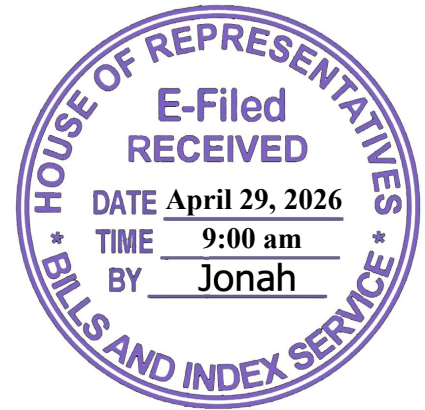




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 8993

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Flooding remains one of the most persistent and costly hazards in the Philippines, causing loss of lives, damage to property and infrastructure, disruption of economic activity, and long-term environmental degradation. Despite billions of pesos allocated annually for flood control projects, the country continues to experience widespread flooding. The problem is further exacerbated by the brazen system of corruption that drains public funds in flood control projects.

The recent exposes and investigations on the flood control corruption issue reveal that the more fundamental problem is the lack of clear, comprehensive, integrated, science-based and cost-effective National Flood Mitigation Master Plan. Current efforts are fragmented across various agencies, resulting in uncoordinated budgets, overlapping projects, and, at times, conflicting priorities. The absence of a single, science-based and integrated strategy undermines the efficiency and effectiveness of flood control measures, wasting valuable resources and missing opportunities to implement sustainable and innovative solutions.

A comprehensive Flood Mitigation Master Plan is crucial in addressing corruption in flood control sector because it will prevent the insertion of questionable flood control projects since priority projects are already identified and aligned with the national strategy. This framework will strengthen accountability and transparency in the allocation and implementation of flood control initiatives. Oversight will likewise be streamlined, as concerns about possible anomalies can be addressed directly through a Council established under this Act, rather than through fragmented district-level inquiries.

This bill seeks to address this gap by introducing a *multi-agency approach* to solving the problem of flooding. This contrasts with the current framework where only a single agency – the Department of Public Works and Highways – dominantly carries the task of addressing the flood control problem. The bill creates the National Interagency Council for Flood Mitigation Master Plan, a high-level policymaking and coordinating body tasked with formulating, implementing, and regularly updating a comprehensive master plan. The Council aims to bring in all necessary expertise,

paradigm and people in one forum, harmonize programs and budgets concerning flood control, integrate scientific research and climate change adaptation strategies, and ensure stakeholder participation, including local government units, the private sector, and civil society organizations representing vulnerable sectors such as farmers, fisherfolk, and indigenous peoples.

Through a coordinated, multi-agency and evidence-based approach, the Council will ensure that flood control efforts are not only cost-effective but also technically sound, socially inclusive, regionally representative, and environmentally sustainable. The creation of this body will help maximize the impact of public investments, prevent duplication of efforts, and ensure that the billions spent on flood control translate into real and lasting protection for communities nationwide.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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HOUSE BILL NO. 8993

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AN ACT
CREATING THE NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR FLOOD MITIGATION,
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING 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. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*National Interagency*
2 *Council for Flood Mitigation Act (NICFM).*”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
5 to adopt an integrated, science-based, environmentally sustainable and participatory
6 approach in addressing flood risks and disasters. To this end, the State shall ensure
7 the coordination of programs, projects, and budgets related to flood control, and the
8 formulation of a comprehensive national master plan for flood control.
9

10 **SEC. 3. Creation of the Council.** – There is hereby created a body to be known
11 as the National Interagency Council for Flood Mitigation, hereinafter referred to as the
12 “Council”, which shall serve as the primary policy-making and coordinating body for
13 the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of the national flood control master
14 plan.
15

16 **SEC. 4. Composition.** – The Council shall be composed of the following or their
17 representatives:
18

- 19 (a) Secretary of the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development
20 (DepDev) as Chairperson;
21 (b) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) as Vice
22 Chairperson;
23 (c) Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) as Vice
24 Chairperson;
25 (d) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
26 as Member;

- 1 (e) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) as
2 Member;
3 (f) Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) as Member;
4 (g) Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) as Member;
5 (h) Chairperson of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) as
6 Member;
7 (i) Three (3) representatives from the private sector with recognized expertise in
8 engineering, urban planning, or related fields as Members; and
9 (j) Three (3) representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) representing
10 the sectors of farmers, fisherfolk, and indigenous peoples as Members.
11

12 The private sector and CSO representatives shall be appointed by the
13 President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Council, with due
14 consideration to regional representation.
15

16 **SEC. 5. Powers and Functions.** – The Council shall have the following powers
17 and functions:
18

- 19 (a) Formulate, update, and oversee the implementation of a comprehensive
20 National Flood Mitigation Master Plan;
21 (b) Coordinate and harmonize the budgets and programs of all agencies and
22 instrumentalities involved in flood mitigation and control to eliminate
23 redundancy and optimize resource allocation;
24 (c) Integrate scientific research, technological innovations, and climate change
25 adaptation measures in flood mitigation and control strategies;
26 (d) Establish performance benchmarks and monitoring mechanisms for flood
27 mitigation and control projects;
28 (e) Engage stakeholders, including local government units (LGUs), the private
29 sector, and civil society organizations, in the planning and implementation of
30 flood mitigation and control measures;
31 (f) Recommend policy, legislative, and administrative measures necessary to
32 ensure effective flood mitigation and control; and
33 (g) Submit an annual report to Congress on the status of the master plan and
34 related programs.
35

36 **SEC. 6. Formulation and Presentation of the National Flood Mitigation**
37 **Master Plan.** – The Council shall, within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act,
38 formulate the National Flood Mitigation Master Plan. Upon its completion, the Council
39 shall submit and present the Plan to the President and to both Houses of Congress.
40

41 **SEC. 7. Integrated, Sustainable and Ecologically Sound Projects.** – The
42 National Flood Mitigation Master Plan shall prioritize and adopt projects that:
43

- 44 a. Rely more on nature-based solutions and on the management of natural
45 ecosystems rather than on piece-meal infrastructure or engineering
46 interventions in the lowlands;
47 b. Manage natural resources from mountain ridges, through watersheds, to
48 coastal reefs such as protecting upland ecosystems to reduce soil erosion and
49 reinforce water-holding capacity in order to lower chances of downstream
50 flooding; and

- 1 c. Recycle or make use of rain or flood waters for any domestic, agricultural or
2 economic use.
3

4 **SEC. 8. Secretariat.** – The Council shall be assisted by a Secretariat to be
5 hosted by the DepDev, which shall provide technical, administrative, and logistical
6 support to the Council.
7

8 **SEC. 9. Funding.** – The initial funding necessary for the creation and operation
9 of the Council shall be charged against the current appropriations of the agencies and
10 entities. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued operation shall be included
11 in the annual General Appropriations Act.
12

13 **SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days
14 from the effectivity of this Act, the DepDev, in coordination with member agencies of
15 the Council, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective
16 implementation.
17

18 **SEC. 11. Separability Clause.** - If any portion of this Act is declared invalid or
19 unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.
20

21 **SEC. 12. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations
22 or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
23 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
24

25 **SEC. 13. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
26 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
27

28 *Approved,*