

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 3983



Introduced by: HON. J. MAYO Z. ALMARIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Filipino is internationally known for always being behind schedule. This culture of tardiness has been deeply ingrained into our daily lives that it has become, to some extent, the norm rather than the anomaly. For instance, if a function is scheduled at 9:00 AM, the invitations would request the guests to come at 8:30 AM, and yet, it actually starts at 9:30 AM. But today, a growing demand for punctuality challenges us. More and more Filipinos have become aware that time is now of primary economic importance and wasting time is wasting money.

This intends to show the reason why there is a need to develop our present time service in order to be more effective, more reliable and above all, to be able to cope with the advancement of technology in time and frequency measurement and to be able to fulfill our commitments to the people and the country as a whole.

This bill seeks to promote the Philippine Standard Time, which shall be the reference when tuning time devices, by providing funds for the installation, operation and maintenance of synchronized time devices to be displayed in key public places. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) shall be mandated to undertake the project which shall include the regular calibration of these time devices to ensure accuracy in accordance with the most accurate standard of time, be it Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) or Universal Coordinated Time (UCT). This will eliminate time differences.

At the onset, this move may not be able to totally eliminate delays but it is expected to greatly reduce the causes of delay. Gradually, we will become time conscious and eventually learn to value time as a perishable primary commodity. It will also help us change that embarrassing image. By being on time, we not only maximize our productivity but likewise show that we respect other peoples' time and schedule. It will mark the Filipino's great leap towards punctuality.

In view hereof, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MAYO Z. ALMARIO

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AN ACT
PROMOTING THE PHILIPPINE STANDARD TIME (PST) BY PROVIDING FUNDS
FOR THE INSTALLATION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF
SYNCHRONIZED TIME DEVICES TO BE DISPLAYED IN KEY PUBLIC PLACES.

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as “THE PHILIPPINE STANDARD TIME ACT OF 2005.”

SECTION 2. All national and local government offices shall display the Philippine Standard Time (PST) on their official time devices, including Bundy clocks, in accordance with the official time being provided by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA). All of these offices shall coordinate, at least once a month, with the PAGASA to synchronize their official timepieces and devices.

SECTION 3. The PAGASA, in coordination with the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) shall be tasked to monitor, maintain and disseminate the PST throughout the country. They shall operate and maintain a timekeeping system to perform this function and shall endeavor to install and maintain synchronized time devices in all their field stations and/ or PAGASA and DOTC field offices and in key public places, such devices being sufficiently large and prominently displayed for the public or passersby to view at some distance.

SECTION 4. The PAGASA shall promulgate the guidelines necessary for the effective implementation of the calibration and synchronization of the time-keeping devices.

SECTION 5. The DOTC shall require the participation of all government and private television and radio stations in order to ensure that such synchronization can be undertaken even in the most remote parts of the country.

SECTION 6. All national and local government offices, including all schools, public or private, shall conduct a continuing information campaign about the value of time and need for respect for the time of others, in order that the people may realize the imperative of synchronizing official time.

SECTION 7. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the appropriation of the DOTC and PAGASA under the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the upgrading and/or maintenance of the timekeeping system shall be included in the annual budget of the DOTC and PAGASA.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.