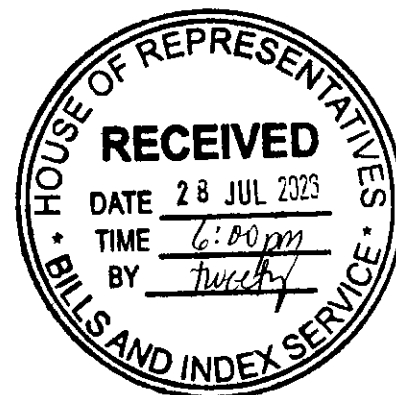


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 10356



Introduced by: **REP. ELMER V. CATULPOS**
(1Tahanan Partylist)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a calamity, the cruelest moment is not always the disaster itself. It is the moment after — when the help has arrived, when the food packs are stacked only meters away, and a hungry family is turned back from the line because the flood or the rubble took the very identification card that would prove who they are. The tragedy of Philippine disaster response has rarely been the absence of aid. It has been that the aid is right there, and a missing piece of paper stands between it and the people who need it.

On 8 June 2026, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck off Sarangani Province, and in a matter of moments homes and establishments across General Santos City, Sarangani, and South Cotabato collapsed, and thousands of families were displaced. In the days that followed, as I went among the affected communities during the relief operations, one complaint reached me again and again — from the people on the ground, from those who approached me, and from the messages and posts that poured in: families were being turned away from relief because they could not produce an identification card that the flood or the rubble had taken from them.

I understand, too, why our responders asked for those documents. They were not being unkind; they were trying to prevent one family from claiming twice while another had not yet received anything at all. Their aim was fairness — and that is precisely the point. When the hungry family is right to feel abandoned, and the responder is right to guard against duplication, and aid still fails to reach the people justly, the fault lies with neither of them. It lies in the absence of a system that lets us verify who is who without turning a single deserving Filipino away. That is the gap this bill was written to close.

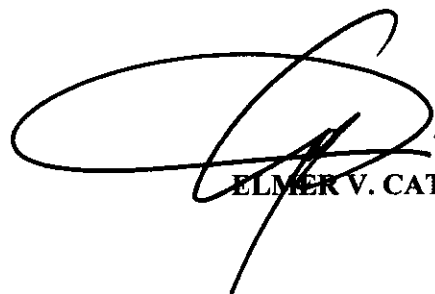
For the problem is not a want of resources, nor of law. We already hold the pieces. Republic Act No. 10121 built our disaster-management framework; the Ligtas Pinoy Centers Act (Republic Act No. 12076) mandates permanent evacuation centers; the Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Act (Republic Act No. 12287) empowers us to act ahead of forecastable hazards; the Community-Based Monitoring System Act (Republic Act No. 11315) has already geotagged our households; the Philippine Identification System (Republic Act No. 11055) has given us a verified national identity, including biometrics; and through the Department of Science and Technology's Phil-LiDAR and DREAM programs, we have already mapped much of the nation from the air. What we have never done is connect these before disaster strikes — so that relief flows the moment it is needed, to the right families, without a queue, and without a survivor being asked to prove, from under the rubble, that they exist.

This measure is that connection. It establishes a National Disaster Assistance Registry that integrates the databases we already maintain; it confirms a beneficiary's identity — through any government identification, or, for those who have lost everything, through a scan of their own face — at every release, so that aid reaches the right family and double-claiming is detected, deterred, and reconciled without burdening the victim; it authorizes drones and satellite imagery, drawn from both government and accredited volunteers, to guide rescuers to the worst-hit by the fastest safe route and to see within hours where damage is gravest; and it sets firm, enforceable timelines so that responders and relief arrive on the clock. It is built above all for the disasters we cannot forecast — the earthquake that gives no warning — which the anticipatory laws, by their nature, cannot reach.

This measure also answers an old and bitter injustice. Too often, after a calamity, aid has flowed not to those most in need but to those best connected — the household with an intact roof collecting what was meant for the family whose home is rubble, because the list was written by hand and by favor. This bill ends that. By comparing verified, pre-disaster maps of the country against imagery taken after the event, and by tying every release of aid to a verified identity and a verified category of damage, it makes help follow the truth on the ground rather than the strength of one's connections. What the drone sees, no politician can erase. And because the data is real, the government at last gains an honest basis to size its budget, release its funds, and answer to the public for every peso — reaching more of the truly affected, and none of the falsely listed.

This measure now stands, as well, as a direct answer to the President's report to the nation. In his State of the Nation Address of July 27, 2026, the President announced that our disaster response has moved beyond the reactive — “not only proactive, but predictive” — delivered through a nationwide network of disaster resource centers, fifteen hubs, seventy-six spokes, and 919 last-mile facilities capable of reaching target areas within twenty-four hours; and he declared the standard by which every response must now be measured: “Hindi lamang minsanang paghatid ng tulong ang ating ginagawa. Ang misyon natin ay sila'y muling makabangon at maitaguyod.” This bill completes the very architecture the President described: the Republic has built the network that moves the aid; this Act supplies the registry and verification that ensure the aid reaches the right family, swiftly and without favor — extending to the survivor of calamity the same principle the President proudly reported of government service, that no Filipino need “pumila o magmakaawa pa sa sinumang pulitiko” to receive what is rightfully theirs.

No Filipino who has lost everything should have to prove that they deserve to eat, nor watch aid meant for them handed to another for want of a connection. The measure of a nation is how swiftly, and how justly, it reaches its people on their worst day. In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ELMER V. CATULPOS

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10356

*Introduced by Representative ELMER V. CATULPOS
(I_Tahanan Party-list)*

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE REGISTRY AND RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM TO ENSURE THE FAST, ACCURATE, VERIFIED, AND DUPLICATION-FREE DELIVERY OF RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE TO CALAMITY-AFFECTED FAMILIES AND ESTABLISHMENTS, THROUGH BIOMETRIC IDENTITY CONFIRMATION, EVIDENCE-BASED DAMAGE CATEGORIZATION, GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGIES, AND THE INTEGRATION OF EXISTING NATIONAL DATABASES, 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 “Rapid and Accountable Disaster Assistance and Registry Act” or the “RADAR Act,” also known as the “Agapay Agad Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to protect the life, property, and dignity of every Filipino during calamities by ensuring that assistance reaches affected families and establishments without delay, that beneficiaries are accurately identified, that aid follows verified need rather than political connection, and that no eligible person is denied aid or burdened by repetitive documentation. Toward this end, the State shall establish a permanent, identity-verified, and technology-enabled system that pre-positions data before disasters occur, activates automatically upon a declaration of a state of calamity, confirms identity even of those who have lost their documents, categorizes damage from objective evidence, prevents the duplication of assistance, and harnesses geospatial technologies to guide rescue and prioritize aid. This Act shall complement, and not diminish, existing disaster laws and the rights guaranteed under the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them::

- (a) *National Disaster Assistance Registry (NDAR)* refers to the integrated, geotagged, consent-based database of households and establishments established under this Act for disaster response, relief, and recovery.
- (b) *Single-identity verification* refers to the confirmation of a beneficiary’s identity once against the Registry, sufficient to authorize the release of assistance and to prevent duplicate claims.
- (c) *Biometric confirmation* refers to the confirmation of a beneficiary’s identity through facial image and, where available, fingerprint or other biometric, matched against the Registry or the Philippine Identification System, for the purpose of authorizing assistance and preventing duplication.

- (d) *Baseline geospatial mapping* refers to the periodic pre-disaster mapping of the country using LiDAR, drone, satellite, aerial, and successor technologies, maintained to enable before-and-after comparison following a disaster.
- (e) *Geospatial damage assessment* refers to the use of drones, satellite imagery, aerial photography, and geographic information systems to guide rescue and to determine, validate, and map the extent of damage and the location of affected persons and structures.
- (f) *Damage categorization* refers to the classification of an affected structure, such as partially damaged or totally damaged, determined principally from geospatial evidence and objective validation under Section 12.
- (g) *Accredited drone operator* refers to a government, local, private, or volunteer operator vetted and accredited in advance to provide geospatial imagery during a calamity under the coordination and safety rules of this Act.
- (h) *Decision-support system* refers to the intelligent system authorized under Section 14 that assists, but does not replace, human responders and officials.
- (i) *Sudden-onset hazard* refers to a calamity that occurs without sufficient warning to permit anticipatory action, including but not limited to earthquakes, tsunamis, and similar events.
- (j) *Provisional Operation Permit* refers to the temporary authority granted under this Act allowing a micro or small enterprise to resume lawful operations within a calamity-affected area under simplified requirements.

SECTION 4. Scope and Relationship to Existing Laws. — This Act shall operate in harmony with, and shall not amend, repeal, or supersede, Republic Act No. 10121, Republic Act No. 11315, Republic Act No. 11055, Republic Act No. 10173, Republic Act No. 11032, Republic Act No. 12076, and Republic Act No. 12287, except as may be inconsistent herewith. The Registry shall integrate the data generated under the Community-Based Monitoring System Act and the Philippine Identification System Act, shall build upon the national geospatial datasets produced through the Department of Science and Technology, shall serve as the operational complement to the anticipatory action authorized under Republic Act No. 12287 by addressing post-impact and sudden-onset hazards, and shall make use of the evacuation centers established under Republic Act No. 12076.

SECTION 5. Establishment of the National Disaster Assistance Registry. — There is hereby established a National Disaster Assistance Registry, owned and operated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), which shall be responsible for its mission and data governance. The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall develop and maintain the platform of the Registry, including its desktop, web, and mobile applications and its secure interoperability with other government databases; and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shall provide the Community-Based Monitoring System data and Philippine Identification System verification. The Office of Civil Defense (OCD), the DILG, and the DOST shall support the Registry as provided in this Act. The Registry shall be built upon and continuously updated from the Community-Based Monitoring System, business permit and licensing records of local government units, geospatial data, and field validation. Local government units shall maintain their respective Registry data for local planning and response, consistent with the data-sharing framework of the Community-Based Monitoring System Act.

SECTION 6. Registry Content, Consent, and Data Privacy Safeguards. — The Registry shall contain, at minimum, the geotagged location, household composition, presence of vulnerable members, and contact and disbursement details of registered households, and the location, type, and ownership of establishments. Collection of personal data shall be consent-based and purpose-limited,

and the Registry shall be processed, stored, and accessed strictly in accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012. Sensitive personal information, including any biometric data used under Section 7, shall be kept to the minimum necessary and subject to the heightened safeguards therein; access shall be role-based and logged; and a Data Protection Officer shall be designated for each implementing agency and local government unit. Households that decline to give consent shall not be denied emergency assistance, and their data shall be processed only as aggregated statistics.

SECTION 7. Identity Verification, Biometric Confirmation, and Guarantee Against Duplication. — Except for the immediate life-sustaining relief exempted under Section 9, every release of assistance under this Act shall be verified at the point of distribution, so that aid reaches the right person and duplication is detected, deterred, and reconciled. Verification shall be made against the Registry and may be established through any one of the following, any one being sufficient: the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys); any valid government-issued identification; biometric confirmation under this section; or enrolment in the Registry at the point of assistance.

To ensure that every release is verified, the beneficiary shall be biometrically confirmed — by facial image and, where available, fingerprint, captured through a mobile application — at each distribution and not merely upon enrolment, so that each release is recorded against the beneficiary and the specific assistance cycle. A survivor who has lost all documents may thus be identified by a scan of their own face. Where feasible, the system shall rely upon the existing biometric records of the Philippine Identification System rather than create a separate biometric database.

Verification shall be made against the central Registry in real time where connectivity allows; where it does not, the device shall record the release locally and reconcile it with the central Registry automatically once connectivity is restored or devices synchronize. Because relief and recovery operations continue over days, weeks, and months, records captured offline shall be reconciled as the operation proceeds.

Assistance shall be reckoned in cycles. Once a beneficiary has received a given assistance cycle, any subsequent attempt to claim the same cycle — in any location, purok, or barangay, or from any agency or donor — shall be flagged and denied, while assistance for legitimate later cycles shall remain available to the beneficiary. A duplicate claim detected only upon reconciliation shall be flagged and offset against the beneficiary's subsequent entitlement, without denying genuine need. Biometric confirmation shall be strictly consent-based and purpose-limited to the release of assistance and the prevention of duplication. It shall not be used for law enforcement, surveillance, or any purpose beyond this Act; shall be governed by the Data Privacy Act of 2012 under the oversight of the National Privacy Commission; and shall be retained only as long as necessary for its purpose. No eligible person shall be denied emergency assistance by reason of inability to present any identification or to provide a biometric. Where identity cannot be immediately verified, emergency assistance shall still be given, and verification completed thereafter. This Act guarantees the verification of every release and the detection, deterrence, and reconciliation of duplication; it does not represent that every duplicate can be prevented in real time during the initial chaos of a disaster.

SECTION 8. Automatic Activation. — The Registry and the response timelines under this Act shall activate automatically upon the declaration of a state of calamity by the President or the appropriate local Sanggunian. In the case of sudden-onset hazards, activation shall be immediate upon confirmation of the event by the relevant scientific agency, without awaiting further administrative issuance.

SECTION 9. Mandatory Response and Distribution Timelines. — Within the periods reckoned from the activation under Section 8, and subject to conditions of access and safety, the responsible agencies and local government units shall:

- (a) Deploy first responders and conduct an initial rapid needs assessment within twenty-four (24) hours;
- (b) Commence the distribution of pre-positioned relief goods at designated evacuation centers within forty-eight (48) hours; and
- (c) Begin the release of emergency cash or electronic vouchers to verified beneficiaries within seventy-two (72) hours, where local markets are functioning.

Heads of responsible offices shall submit a compliance report for every activation. Failure to meet the timelines without justifiable cause shall be a ground for administrative liability, without prejudice to existing laws.

During the initial phase following a disaster, and particularly a sudden-onset hazard, the immediate life-sustaining relief — such as water, food, emergency shelter, and medical aid — shall be distributed with priority on speed and coverage, and may be given without individual verification, scaled to the severity of the disaster, so that no life is lost to delay. Even during this phase, responders shall capture such records as conditions allow, including photographs, headcounts, and geotags, for later reconciliation, without permitting this to delay distribution. Targeted assistance, including cash, vouchers, and rehabilitation or rebuilding aid, shall be verified at every release in accordance with Section 7, regardless of phase.

SECTION 10. Pre-Disaster Baseline Geospatial Mapping. — To enable the rapid and objective assessment of damage, the State shall maintain and periodically update a baseline geospatial map of the country, building upon the existing national elevation and hazard-mapping datasets produced through the Department of Science and Technology, including the Phil-LiDAR and DREAM programs, and the geospatial data of the DENR and other agencies. The OCD and the NDRRMC, in coordination with the DOST, the DICT, and local government units, shall ensure that recent baseline imagery is available for disaster-prone areas through scheduled mapping using LiDAR, drone, satellite, aerial, and successor technologies, so that, after a disaster, post-event imagery may be compared against the baseline to determine the extent and severity of damage.

SECTION 11. Geospatial Assessment, Rescue Guidance, and the Drone Network. — The use of drones, satellite imagery, aerial photography, and geographic information systems is hereby authorized and recognized as an official means of (a) guiding rescue and response, by identifying the worst-affected areas, the passable and blocked routes, and the safest and fastest means of reaching those in need; and (b) assessing and validating damage and prioritizing assistance, including through comparison against the baseline under Section 10.

Geospatial capability shall be organized as a network rather than concentrated in a single fleet. The OCD and the NDRRMC shall coordinate it; capability shall be pre-positioned regionally with local government units and regional councils; and the DOST and the agencies maintaining the national hazard and geospatial platforms shall provide technical standards. The State shall establish and maintain a roster of accredited volunteer and private drone operators who may be activated during a calamity to augment government capability, vetted in advance for competence and safety and bound by this Act, the Data Privacy Act of 2012, and civil-aviation and rescue-flight coordination rules.

The system shall be capable of receiving and using imagery in any common format, whether live-streamed or recorded, from any accredited source. Imagery used for rescue and response may be used immediately; imagery used as the basis for the official damage categorization under Section 12 shall be validated and logged. All aerial operations shall be subject to civil-aviation regulations and coordinated with rescue-flight operations to ensure safety.

SECTION 12. Evidence-Based Damage Categorization. — Affected structures shall be classified according to the extent of damage, such as partially damaged or totally damaged, as the basis for the appropriate assistance. The categorization shall be determined principally from geospatial evidence — including the comparison of post-event imagery against the baseline under Section 10 — together with objective field validation. Barangay and other local officials shall assist in, and may flag corrections to, the categorization, but shall not be its sole or overriding basis; the verified evidence shall govern. Every categorization shall be recorded and logged, the results shall be published in aggregate for public transparency consistent with data privacy, and an affected person may seek review of the categorization of their property through a simple and accessible process.

SECTION 13. Fair and Verified Targeting of All Assistance. — All assistance to calamity-affected families and establishments — whether relief goods, emergency cash, electronic vouchers, or the rehabilitation and rebuilding assistance provided through the existing programs of the National Housing Authority, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and other agencies — shall be released strictly in accordance with the verified identity of the beneficiary and the verified category of damage under this Act. The Registry shall serve as the verified list from which such programs draw their beneficiaries, in place of manually prepared lists. No assistance shall be granted to the undamaged, or to any person ahead of the genuinely affected, by reason of political affiliation, connection, or influence. This Act does not create a new entitlement to rebuilding assistance; it ensures that the assistance already provided by existing programs reaches the truly affected, fairly and verifiably.

SECTION 14. Intelligent Decision-Support System. — The implementing agencies, through the DICT, may develop and deploy an intelligent decision-support system, pre-loaded with baseline data — including maps, the registry of households and structures, hazard layers, and other relevant information — to assist responders in estimating damage, prioritizing assistance, planning routes, and detecting duplication. Such a system shall support, and shall never replace, the judgment and decision of human responders and officials, who shall remain responsible for every determination of eligibility and assistance. The specific technologies of the system shall be provided in the implementing rules so that the State may adopt the best available tools over time, and the system shall be governed by the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

SECTION 15. Mode of Assistance. — Assistance under this Act may be provided as in-kind relief, cash, or electronic vouchers redeemable at accredited local establishments, or any combination thereof. Digital and account-based disbursement shall be the preferred mode where feasible, to accelerate delivery and strengthen the local economy. In-kind assistance shall remain the primary mode during the initial period following a sudden-onset hazard and where markets are not yet functioning.

SECTION 16. Temporary Operation of Micro and Small Enterprises. — To restore local economic activity, micro and small enterprises, including sari-sari stores and similar small businesses, within a calamity-affected area may operate under a Provisional Operation Permit for a period not

exceeding ninety (90) days from the declaration, subject to renewal and to basic health and safety conditions to be set by the local government unit. For this purpose, an affected enterprise may put up temporary and light structures suitable to its trade and resume operating in designated safe areas identified by the local government unit. The provisional permit shall be issued upon simplified requirements and free of charge, consistent with the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018, and shall be read together with the enhanced enterprise-recovery measures of this Congress. This section shall not exempt any enterprise from safety inspection where public safety so requires.

SECTION 17. Funding and Contingency Mechanism. — A pre-arranged contingency funding mechanism is hereby authorized, drawing on the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund and the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Funds, to ensure that resources are released upon activation without awaiting separate appropriation. In developing the Registry and the systems under this Act, the implementing agencies shall build upon existing data, platforms, and geospatial assets to minimize cost, and may implement this Act in phases, prioritizing the most disaster-prone areas, provided that no phase-in shall delay the emergency assistance guaranteed herein. The initial amount necessary shall be charged against the appropriate appropriations and, thereafter, included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 18. Roles and Responsibilities. — The DSWD shall be the lead agency for relief distribution and shall own the Registry; the DICT shall build and maintain the platform and interoperability; the PSA shall provide the Community-Based Monitoring System data and PhilSys verification; the OCD and the NDRRMC shall coordinate overall response, timelines, and the geospatial network; the DOST shall provide geospatial standards and baseline mapping; the DTI and local government units shall implement the Provisional Operation Permit; and local government units shall serve as frontline implementers consistent with their primary responsibility under Republic Act No. 10121.

SECTION 19. Oversight and Transparency. — The implementing agencies shall maintain a publicly accessible dashboard, consistent with data privacy, showing the status of assistance per affected area during every activation. A Congressional Oversight Committee, composed of the chairpersons and members of the appropriate committees of both Houses, shall monitor the implementation of this Act and conduct a review within three (3) years from its effectivity.

SECTION 20. Data Protection and Penalties. — Any person who accesses, uses, discloses, or processes Registry or biometric data in violation of the Data Privacy Act of 2012 or this Act, who manipulates the Registry to cause the wrongful grant or denial of assistance, or who falsifies a damage categorization or a beneficiary list to cause assistance to reach the undeserving ahead of the affected, shall be liable under the penalties provided in the Data Privacy Act of 2012, the Revised Penal Code, and other applicable laws, without prejudice to administrative sanctions.

SECTION 21. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in coordination with the OCD, PSA, DILG, DICT, DOST, DTI, and the National Privacy Commission, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations. Failure to promulgate the same shall not prevent the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 22. 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 23. 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.

SECTION 24. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.