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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1185**



INTRODUCED BY HON. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is located in the western rim of the Pacific Ocean, an active portion of the earth characterized by an encircling belt of active volcanoes and fault lines. As such, it has always been subjected to constant disasters and calamities like earthquakes and typhoons.

Specifically, an average of twenty (20) typhoons devastate the Philippines annually affecting millions of Filipinos and leaving behind injuries and deaths, as well as damage to properties amounting to billions of pesos.

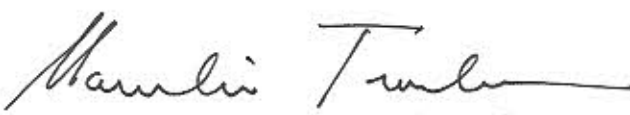
Said condition prevailing in the Philippines requires a dependable national weather service to ensure utmost public safety and well-being of the country. Further, it must be stressed that ours is an agricultural country. It is extremely necessary that we consider farmers' welfare by giving them precise weather information to protect themselves and their crops.

Lately, however, there have been incidences of apparently imprecise information given to the public by Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration that places in great danger the safety and lives of our citizens and cause considerable damage to property.

While, forecasting may be viewed an inexact science despite advances in technology, still, there is a need to modernize the country's weather forecasting system to, at least, minimize damages caused by typhoons and other weather disturbances.

This measure seeks, among others, to establish a modern weather and flood forecasting, and climate prediction, monitoring and warning system; to upgrade the disaster management and emergency preparedness capability of our country; and to improve physical resources and operational techniques through the acquisition of state-of-the-art instruments, equipment and facilities in providing timely and reliable forecasting and warning service.

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


MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO
Representative, 1st District
Marikina City

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

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

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as “The PAGASA Modernization Act of 2012”.

SEC. 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.

SEC. 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 for the general public 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;

(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; and

(f) To develop a technology-based and financially self-sufficient data center which will serve as the central information station for real time weather updates available to every individual and for the Philippines' typhoon preparedness plan.

SEC.4. *Manpower Training.* – The three (3)-year modernization plan shall include a manpower training component that shall include undergraduate and postgraduate degree training subcomponents. Scholarships shall be provided for undergraduate and graduate degree trainings. The University of the Philippines Los Banos is mandated, along with the Bicol University, the Central Luzon State University, the Mariano Marcos State University, the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and the Visayas State University to offer an undergraduate degree program in Meteorology within three (3) years from the enactment of this Act. Other state and private universities and colleges may likewise offer a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology.

SEC.5. *Period of Implementation.* – The modernization program under this Act shall be implemented over a period of three (3) years: *Provided, however,* That payments for amortization of outstanding multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period.

SEC.6. *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.

SEC.7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current fiscal year appropriations of the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST-PAGASA). Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of the modernization program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The abovestated amount may be augmented by grants, bequests, contributions and donations whether from local or foreign sources: *Provided,* That acceptance of grants, bequests, contributions and donations from foreign governments shall be subject to the approval of the President upon the recommendations of the Secretaries of the DOST and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

SEC.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 to the Chairpersons of the committees on Science and Technology of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SEC. 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 the fees collected shall be deposited as income of the General Fund: *Provided, further,* 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.

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

force and effect.

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

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

Approved,