

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



22 JUL 14 P4 :05

SENATE

S.B. No. 650

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT
DECLARING CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY AND ENHANCING
RESILIENCY AND ADAPTABILITY TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 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.*"

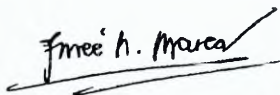

Climate change has become a pressing concern worldwide. It generally refers to the long-term alteration of temperature and typical weather patterns which results in more extreme weather events and associated disasters, from hurricanes to drought to flood, to wildfires. Some of the long-term effects of climate change include: loss of sea ice, accelerated sea level rise and longer, more intense heat waves. Studies have shown that climate change can be caused by human activity such as burning fossil fuels like natural gas, oil, and coal.

According to the Global Peace Index, the Philippines is the most susceptible country to hazards brought about by climate change. The study found that 47% of the country's population is in areas highly exposed to climate hazards such as earthquakes, tsunami, floods, tropical cyclones and drought. The Philippines was followed by Japan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Indonesia, India, Vietnam and Pakistan.

Extreme weather conditions have devastated and may continue to devastate parts of the country which shall radically impact and affect the country's food production and supply, water availability, public health, infrastructure and economy. Thus, a need for resiliency and adaptability to the effects of climate change is imperative and the declaration for an environment and climate emergency is necessary for the protection and preservation of the environment.

This bill seeks to address the issue by acknowledging and declaring the pressing climate change emergency and ensuring that concerned departments and agencies and the private sector all work together through a whole-of-nation approach to help solve the global challenge of climate change, in the interests of securing a livable and healthy future for our community, all species and for future generations.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

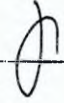

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Climate Change*
2 *Emergency Declaration Act.*"
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State shall protect and advance the right of
5 the people to a balanced and healthful ecology. The State also acknowledges that
6 extreme weather conditions have devastated and may continue to devastate parts of
7 the country which shall radically impact and affect the country's food production and
8 supply, water availability, public health, infrastructure and economy. Thus, a need for
9 resiliency and adaptability to the effects of climate change is imperative and the
10 declaration for an environment and climate emergency is necessary for the protection
11 and preservation of the environment.
12

13 **SEC. 3. Roles of Departments and Agencies.** -- Government departments and
14 agencies shall immediately and efficiently cooperate in taking practicable measures to
15 preserve and protect the environment, as follows:

16 (a) Climate Change Commission (CCC) – To coordinate, monitor, and
17 evaluate programs and action plans related to climate change, in
18 accordance with the National Climate Change Action Plan;

19 (b) National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) –
20 Monitor the integration of climate change resilience and adaptation in the
21 national development plans and create an enabling environment that shall
22 promote multi-stakeholder participation of concerned departments,
23 agencies, local government units, organizations, and other stakeholders;

- 1 (c) Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services
2 Administration (PAGASA) – Conduct studies and research on the current
3 trend of weather and typhoons that affect the country and worldwide;
4 (d) Department of Education (DepEd) – Integrate Climate Change education
5 under the Science Curriculum of Grades 2 to Senior High School level. In
6 both private and public educational institutions to raise and increase the
7 awareness of children In the Impact and effects of climate change;
8 (e) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Develop,
9 formulate, and recommend climate change strategies, programs, and
10 policies;
11 (f) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) – Coordinate with
12 local government units to address vulnerability and impacts of climate
13 change in regions, provinces, cities, and municipalities;
14 (g) Department of Science and Technology (DOST) – Conduct studies in
15 determining the vulnerability to climate change Impacts and adaptation
16 assessments and facilitate the formulation of policy in technical assistance
17 for implementation and monitoring;
18 (h) Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) – Ensure that employers
19 promote a healthy and safe environment for the employees which are
20 sustainable and environment-friendly; and
21 (i) Department of Information and Technology (DICT) – Provide cost-free
22 means for public information dissemination on climate change,
23 vulnerabilities and risks, relevant laws and protocols specifically those
24 which need immediate dissemination.

25 *Provided that,* such other departments and agencies may be called upon by the
26 Office of President to take part In the efforts in environment preservation and
27 protection.

28
29 **SEC. 4. Multi-Sectoral Approach.** – Private entities, in coordination with the
30 national government and local government units, shall also take part In the
31 preservation and protection of the environment by ensuring that their business
32 practices are not detrimental and hazardous to the environment.

33 Concerned government agencies and LGUs shall allocate adequate funds from
34 their annual appropriations for the formulation, development and implementation, of
35 their respective climate change programs and plans, in accordance to R.A. No. 9729
36 otherwise known as the "*Climate Change Act of 2009.*"

37
38 **SEC. 5. Climate Change Emergency Summit.** – There shall be a climate change
39 emergency summit to be held on the second week of September every year. The
40 Summit shall be spearheaded by the Climate Change Commission and shall be
41 participated by all the stakeholders mentioned in Section 3 hereof. The Summit shall

1 aim to collaborate all the efforts of the concerned agencies in environment
2 preservation and protection.

3
4 **SEC. 6. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.*** – There is hereby created a
5 Joint Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor the Implementation of this Act.
6 The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five (5) Senators and five (5)
7 Representatives to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the
8 House of Representatives, respectively. The Oversight Committee shall be co-chaired
9 by a Senator and a Representative to be designated by the Senate President and the
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. All concerned departments and
11 agencies shall annually submit to Congress a report of the current status of the
12 country, the implementation of this Act, and provide for recommendations, if any.

13
14 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
15 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
16 repealed or modified accordingly.

17
18 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
19 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
20 remain in force and effect.

21
22 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
23 the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of
24 general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,