



**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF
CALAMITY IN EASTERN VISAYAS DUE TO THE SEVERE IMPACT OF THE
STRUCTURAL COMPROMISE OF THE SAN JUANICO BRIDGE**

NDRRMC Resolution No. 01, Series of 2025

WHEREAS, the San Juanico Bridge, completed in 1972, is the only permanent land link between the islands of Samar and Leyte, serving as a vital artery of the Pan-Philippine Highway (Maharlika Highway/AH26), which connects Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao;

WHEREAS, an engineering assessment conducted by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Regional Office VIII revealed significant structural compromises to the bridge, prompting the enforcement of a strict 3-ton vehicle load limit effective 15 May 2025;

WHEREAS, this restriction has halted the passage of heavy cargo vehicles, severely disrupting the transport of food, medicine, agricultural products, construction materials, and other essential commodities across Eastern Visayas;

WHEREAS, approximately 14,000 vehicles cross the San Juanico Bridge daily, around 10% of which are cargo trucks. The abrupt imposition of restrictions has stranded more than 200 vehicles and is projected to result in monthly economic losses ranging from ₱300 million and ₱600 million, directly impacting food and fuel supply, delivery of healthcare services, commercial distribution, and regional trade;

WHEREAS, alternative roll-on/roll-off (RORO) routes are insufficient to fully absorb the redirected traffic, exacerbating delays and causing hardship to commuters and transporters;

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of repair and rehabilitation by the DPWH amounts to PHP 7 billion, and any delay in fund release would further escalate the crisis;

WHEREAS, the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) VIII has raised the alert level to "Blue Alert" in response to the escalating risks and the need for rapid inter-agency response;

WHEREAS, the Inter-Agency Coordinating Cell convened on 23 May 2025 with the relevant agencies and reached an agreement to recommend the declaration of a State of Calamity in Eastern Visayas;

WHEREAS, Section 16, in relation to Section 6(c), of Republic Act No. 10121 authorizes the Council to recommend to the President of the Philippines the declaration of a State of Calamity over clusters of barangays, municipalities, cities, provinces, and regions, and to submit proposals for restoring normalcy in the affected areas, including the allocation of calamity funds;

WHEREAS, NDRRMC Memorandum Order No. 60, series of 2019, provides the criteria for an area to be declared under the State of Calamity, to wit:

"3. CRITERIA FOR DECLARATION OF A STATE OF CALAMITY

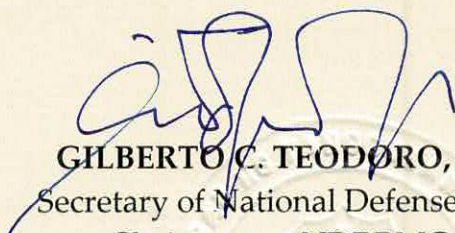
A city, municipality, province, or region may be declared under a State of Calamity when any of the following conditions brought about by natural and/or human-Induced disasters are present:

- a. At least fifteen percent (15%) of the forecasted affected population based on science-based projection are in need of emergency assistance.*
- b. At least thirty percent (30%) of the means of livelihood on agricultural, business, and industrial sectors are affected.*
- c. Damage to critical and lifeline infrastructure/facilities such as major roads and bridges, power stations, potable water supply systems, and telecommunication facilities that may result to any of the following:*
 - i. Emergency response is hindered;*
 - ii. Local Government Unit (LGU) basic services are inaccessible and/or paralyzed which further aggravate the situation of communities; or*
 - iii. Services are disrupted which may take more than a week to be restored.*
- d. Widespread destruction of fishponds, crops, poultry and livestock, and other agricultural products,*
- e. Disruption of lifelines such as food supply chain, electricity, potable water system, other transport systems, communication system, access to health service, and other related systems that cannot be restored within one (1) week, or in the case for highly-urbanized areas whererestoration of the above lifelines cannot be done within twenty-four (24) hours.*

NOW, THEREFORE, upon the recommendation of the RDRRMC VIII and pursuant to the authority vested in the NDRRMC, the Council:

HEREBY RESOLVES, to recommend to His Excellency President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., the declaration of a State of Calamity in Eastern Visayas, to expedite the release of necessary funds and facilitate immediate repair and rehabilitation of the San Juanico Bridge, thereby restoring vital logistics and public services.

Done this day of 25th May 2025, at the NDRRMC Operations Center, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.


GILBERTO C. TEODORO, JR.
Secretary of National Defense and
Chairperson, NDRRMC

