

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11021



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Flooding remains one of the most persistent and destructive natural hazards in the Philippines, causing significant loss of life, displacement of communities, and damage to infrastructure and the economy. The increasing intensity of rainfall due to climate change, combined with rapid urbanization and environmental degradation, has further heightened the country's vulnerability to flooding.

Despite substantial investments in flood control infrastructure, many existing systems remain fragmented, reactive, and insufficiently coordinated, often focusing on isolated structural interventions rather than comprehensive, basin-wide solutions.

Japan is widely recognized as a global leader in flood management, having developed highly advanced systems that integrate engineering excellence, river basin management, land use planning, early warning systems, and community preparedness.¹ Its approach is characterized by a multi-layered flood control strategy, combining structural and non-structural measures and grounded in long-term planning and scientific data.

This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize a National Flood Control Benchmark Framework, drawing from Japan's proven practices while adapting them to Philippine conditions. The objective is not merely to replicate foreign models, but to establish a unified, science-based standard for flood control across the country, ensuring consistency, efficiency, and resilience.

¹ Tsukasa Nakamura, Deloitte, "How Japan is turning climate and flood risk into economic growth through infrastructure innovations," World Economic Forum, 10 August 2026, available at: <https://www.weforum.org/stories/climate-action/japan-climate-flood-resilience-infrastructure/>

The measure is anchored on the State's constitutional duty to protect the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology (Article II, Section 16) and to promote the general welfare. It also complements existing laws such as the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 and the Climate Change Act of 2009, by strengthening the integration of infrastructure, environmental management, and disaster preparedness.

Importantly, the bill respects the mandates of existing agencies and the autonomy of local government units, positioning the national framework as a coordinating and standard-setting mechanism rather than a centralizing authority.

By adopting international best practices and institutionalizing integrated flood control standards, this measure aims to enhance the country's capacity to prevent, mitigate, and respond to flooding, ultimately safeguarding lives, protecting property, and promoting sustainable development.

It is for the foregoing premises that the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List

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AN ACT
ADOPTING A NATIONAL FLOOD CONTROL BENCHMARK BASED ON
INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES, INCLUDING JAPAN’S FLOOD
MANAGEMENT STANDARDS, STRENGTHENING INTEGRATED RIVER
BASIN MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “*National Flood Control Benchmark Act.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the people from the adverse impacts of flooding through science-based, climate-resilient, and integrated flood control systems and adopt international best practices, including Japan’s advanced flood management standards, to enhance national capacity. Toward this end, the State shall ensure sustainable infrastructure development consistent with Article II, Section 16 of the Constitution (right to a balanced and healthful ecology).

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act:

- (a) **Flood Control Benchmark** refers to engineering, environmental, and governance standards used to design and implement flood control systems;
- (b) **Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM)** refers to the coordinated management of water, land, and related resources within a river basin;

- (c) **Multi-layered Flood Control System** refers to a system combining structural (e.g., dams, levees) and non-structural measures (e.g., zoning, early warning systems).

SECTION 4. *Adoption of National Flood Control Benchmark.* - The State shall adopt a National Flood Control Benchmark Framework, drawing from Japan's river basin-wide flood control planning, high-standard infrastructure design, early warning and evacuation systems, and land use regulation and floodplain management.

The framework shall be adapted to Philippine conditions.

SECTION 5. *Establishment of Flood Control Benchmark Standards.* - The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with relevant agencies, environmental groups, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) organizations, shall establish:

- a. Minimum engineering design standards for flood control infrastructure;
- b. Basin-wide flood risk assessment protocols;
- c. Standards for urban drainage and flood mitigation systems;
- d. Climate-resilient and nature-based solutions.

SECTION 6. *Lead Implementing Agencies.* - Implementation shall be undertaken by Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for the infrastructure standards and projects, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the watershed and river basin management, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) for disaster preparedness, Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for the flood modeling and forecasting, and Local Government Units (LGUs) for land use and zoning enforcement.

SECTION 7. *Integration with Local Government Plans.* - LGUs shall align their Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) and disaster risk reduction plans with the National Flood Control Benchmark Framework.

SECTION 8. *Non-Impairment of Existing Mandates.* - Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish the powers of DPWH, DENR, or LGUs and repeal existing flood control laws, except insofar as inconsistent.

The Act shall operate as a supplemental and harmonizing framework.

SECTION 9. *Data Sharing and Flood Information Systems.* - All agencies shall establish an integrated flood data system, ensuring real-time data sharing, interoperability, public access to flood risk information.

SECTION 10. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be incorporated in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 11. *Capacity-Building.* – The government shall undertake training and technical cooperation, including partnerships with Japan and international institutions, for knowledge transfer.

SECTION 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from effectivity, DENR, in coordination with relevant agencies, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,