

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE ]  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES ]  
First Regular Session ]



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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 288

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Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10121 OR THE “PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2010” AND EXISTING INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION MECHANISMS AND MEASURES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE END VIEW OF STRENGTHENING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND MANAGEMENT PLANS AND PROGRAMS OF THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION**

1       **WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10121 (RA 10121), otherwise  
2 known as the “Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010”,  
3 recognizes the importance of addressing the root causes of vulnerabilities to  
4 disasters, strengthening the country’s institutional capacity for disaster risk  
5 reduction and management, and building the resilience of local communities to  
6 disasters;

7       **WHEREAS**, according to the World Risk Report 2018 and 2019, the  
8 Philippines ranked 3rd in 2018 and 9th in 2019 in terms of disaster risk, among  
9 all of the countries with the highest risks worldwide, with an index value of  
10 25.14% and 20.69%, respectively. This is largely due to the location and  
11 geographic context of the Philippines since at least 60% of the country’s total  
12 land area is exposed to multiple hazards, such as typhoons, storm surges,

1 tectonic plates, earthquakes, volcanoes, flooding, landslides, droughts and  
2 tsunamis, and 74% of the population is susceptible to their impact<sup>1</sup>;

3 **WHEREAS**, in a span of four months, the Philippines has been struck by  
4 a series of natural disasters, such as Typhoon Kammuri (Tisoy) which hit the  
5 provinces of Sorsogon, Masbate, Marinduque and Oriental Mindoro in December  
6 2019, Typhoon Phanfone (Ursula) which affected several regions in the Visayas,  
7 MIMAROPA and Caraga on Christmas day, the earthquakes in Tulum, North  
8 Cotabato in October 2019 and in Davao del Sur on December 15, 2019, and more  
9 recently, the abrupt eruption of Taal volcano and its resulting earthquakes and  
10 ashfall in the provinces of Batangas and Cavite;

11 **WHEREAS**, the Taal volcano eruption has created new fissures or cracks  
12 in four municipalities in Batangas, and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology  
13 and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) has warned that the intense seismic activity signifies  
14 continuous magmatic intrusion beneath the Taal edifice that may lead to further  
15 eruptive activity. Alert level-4 remains to be in effect putting communities  
16 residing within the 14-km. radius of the volcano crater, including the densely  
17 populated tourist destination Tagaytay City, at most risk;

18 **WHEREAS**, as of January 16, 2020, over 68,600 people are affected in the  
19 Batangas and Cavite provinces, of whom more than 57,200 people have been  
20 assisted and taking shelter in 257 evacuation centers. Around 21,000 children  
21 are estimated by Save the Children to be living within the 14-km. danger zone,  
22 while over 8 million children from over 7,900 schools were reported by the  
23 Department of Education (DepEd) to be affected by the disruption of classes over  
24 the past few days as well as schools that closed or sustained damage due to  
25 ashfall in affected municipalities<sup>2</sup>;

26 **WHEREAS**, agricultural damages are estimated to be at Php577 million  
27 (US\$11.3 million) affecting 2,772 hectares of farm land and 1,967 animals with  
28 estimated production loss of over 15,000 metric tons in the fisheries sector<sup>3</sup>;

29 **WHEREAS**, according to DepEd, 178 schools (or 1,147 classrooms) all over  
30 CALABARZON are being used as evacuation centers for 8,295 families composed

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<sup>1</sup> Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Disaster Risk Reduction in the Philippines Status Report (July 2019)", citing the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery Report, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Flash Update No. 2: Philippines: Taal Volcano eruption as of January 16, 2020, 2 p.m., <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20200116%20Flash%20Update%20no.%2020on%20Taal%20Volcano%20eruption%20final.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*



1 of 38,926 individuals, thereby, disrupting classes for 10,099 students. DepEd  
2 has already requested public schools in the CALABARZON region to  
3 accommodate displaced learners and for teachers to validate the number of  
4 school-age children to facilitate their registration at the host schools;

5 **WHEREAS**, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management  
6 Council (NDRRMC) is empowered to develop a national disaster risk reduction  
7 and management framework that provides a comprehensive, all-hazards, multi-  
8 sectoral, inter-agency and community-based approach to disaster risk reduction  
9 and management as well as manage and mobilize resources for disaster risk  
10 reduction and management including the NDRRM Fund, 30% of which is  
11 allocated as Quick Response Fund for relief and recovery programs;

12 **WHEREAS**, the Office of Civil Defense is tasked to develop and ensure that  
13 LGUs implement national standards in carrying out disaster risk reduction  
14 programs, among others;

15 **WHEREAS**, the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office in  
16 every province, city and municipality is responsible for setting the direction,  
17 development, implementation and coordination of disaster risk management  
18 programs within their territorial jurisdiction;

19 **WHEREAS**, national and provincial authorities, spearheaded by the  
20 NDRRMC, continue to lead the response, coordinating logistics support,  
21 evacuating affected barangays, clearing roads and dredging waterways clogged  
22 with ashfall, conducting health assessments, while other local government units  
23 like Quezon, Laguna and Valenzuela City, are also providing support and  
24 assistance to the affected communities;

25 **WHEREAS**, there have been an outpour of donations from the private  
26 sector and private individuals in kind and in cash, and coordinating mechanisms  
27 and systems between and among the national government, local government  
28 units, non-government organizations, community centers and donors need to  
29 improve taking into account sustainable and environmentally-responsible  
30 donation and assistance programs;

31 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to ensure that all efforts being done by the  
32 national government and the local government units for disaster risk reduction,  
33 response and recovery are sufficient and sustainable to guarantee the safety of  
34 the lives of the Filipino people;

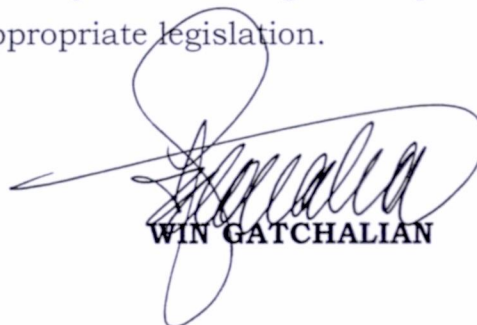
1           **WHEREAS**, these experiences are key opportunities for learning and  
2 improving disaster preparedness, coordination, strategies and practices to  
3 effectively and proactively prepare for and mitigate the adverse effects of  
4 disasters;

5           **WHEREAS**, implementation drawbacks and other shortcomings still exist  
6 and improvements can be done in risk reduction, response, recovery, logistics  
7 and communications efforts before, during and after disasters, and in promoting  
8 awareness on disaster preparedness and risk reduction;

9           **WHEREAS**, to build disaster resilience among our communities and to  
10 institutionalize arrangements and measures for reducing disaster risks and  
11 enhancing disaster preparedness and response capabilities, it is incumbent upon  
12 the Senate to review the impact and effectiveness of RA 10121, as well as existing  
13 disaster risk reduction, response, recovery and awareness programs of the  
14 government;

15           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,**  
16 to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of  
17 legislation, on the impact and effectiveness of RA 10121 or the “Philippine  
18 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010” and existing inter-  
19 agency coordination mechanisms and measures of the national government,  
20 the local government units and the private sector on disaster risk reduction,  
21 response and recovery in the country, with the end view of strengthening  
22 disaster risk reduction, response, recovery and management plans and  
23 programs of the government through appropriate legislation.  
24

25           Adopted,



**WIN GATCHALIAN**