



NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'22 AUG 17 A9 :44

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

P.S. Res. No. 153

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

RESOLUTION

**DECLARING A CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY, AND
CALLING FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND INSTRUMENTALITIES, TOWARDS THE
EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION, AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
AND MANAGEMENT LAWS**

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 16 of the Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall “protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature”;

WHEREAS, in pursuit of the said Constitutional mandate, various laws on environmental and climate action, such as the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System, Marine Pollution Control law, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Renewable Energy Act, Environmental Awareness and Education Act, Climate Change Act and its amendatory law creating the People’s Survival Fund, Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act, Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act, Green Jobs Act, Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act, and Extended Producer Responsibility Act, have been passed, the effective implementation of which is vital to the country’s sustainable growth and development;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9729, or the Climate Change Act, as amended, declares it a policy of the State to “systematically integrate the concept of climate change in various phases of policy formulation, development plans, poverty reduction strategies and other development tools and techniques by all agencies and instrumentalities of the government”;

WHEREAS, Section 26 of the same law mandates all relevant government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to “allocate from their annual appropriations adequate funds for the formulation, development, and

implementation, including training, capacity building and direct intervention, of their respective climate change programs and plans”;

WHEREAS, Section 14 of the same law recognizes LGUs as frontline agencies in the formulation, planning, and implementation of climate change action plans in their respective areas, consistent with the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change and key thematic areas of the National Climate Change Action Plan;

WHEREAS, Section 26 of Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code, emphasizes the significant role played by LGUs in the maintenance of ecological balance by granting them the power to restrict clearances for any project or program that may cause pollution, climatic change, depletion of non-renewable resources, loss of cropland, rangeland, or forest cover, and extinction of animal or plant species;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11639, or the 2022 General Appropriations Act, mandates all agencies of the government to “implement projects incorporating risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and where feasible, climate change mitigation in light of intensifying hazards”;

WHEREAS, R.A. 11639 also mandates all national government agencies, LGUs, government-owned and controlled corporations, and State and University Colleges to tag their budgets for climate change adaptation and mitigation following DBM-CCC JMC No. 2015-01 and DBM-CCC-DILG JMC No. 2015-01. The results of the budget tagging shall guide the formulation of subsequent budgets to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in the national and local development process;

WHEREAS, 197 countries, including the Philippines, are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), whose ultimate objective is to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations “at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system,” and which “should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner”;

WHEREAS, in March 2017, the Philippines acceded to the Paris Agreement, a major climate treaty within the UNFCCC that aims to enhance the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change and to limit global temperature rise to well below two degrees Celsius (2°C) above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius (1.5°C);

WHEREAS, on 15 April 2021, as a State Party to the Paris Agreement, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines communicated to the UNFCCC its Nationally Determined Contribution of (NDC) 75% greenhouse gas (GHG) emission

reduction and avoidance from 2020 to 2030, compared to business as usual within the same period;

WHEREAS, the Philippine NDC presents a paradigm shift towards a climate and disaster-resilient low carbon economy development attuned to the country's socio-economic development goals of sustainable industrial development, poverty eradication and inclusive growth, energy security, and social and climate justice;

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - the world's leading scientific body assessing the science related to climate change - has released a three-part series of Special Reports that highlight the urgency of climate action, namely:

1) Special Report on the Global Warming of 1.5°C (October 2018), which cites that climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C;

2) Special Report on Climate Change and Land (August 2019), which cites that global warming has resulted in an increased frequency and intensity, and duration of heat-related events, including heat waves, droughts, and precipitation events; and

3) Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (September 2019), which cites that human communities in close connection with coastal environments, small islands, polar areas, and high mountains are particularly exposed to the ocean and cryosphere change, such as sea level rise, extreme sea level, and shrinking cryosphere;

WHEREAS, reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change are critical policy objectives, given the findings of the 6th IPCC Assessment Report that human-induced climate change, including more frequent and intense extreme events, has caused widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people, beyond natural climate variability;

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Finance, the country incurred PHP506.1 billion worth of loss and damage from 2010 to 2020 due to climate change. This corresponds to 0.5 percent of its annual GDP, with most climate-induced risks projected to become more unpredictable or extreme in terms of intensity, duration, or frequency for the rest of the 21st century. This puts the nation at even higher risk of more loss and damage, which would disproportionately affect the most vulnerable groups, such as women, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, the urban poor, farmers, and fisherfolk communities;

WHEREAS, a global campaign to declare a "Climate Emergency" started as early as 2003, in recognition of the intensifying complications brought about by global warming and climate change, and of the corresponding needs and implications to accelerate actions, including investments and mobilization of resources;

WHEREAS, now, more than ever, there is a growing consensus that the entire planet is under a climate emergency and that failure to reduce and avoid global GHG emissions and to build the adaptive capacities of communities to climate change would lead to unprecedented loss to human society, environment, and global economy;

WHEREAS, in its Resolution entitled, “Declaration of a Climate Emergency and the Immediate Need to Consolidate Government Data to Generate a Nationwide Climate Risk Assessment”, the Climate Change Commission’s National Panel of Technical Experts manifests that 2020 marks an unprecedented level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) with at least 410 parts per million (ppm), a 17% increase since 1990 exactly thirty (30) years ago when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) met for the very first time to discuss the Framework for Negotiations on Greenhouse Gas Emissions;

WHEREAS, according to the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE), various data sets – which contain information on natural hazards, levels and extent of exposure, and inherent vulnerabilities must be gathered in a single platform that can be analyzed to produce baseline climate risk assessments at a city and municipality scale. These data may be sourced from various government agencies, including the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Health (DOH);

WHEREAS, forecasting and mapping platforms, such as the Geospatial Information Management and Analysis Project for Hazards and Risk Assessment in the Philippines (GeoRiskPH), already exist, and all national government agencies and LGUS are urged to institutionalize its use for the formulation and implementation of interventions in reducing the impacts of climate change and disasters in the communities;

WHEREAS, as of 2022, two thousand two hundred forty-eight (2,248) jurisdictions in thirty-nine (39) countries have declared a climate emergency;

WHEREAS, in the Philippines, the Cities of Makati, Bacolod, and Cebu, and the Municipality of Tolosa in Leyte have all made Climate Emergency Declarations in their respective jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, in declaring a climate emergency, a government admits that global warming exists and that the measures taken up to this point are not enough to limit the changes brought by it, stressing the need for the government and administration to devise measures that try and stop human-caused global warming;

WHEREAS, the effective and faithful implementation of environmental and climate laws will aid the Philippines in achieving its commitments under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in the era of a global climate emergency;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Senate to determine the effective use of public funds in the implementation of the environmental, climate, and disaster risk reduction laws which will redound to the benefit of the next generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, to declare a national climate and environmental emergency, ensuring immediate, large-scale, and coherent climate actions in the executive and legislative agenda of the government. Towards this end, the Senate shall:

- 1) encourage that urgent climate action be placed at the center of all policy decision-making from local to national level;
- 2) prioritize climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in the annual appropriations and budget expenditure;
- 3) encourage LGUs to issue Climate Change Declarations within their respective jurisdictions;
- 4) call on the CCC to spearhead the collection and consolidation of relevant data with national government agencies as well as LGUs, in collaboration with the NPTE, to come up with a climate risk assessment of the country, to produce baseline studies that consider future scenarios and impacts of climate change, to perform sustainable development and resilient investment planning, programming and financing at the national, sectoral, and local levels;
- 5) call on the major carbon emitters, locally and abroad, to take responsibility for climate change and to reinvest in renewable and sustainable energy;
- 6) call on local governments to adopt a “No to Coal” or “No to New Coal Policy” within their respective jurisdictions;
- 7) call on local industries and LGUs to pursue renewable and sustainable energy sources;
- 8) in the exercise of its oversight functions, conduct an audit of relevant national government agencies and LGUs in relation to their compliance to existing environmental, climate, disaster risk reduction and management and appropriation laws, and international agreements in light of the climate and environmental emergency with the end in view of ensuring an enhanced national monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of these laws and warranting the accountability of government officials, private entities and other involved stakeholders;
- 9) enjoin national government agencies to promote convergence of efforts toward strengthening data science, technology development, and research for climate change adaptation and mitigation, including the establishment of a national integrated risk information system and a national loss and damage registry, to support science-based policy formulation and risk governance at national and subnational levels; and
- 10) encourage the flow of investments from the private sectors through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) as an innovative mechanism to support national climate actions.

RESOLVED FURTHER BY THE SENATE, to mobilize LGUs and all other government agencies and instrumentalities towards the effective implementation of

environmental climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management laws in the light of global climate and environmental emergency;

RESOLVED FINALLY, to furnish copies of this Resolution immediately to all national government agencies, LGUs, instrumentalities, and other concerned institutions.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA