the province's proximity to major transport corridors, including the Mindanao International Container Port, strengthens its role as an ideal logistical hub for disaster response operations.

Satellite resource centers shall subsequently be established in:

- a. The Zamboanga Peninsula, to serve island and western provinces;
- b. Eastern Mindanao, to cover the Davao and Caraga regions; and
- c. Western Mindanao, to enhance response capacity for coastal and upland areas

SECTION 5. *Structural, Technical, and Operational Standards.* - The MDRC shall be designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with the following minimum standards:

a. **Structural Integrity-** The Center shall be designed to withstand super typhoons with wind speeds of at least three hundred kilometers per hour (300 KPH) and seismic events of up to magnitude 8.0, in compliance with Republic Act No. 6541, or the National Building Code of the Philippines, and relevant provisions of the International Building Code.

b. **Oversight of Construction-** The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall oversee the planning, design, and construction of the MDRC, ensuring adherence to safety, engineering, and environmental standards consistent with national infrastructure regulations.

c. **Amenities and Facilities-** To ensure operational efficiency, safety, and the welfare of responders and personnel, the MDRC shall be equipped with the following components, as reflected in the approved architectural layout:^[P]_[SEP]

1. **Drop-Off and Loading Areas** -- Designated zones for the receipt and dispatch of relief goods, including holding areas for delivery and delivery waiting bays, ensuring smooth logistics flow and vehicle maneuverability.^[P]_[SEP]
2. **Entrance Lobby and Orientation Room** -- A front-facing facility serving as the reception, registration, and briefing area for staff, responders, and partner agencies.^[P]_[SEP]
3. **Manual Production and Food Packing Area** -- A mechanized and manual section for food pack assembly, integrated with a food packing conveyor system for efficient production and packaging.^[P]_[SEP]
4. **Rice and Bulk Material Storage Facilities** -- Separate, climate-controlled storage areas for rice and other bulk commodities to preserve quality and prevent spoilage.^[P]_[SEP]
5. **Food and Non-Food Item Warehouse** -- Dedicated sections for prepositioned family food packs and non-food relief commodities, designed for rapid retrieval and distribution.^[P]_[SEP]
6. **Material Recovery Facility (MRF)** -- A waste management and segregation area in accordance with Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.^[P]_[SEP]
7. **Genset and Powerhouse Facility** -- Equipped with standby generators to ensure uninterrupted operations during power outages or disaster conditions.
8. **Administrative and Operations Offices** -- Spaces allocated for logistics coordination, inventory management, data recording, and command operations.^[P]_[SEP]
9. **Disaster Response Command and Training Center** -- A facility for centralized monitoring, communication, and coordination during emergencies, and for conducting regular

training and simulation exercises.<sup>[P]
[SEP]</sup>

10. Dormitory and Living Quarters – On-site accommodations for responders and personnel consisting of separate male and female dormitories, each capable of housing 30 to 40 individuals, complete with sanitation facilities and resting areas.<sup>[P]
[SEP]</sup>
11. Facility Training Rooms and Mezzanine Observation Area – Multi-purpose training rooms located at the mezzanine level to support capacity-building, disaster drills, and staff development, with observation decks overlooking the operations area.<sup>[P]
[SEP]</sup>
12. Parking Areas – Allotted spaces for operational vehicles, staff, and visitors, including delivery waiting areas for inbound and outbound trucks.

d. Accessibility and Compliance- All facilities shall comply with applicable environmental, zoning, and occupational safety regulations, and shall provide adequate access roads, ramps, fire exits, and pathways for both personnel and vehicles to guarantee operational efficiency and safety at all times.

SECTION. 6. *Operation and Management.*- The DSWD shall have primary responsibility for the operation, management, and supervision of the MDRC. It shall:

- a. Formulate and enforce policies for the efficient management and maintenance of the Center;
- b. Ensure proper utilization and accountability of all stored resources;
- c. Develop a Digital Inventory and Tracking System to monitor supplies and response activities in real time; and
- d. Impose administrative sanctions or penalties for any unauthorized or negligent use resulting in loss or damage to government property.

SECTION. 7. *Coordination and Inter-Agency Collaboration.*- The DSWD shall coordinate with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) to harmonize disaster preparedness, resource allocation, and regional response strategies.

All relevant agencies, including the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), and concerned local government units (LGUs), shall extend full technical, logistical, and operational support to ensure the success of this initiative.

SECTION. 8. *Research, Training, and Capacity-Building.*- The MDRC shall serve as a training and research hub for disaster resilience in Mindanao. It shall:

- a. Conduct capacity-building programs for LGUs and civil society organizations on disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM);
- b. Partner with academic institutions for research on climate resilience, logistics, and humanitarian response systems; and
- c. Develop a Knowledge Management Center to document best practices and innovations in disaster response.

SECTION. 9. *Sustainability and Green Infrastructure.*- The MDRC shall integrate sustainable and energy-efficient technologies, such as solar power systems, rainwater harvesting, and waste

segregation facilities, in accordance with Republic Act No. 9729, or the Climate Change Act of 2009, and other environmental laws.

SECTION. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*- Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in coordination with MinDA, DPWH, and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to ensure its effective enforcement.

SECTION. 11. *Appropriations.*- The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DSWD. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued operation, maintenance, and expansion shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA)

SECTION. 12. *Separability Clause.*- If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION. 13. *Repealing Clause.*- All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION. 14. *Effectivity.*- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,