

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1575

Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE
ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL
SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA), PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

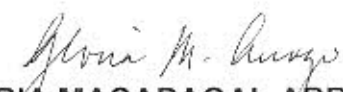
The onslaught of several natural disasters in recent years has strengthened the calls to modernize the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) in order to enhance its capability in providing services to protect the people and the environment from perennial natural hazards. Last year alone, typhoons *Ondoy* and *Pepeng* devastated the Philippines leaving most parts of the country submerged for months. Some quarters blamed PAGASA's lack of foresight and outmoded equipment and facilities as the culprit. But just this recently, the second typhoon which reached Philippine shores, typhoon *Basyang*, made another mockery of PAGASA's capabilities when it directly hit Metro Manila, a far cry from the weather station's bold forecast that it will not, in any way, affect NCR. All of these show that no matter how bright and intellectual personnel we put in PAGASA, as long as they do not have advanced and cutting-edge equipment to get the job done, our people and their properties will continue to suffer from natural disasters.

Several significant advances in the technologies used in monitoring meteorological and geological developments however have proven useful tools in

mitigating the perils associated with natural disasters. Accordingly, it would be in everyone's best interest to equip PAGASA with these modern day breakthroughs so that we can all become better prepared in dealing with natural calamities.

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


DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Camarines Sur


GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "The PAGASA
Modernization Act of 2010."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared to be the policy of
the State to utilize scientific knowledge and information as an effective instrument
to ensure the safety, well being and economic security of the people; to promote
national progress and to contribute to regional socioeconomic development
through various applications of meteorology, geophysics and space sciences.
Towards this end, the State shall undertake the modernization of the Philippine
Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
to elevate its technological and operational capacity to effectively and efficiently
perform its mandate.

SECTION 3. *Objectives.* – Pursuant to the foregoing policy, the PAGASA
modernization program shall be implemented in accordance with the following
objectives:

A. To upgrade physical resources and operational techniques through acquisition of state-of-the-art instruments, equipment and facilities to enhance current capabilities in providing timely and reliable forecasting, warning services, and information for agriculture, transportation, and other industries across the country;

B. To raise the research and development capability and human resource development, adopting a rationalized and integrated approach, with focus on improvement of operations for specialized services and cost recovery;

C. To develop mechanisms for integrating disaster management and socioeconomic development planning at the national and local levels;

D. To establish regional weather service centers in strategic areas in the country to broaden the agency's bases for delivery of service to the countryside; and

E. To cultivate greater awareness by the public of weather systems, the progress of typhoons, climatic changes, and other related information through the educational projects and programs.

SECTION 4. *Period of Implementation.* – The modernization program under this Act shall be implemented over a period of six (6) years: *Provided, however,* that payments for amortization of outstanding multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period.

SECTION 5. *Formulation and Submission of PAGASA Modernization Program.* – The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Director of PAGASA, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), shall be responsible for formulating the PAGASA Modernization Program based on the policy objectives provided in this Act.

Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DOST shall submit to the President the PAGASA Modernization Program for final approval.

SECTION 6. *PAGASA Modernization Fund.* – There is hereby created the PAGASA Modernization Fund which shall be used exclusively to finance the implementation of the modernization program which shall not include salaries

and allowances. The PAGASA Modernization Fund shall be funded out of the following sources:

A. Appropriation for the PAGASA Modernization Program amounting to Five Billion Pesos (P5,000,000,000.00);

B. A portion of the net income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) to be taken from the fifty percent (50%) share of the National Government;

C. Grants, bequests, and donations whether from local or foreign sources;

D. Funds from budgetary surplus, if any, as may be authorized by Congress;

E. All interest income from the fund created hereunder

The fund shall be administered by the Secretary of the DOST in accordance with existing government auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 7. *PAGASA Modernization Program Oversight Committee.* – There is hereby created the PAGASA Modernization Program Oversight Committee composed of the Secretaries of the DOST and the DBM, the Director of PAGASA, the Chairpersons of the Committee on Science and Technology of the Senate and the House of Representatives, one (1) representative each from the Commission on Audit (COA), the Office of the President, and the Director-General of the NEDA. The committee shall receive progress reports, evaluate the implementation of the program and provide recommendations for the effective attainment of the program's objectives as provided for in this Act. The Committee shall be Chaired by the Secretary of the DOST.

SECTION 8. *Progress Report.* –The Director of PAGASA shall prepare an annual report on the status of the implementation of the PAGASA Modernization Program. The annual report shall be submitted, through the Secretary of the DOST, to the President and all the members of the PAGASA Modernization Program Oversight Committee.

SECTION 9. *Cost Recovery Measures.* – The PAGASA, with the approval of the DOST Secretary, shall implement a sustainable cost recovery program that will allow it to earn revenue from its issuance of specialized weather information, certifications, and scientific and technical publications for which the necessary fees can be charged; *Provided* that one hundred percent (100%) of the fees collected shall be retained by PAGASA for the next twenty (20) years starting six (6) years after the effectivity of this Act, for the operation and maintenance of the equipment acquired during the modernization program; *Provided, however*, that

no fees shall be charged on the issuance of regular and special reports to the general public that affect national safety, weather, and economy, and such other relevant data.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or part thereof, which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* –This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,