

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

SENATE  
Office of the Secretary

16 AUG -8 P 1:35

RECORDED BY: *[Signature]*

SENATE

S.B. No. 989

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Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

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AN ACT  
MANDATING THE CREATION OF A SCHOOL DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT SAFETY DRILLS FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS IN  
ALL SCHOOLS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The occurrence of natural or human-induced disasters do not give us warnings nor the time to make quick judgments. Because of their age and vulnerability, children most likely, will be helpless and susceptible to panic and despair. Their response may be inadequate to prepare them for the eventuality of catastrophic events. To equip them to better understand the occurrence of these events and empower them with the knowledge to guide their response, this bill is proposing for the creation of a school-based disaster management committee that will develop a disaster management plan in coordination with the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, public order and safety offices and the law enforcement agencies.

Notable provisions in the Republic Act No. 10121, also known as the "Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010" are the following:

*SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It shall be the policy of the State to:*

*Xxx*

*(e) Develop, promote, and implement a comprehensive National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP) that aims to strengthen the capacity of the national government and the local government units (LGUs), together with partner stakeholders, to build the disaster resilience of communities, and to institutionalize arrangements and measures for reducing disaster preparedness and response capabilities at all levels;*

*Xxx*

*(h) Institutionalize the policies, structures, coordination mechanisms and programs with continuing budget appropriation on disaster risk reduction from national down to local levels towards building a disaster-resilient nation and communities;*

*Xxx*

*(k) Recognize the local risk patterns across the country and strengthen the capacity of LGUs for disaster risk reduction and management through decentralized powers, responsibilities, and resources at the regional and local levels;*

*Xxx*

*(n) Develop and strengthen the capacities of vulnerable and marginalized groups to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of disasters;*

*xxx.”*

The school being the second home of our children, we entrust to them the responsibility of inculcating a culture of resilience through an enhanced capacity of preparedness and adequate training to respond to incidents of these nature.

The bill shall institutionalize the conduct of regular drills and provide evaluations for an effective assessment of the disaster management plan. In order

that schools adopt the minimum requirements set forth in this Act, penalties shall likewise be imposed to ensure compliance.

Because of climate change and the inevitability of natural and human-induced disasters to occur, we urge for the immediate approval of this Act.



WIN GATCHALIAN

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ALL SCHOOLS

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

1 SECTION 1. **Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Disaster  
2 Preparedness in Schools Act."

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to train the people,  
4 particularly students and school staff, on how to appropriately respond to emergency  
5 situations including human-induced or natural calamities in order to reduce the risk  
6 on their lives, limbs and property whenever a calamity or emergency occurs at school  
7 when classes are on-going or in the locality where the school is located. The State  
8 also recognizes the importance of generating the highest level of awareness among  
9 the public on disaster risk reduction concerns and to assess the capacity level of  
10 schools and the community in the eventuality of disasters and emergencies. Towards  
11 this end, the State shall mandate the conduct of earthquake, fire, and other safety  
12 drills for emergency situations in all schools.

13 SEC. 3. **Creation of the School Disaster Management Committee.** - Each  
14 school shall establish and maintain a School Disaster Management Committee,  
15 hereinafter referred to as the Committee, to oversee disaster risk reduction and  
16 preparedness activities to be undertaken by the school's staff and students.

1           The Committee shall develop, adapt, implement, and update the school  
2 disaster management plan. It shall meet at the beginning of each school year or  
3 semester and quarterly during the school year, or as it may deem necessary. It shall  
4 encourage personal and organizational preparedness, guide mitigation work, ensure  
5 compliance with the provisions of this Act, lead in the conduct of the monthly drills,  
6 evaluate the results, and adjust school disaster management plan accordingly.

7           The Committee shall also maintain formal links between the school and the  
8 local disaster risk reduction and management council.

9           **SEC. 4. *Member of the School Disaster Management Committee.*** – The  
10 Committee shall be composed of the following:

- 11           a) School principal or president as head and focal person;
- 12           b) Representative of the school's teaching personnel;
- 13           c) Representative of the school's non-teaching personnel;
- 14           d) Representative from the parents-teacher association;
- 15           e) Representative of the barangay council;
- 16           f) Representative of the community where the school is situated;
- 17           g) Representative of the students, preferably an elected representative from the  
18 student body, when applicable; and a
- 19           h) Representative from the religious sector.

20  
21           **SEC. 5. *Duties and Responsibilities of the Disaster Management***  
22 ***Committee.*** – a) *Conduct drills in schools* – It shall be the mandate of every School  
23 Disaster Management Committee in all elementary schools, high schools, and higher  
24 education institutions including technical-vocational schools and training schools,  
25 whether public or private, to conduct an earthquake, fire, or safety drills for other  
26 emergency situations in their respective premises periodically. All students and staff  
27 of the school shall actively participate in the drills.

- 28           i. During the school year, all elementary and high schools are expected  
29 to conduct a minimum total of five (5) safety drills which shall include

1 two (2) fire drills, two (2) earthquake drills, and one (1) other risk-  
2 related drill. The School Disaster Management Committee, which shall  
3 be established by the schools in accordance with Section 4 of this Act,  
4 should consider possible high-risk local events including flooding,  
5 tsunami, or lahar flow occurrences in the locality when deciding what  
6 other risk-related drill shall be conducted in the school. It may conduct  
7 additional drills as it may deem necessary.

8 ii. All higher education institutions including technical-vocational school  
9 and training schools shall conduct an earthquake, fire, or safety drills  
10 for other emergency situations every semester or at least twice a year.

11 iii. Teachers or faculty members, in case of HEIs, shall be designated as  
12 safety officers to ably assist the students and other participants during  
13 the conduct of the safety drills.

14 For the purposes of this Act, elementary schools shall include pre-school  
15 learning institutions. In succeeding sections of this Act, the term school refers to  
16 elementary schools, high schools, and higher education institutions including  
17 technical-vocational schools and training schools.

18 b) *Identify high risk areas in the school* – The Committee shall assess and  
19 identify risks in the school premises by considering potential hazards and evaluating  
20 existing conditions of vulnerability that together could potentially harm the students,  
21 the people in the community near the school, and their property.

22 The Committee shall prepare a school site map and community maps to record  
23 and visualize risks and resources in the school premises and in the community. The  
24 school map shall indicate high risk areas, vulnerabilities, and resources in the school  
25 premises and should be displayed in corridors and other important areas in the  
26 school. It shall also mark evacuation routes on this map.

27 c) *Develop a school disaster management plan* – The Committee shall develop  
28 a school disaster management plan which includes strategies that are coordinated  
29 with the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, public order and  
30 safety offices, and law enforcement agencies aimed at the prevention of, education  
31 about, and response to potential incidents involving natural or human-induced  
32 disasters, crime, and violence on or near the school campus.

1 The school disaster management plan shall be reviewed annually by the  
2 Committee at the start of the school year and, as the need arise, necessary revisions  
3 should be made accordingly.

4 d) *Coordinate with local authorities* - The Committee shall ensure close  
5 coordination by the school with the concerned regional, municipal and barangay  
6 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils, law enforcement agencies, and  
7 other concerned agencies prior to the conduct of the safety drills to ensure the  
8 success of the activity and safety of the participants.

9 e) *Evaluate the conduct of drills* - Drill evaluation forms prepared by the  
10 Department of Education in coordination with the National Disaster Risk Reduction  
11 and Management Office. The drill evaluation form shall indicate, among others, the  
12 drill conducted, level of participation, school evaluation and school disaster  
13 management plan evaluation and assessment.

14 SEC. 6. **Penalties.** - Any person in charge of the administration or  
15 management of schools, who refuse or fails to carry out the provisions of this Act  
16 shall be given a warning for the first offense; a fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos  
17 (P100,000.00) for the second offense; a fine of Two Hundred Thousand Pesos  
18 (P200,000.00) for the third offense; and imprisonment of one (1) month and a fine of  
19 Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (P300,000.00) for subsequent offenses. The fines  
20 shall go to the funds of the local NDRRMC office and shall be used for disaster  
21 prevention and mitigation programs of the locality.

22 SEC. 7. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within ninety (90) days  
23 from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the  
24 Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, Director General of the  
25 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, National Disaster Risk  
26 Reduction and Management Council and the Secretary of the Interior and Local  
27 Government, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective  
28 implementation of this Act.

29 SEC. 8. **Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part of this Act is declared  
30 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall  
31 remain in full force and effect.

1           SEC. 9. **Repealing Clause.** - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,  
2 rules and regulation or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are  
3 hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

4           SEC. 10. **Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
5 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general  
6 circulation.

Approved,