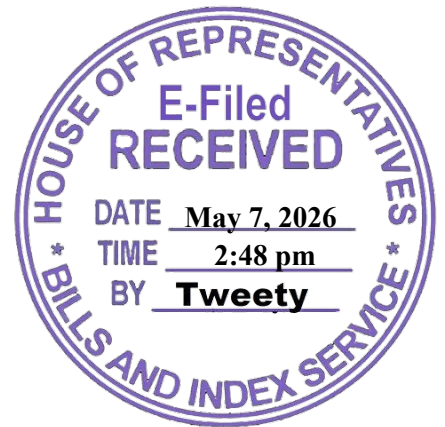


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9164



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Flooding and soil erosion remain among the most persistent environmental and disaster risks in the Philippines, resulting in loss of lives, damage to infrastructure, and disruption of livelihoods. These risks are further intensified by deforestation, land degradation, and the increasing impacts of climate change.

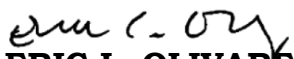
While existing laws such as Republic Act No. 10121 and Republic Act No. 9729 provide comprehensive frameworks for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, there remains a need to strengthen the integration of ecosystem-based and nature-based solutions within these systems. Current approaches to flood control have largely relied on structural or “gray” infrastructure, which, while necessary, may be complemented by more sustainable and cost-effective natural interventions.

This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize Natural Flood Management (NFM) and erosion control strategies as complementary approaches to existing flood control systems. It promotes the restoration and protection of watersheds, wetlands, mangroves, and river systems to naturally regulate water flow, reduce flood risks, and prevent soil erosion.

The bill establishes a National Program on Natural Flood Management and Erosion Control as a convergence mechanism among key government agencies, without creating new bureaucratic structures. It ensures alignment with existing national policies and reinforces the role of local government units, consistent with Republic Act No. 7160, in integrating these strategies into local development and disaster risk reduction plans.

By strengthening ecosystem-based approaches, this measure aims to enhance community resilience, promote environmental sustainability, and provide long-term, cost-efficient solutions to flooding and land degradation.

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


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 9164

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND EROSION
CONTROL MECHANISMS, STRENGTHENING ECOSYSTEM-BASED
APPROACHES TO DISASTER REDUCTION, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "*Natural Flood Management and Erosion Control Act.*"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to safeguard lives, property, and the environment by strengthening ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Toward this end, the State shall integrate natural flood management and erosion control measures into national and local planning, consistent with the frameworks established under Republic Act No. 10121 otherwise known as the "Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010" and Republic Act No. 9729 or the "Climate Change Act of 2009".

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act:

- (a) *Natural Flood Management (NFM)* refers to the use of natural processes, land use, and ecosystem restoration to reduce flood risk, including reforestation, wetland restoration, riverbank stabilization, and watershed management.
- (b) *Erosion Control* refers to measures that prevent or reduce soil erosion and sedimentation through vegetative, structural, and natural engineering methods.
- (c) *Watershed Management* refers to the coordinated conservation and sustainable use of soil, water, and vegetation resources within a watershed to regulate water flow and reduce disaster risk.

- (d) *Ecosystem-based Adaptation* refers to the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of a broader strategy to adapt to climate change impacts.

SECTION 4. National Program on Natural Flood Management and Erosion Control. There is hereby established a National Program on Natural Flood Management and Erosion Control (NP-NFMEC), which shall serve as a convergence and coordination mechanism to strengthen ecosystem-based approaches within existing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation frameworks.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall act as the lead coordinating agency, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Climate Change Commission (CCC), and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

The Program shall:

- (a) Identify and prioritize watersheds, river basins, and coastal areas vulnerable to flooding and erosion, consistent with national risk assessments under existing DRRM and climate frameworks;
- (b) Develop and implement ecosystem-based interventions such as reforestation, mangrove rehabilitation, riverbank stabilization, and restoration of wetlands and floodplains, in coordination with existing DENR and DA programs;
- (c) Promote the adoption of bioengineering and nature-based solutions to complement structural flood control measures implemented by DPWH;
- (d) Integrate natural flood management strategies into national infrastructure planning, without diminishing the mandate of DPWH over structural flood control systems;
- (e) Formulate a National Natural Flood Management Framework, which shall guide agencies and local government units (LGUs) in planning and implementation subject to coordination with the Climate Change Commission and integration into existing national plans; and
- (f) Strengthen community participation and capacity-building initiatives consistent with community-based disaster risk reduction approaches under existing laws.

SECTION 5. Role of Local Government Units (LGUs). Consistent with the autonomy granted under Republic Act No. 7160, LGUs shall:

- (a) Integrate natural flood management and erosion control strategies into their Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs), Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs), and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans (LDRRMPs), in accordance with national guidelines and consistent with existing land use and development planning standards;
- (b) Implement community-based monitoring and maintenance of watershed, river, and coastal ecosystems, consistent with their existing environmental and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) functions;
- (c) Allocate resources for NFM and erosion control initiatives from available local funds, including but not limited to their Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF), subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules; and
- (d) Coordinate with national government agencies for technical assistance, capacity-building, and program alignment.

SECTION 6. Incentives for Natural Flood Management. To encourage participation in natural flood management initiatives:

- (a) Farmers, fisherfolk, and cooperatives engaged in agroforestry, riverbank stabilization, and erosion control activities may access existing crop insurance and support programs of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) and the Department of Agriculture;
- (b) Private sector entities participating in NFM-related projects may qualify for incentives under Republic Act No. 10771, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations;
- (c) LGUs demonstrating exemplary implementation of NFM initiatives may be prioritized for recognition and support under existing performance-based incentive systems, including the Seal of Good Local Governance.

SECTION 7. Funding. The initial funding for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the existing appropriations of the DENR, DPWH, DA, and other participating agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

LGUs may access financing support from existing sources, including the People's Survival Fund under Republic Act No. 10174, the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund, and other climate financing mechanisms. The concerned agencies shall incorporate the Program into their respective annual and multi-year investment plans.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR, as lead agency, in coordination with DPWH, DA, DILG, CCC, NDRRMC, and other concerned agencies, shall

promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 9. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting. The DENR, in coordination with concerned agencies, shall establish a monitoring and evaluation system for the Program. An annual report on the implementation of this Act, including performance indicators and outcomes, shall be submitted to Congress.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.