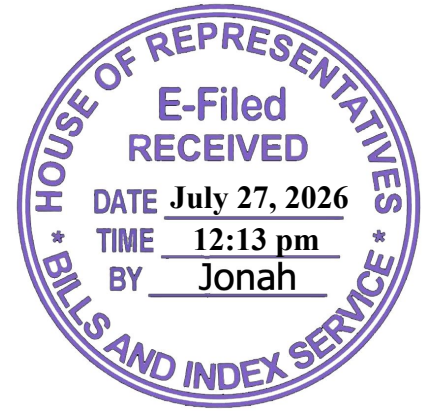


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10249



Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines remains one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, facing recurring typhoons, floods, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and climate-related hazards that repeatedly displace communities and destroy livelihoods. In 2024 alone, the country recorded around nine million disaster displacements, while millions more remain vulnerable to repeated exposure due to unsafe housing and settlements.¹ Over the past decade, nearly 43 million disaster displacements were recorded in the Philippines, among the highest in Southeast Asia.²

Despite continued government relocation efforts, many resettlement sites suffer from inadequate infrastructure, poor access to livelihoods, insufficient public services, and exposure to new environmental risks. As a result, some affected families return to danger zones out of economic necessity. This measure seeks to address these gaps by establishing a more comprehensive, risk-informed, and climate-resilient framework for relocation and settlement planning.

The bill recognizes that relocation is not merely a housing concern but also a matter of public safety, poverty reduction, and sustainable development. By requiring hazard assessments, proper site selection, access to utilities and social services, and stronger inter-agency coordination, the measure aims to ensure that relocated families are transferred to safe, livable, and sustainable communities.

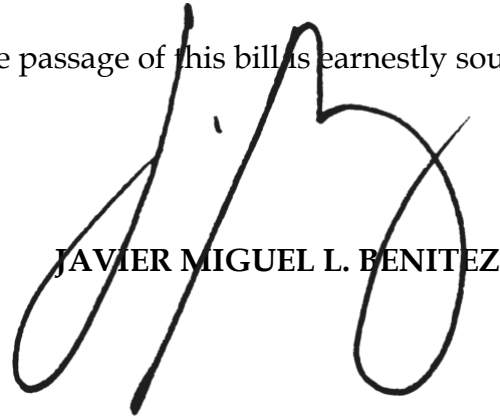
ASEAN neighbors have likewise adopted similar approaches. Viet Nam has implemented planned relocation programs in flood-prone areas of the Mekong Delta as

¹ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *2025 Global Report on Internal Displacement* (Geneva: IDMC, 2025).

² Asian Development Bank, "Disasters Trigger More Displacements than Conflicts, Says New ADB-IDMC Report," October 15, 2024.

part of its climate adaptation strategy, while Indonesia has undertaken permanent relocation programs following major volcanic disasters.³ These experiences demonstrate the growing regional recognition that resilient and well-planned relocation policies are essential to protecting vulnerable communities from increasing climate and disaster risks.

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



JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ

³ Jane McAdam Chun, *Planned Relocations in the Mekong Delta* (Brookings Institution, 2015); Reuters, "Indonesia to Permanently Relocate Thousands of Residents after Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki Eruptions," November 6, 2024.

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Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ**

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING RISK-INFORMED RELOCATION AND
RESILIENT HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PLANNING IN DISASTER-PRONE
AREAS, PROVIDING STANDARDS FOR SAFE RELOCATION SITES AND
RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SEC. 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “*Risk-Informed Relocation and Resilient Human Settlements Planning Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect communities from disaster risks and climate-related hazards through safe, resilient, and sustainable human settlements. The State shall ensure that relocation and resettlement programs prioritize public safety, environmental sustainability, access to basic services, and long-term community viability.

The State further recognizes that relocation shall not merely involve the transfer of families from one area to another, but shall ensure dignity, safety, accessibility, and opportunities for sustainable community development.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* - This Act aims to:

- a) Establish standards for risk-informed relocation and settlement planning;
- b) Prevent the establishment or rebuilding of settlements in high-risk and disaster-prone areas;
- c) Ensure that relocation sites have access to basic services, infrastructure, transportation, and livelihood opportunities;

- d) Strengthen coordination among national government agencies, local government units, and disaster risk reduction authorities;
- e) Promote resilient, inclusive, and sustainable human settlements; and
- f) Reduce long-term disaster vulnerability and repeated displacement of communities.

SEC. 4. *Coverage.* - This Act shall apply to all government-led relocation, resettlement, rehabilitation, and housing programs related to disaster response, climate adaptation, urban development, and informal settler relocation.

SEC. 5. *Risk-informed Site Selection.* - All relocation and resettlement sites shall undergo hazard and risk assessments prior to approval and development.

No relocation site shall be established in areas identified as highly vulnerable to flooding, landslides, storm surges, coastal erosion, fault lines, or other significant hazards, unless appropriate mitigation measures are in place and certified by the proper authorities.

Areas officially identified by competent government agencies as high-risk or non-habitable due to recurring or severe hazards may be declared as no-build or no-return zones, subject to existing laws and due process requirements.

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), in coordination with relevant agencies, shall develop standards and guidelines for risk-informed site selection.

SEC. 6. *Resilient Settlement Planning Standards.* - Relocation and resettlement projects shall comply with minimum standards for:

- a) Safe and durable housing structures;
- b) Access to clean water and sanitation;
- c) Access to electricity and communication services;
- d) Transportation and road connectivity;
- e) Access to schools, health facilities, and emergency services;
- f) Livelihood opportunities and economic activities;
- g) Environmental sustainability and open spaces; and
- h) Disaster resilience and climate adaptation measures.

Settlement planning shall consider projected climate risks, including flooding, sea level rise, extreme weather events, and other climate-related hazards. Relocation programs shall include measures to support livelihood restoration and sustainable community living.

SEC. 7. *Local Government Responsibilities.* - Local government units (LGUs) shall integrate risk-informed relocation and resilient settlement planning into their

Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs), Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs), and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans (LDRRMPs).

LGUs shall ensure community participation and consultation in relocation and settlement planning processes.

SEC. 8. *Inter-agency Coordination.* - The DHSUD shall lead the implementation of this Act in coordination with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and concerned LGUs.

The concerned agencies shall establish an inter-agency mechanism to harmonize policies, planning standards, and implementation efforts related to relocation and resilient human settlements.

SEC. 9. *Community Participation.* - Affected families and communities shall be consulted in all stages of relocation and settlement planning, including site selection, housing design, access to services, and livelihood programs.

Special attention shall be given to vulnerable sectors, including women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples.

SEC. 10. *Post-relocation Monitoring.* - Concerned agencies and LGUs shall conduct periodic assessments of relocation and resettlement sites to ensure continued access to basic services, safety, environmental sustainability, and livelihood opportunities. The DHSUD shall develop monitoring and evaluation guidelines for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Accountability.* - Public officials who knowingly approve relocation or resettlement sites in violation of the hazard assessment standards and requirements provided under this Act may be subject to administrative sanctions in accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 12. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of concerned agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DHSUD, in coordination with concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,