

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

23 MAR 21 P2:39

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S. No. 2027

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is no stranger to climate change being one of the most highly vulnerable countries. Rise of sea levels, increase in frequency of extreme weather events, rise in temperature and extreme rainfall due to high exposure to natural hazards, dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources, and vast coastlines where cities and population reside, name it, our country has been through it. In fact, our country lies in the world's most cyclone-prone region, averaging 19-20 cyclones each year, of which 7 to 9 make landfall.

According to USAID, the Philippines' urban poor are most at risk since they are lacking the resources to prevent or mitigate the threat of coastal inundation and storm surge. Climate hazards such as earthquakes, tsunami, floods, tropical cyclones, drought, and sea levels in the Philippines are increasing faster than the global average.

This measure seeks to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology by declaring the pressing climate change emergency and ensuring that departments and agencies and the private sector all work together to help solve and mitigate the global challenge of climate change. It also seeks to

acknowledge that extreme weather conditions have devastated and may continue to devastate parts of the country which in turn radically impact the country's food production and supply, water availability, public health, infrastructure and economy.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Ejercito', with a horizontal line extending to the left.

JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO



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

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

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

17 (b) National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) -
18 Monitor the integration of climate change resilience and adaptation in the

1 national development plans and create an enabling environment that shall
2 promote multi-stakeholder participation of concerned departments, agencies,
3 local government units, organizations, and other stakeholders;

4 (c) Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services
5 Administration (PAGASA) - Conduct studies and research on the current trend
6 of weather and typhoons that affect the country and worldwide;

7 (d) Department of Education (DepEd) - Integrate Climate Change education
8 under the Science Curriculum of Grades 2 to Senior High School level. In both
9 private and public educational institutions to raise and increase the awareness
10 of children in the impact and effects of climate change;

11 (e) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) - Develop,
12 formulate, and recommend climate change strategies, programs, and policies;

13 (f) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) - Coordinate with
14 local government units to address vulnerability and impacts of climate change
15 in regions, provinces, cities, and municipalities;

16 (g) Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - Conduct studies in
17 determining the vulnerability to climate change impacts and adaptation
18 assessments and facilitate the formulation of policy in technical assistance for
19 implementation and monitoring;

20 (h) Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) - Ensure that employers
21 promote a healthy and safe environment for the employees which are
22 sustainable and environment-friendly; and

23 (i) Department of Information and Technology (DICT) - Provide cost-free
24 means for public information dissemination on climate change, vulnerabilities
25 and risks, relevant laws and protocols specifically those which need immediate
26 dissemination.

27 *Provided, That,* such other departments and agencies may be called upon by
28 the Office of President to take part in the efforts in environment preservation and
29 protection.

30 *Sec. 4. Multi-Sectoral Approach.* - Private entities, in coordination with the
31 national government and local government units, shall also take part in the

1 preservation and protection of the environment by ensuring that their business
2 practices are not detrimental and hazardous to the environment.

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

7 *Sec. 5. Climate Change Emergency Summit.* - There shall be a climate change
8 emergency summit to be held on the second week of September every year. The
9 Summit shall be spearheaded by the Climate Change Commission and shall be
10 participated by all the stakeholders mentioned in Section 3 hereof. The Summit shall
11 aim to collaborate all the efforts of the concerned agencies in environment
12 preservation and protection.

13 *Sec. 6. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.* - There is hereby created a
14 Joint Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor the Implementation of this Act.
15 The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five (5) Senators and five (5)
16 Representatives to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the
17 House of Representatives, respectively. The Oversight Committee shall be co-chaired
18 by a Senator and a Representative to be designated by the Senate President and the
19 Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. All concerned departments
20 and agencies shall annually submit to Congress a report of the current status of the
21 country, the implementation of this Act, and provide for recommendations. If any.

22 *Sec. 7. Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
23 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
24 remain in force and effect.

25 *Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
26 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
27 repealed or modified accordingly.

28 *Sec. 9. Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
29 the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of
30 general circulation In the Philippines.

Approved,