

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
 Quezon City  
**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
 First Regular Session  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 3897**




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*Introduced by Representative CARLITO "Lito" S. MARQUEZ*

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to strengthen the National Research Council of the Philippine Islands (NRCP) for the promotion of research work along scientific lines.

It is without dispute that technical innovation and economic growth go hand in hand. This has been repeatedly demonstrated by our neighbors Japan, South Korea, and even Taiwan, whose substantial exports of electronic equipment, from handheld gadgets to robotics, resulted to the turnaround of their lethargic economies. By creating the NRCP through Act No. 4120 of the Ninth Philippine Legislature, the Philippines also sought to enhance the foundation of its scientific research.

The NRCP is mandated with fostering links with local and international scientific organizations for improved cooperation in the development and sharing of knowledge, as well as promoting and supporting the fundamental research of Filipino scientists and researchers. It also offers advice on national policy based on scientific study and empirical data.

During the Commonwealth period, the NRCP has effectively served its purpose by providing administrative support through policy advice and research along scientific lines. It had strong influence on the President and legislature through its significant and substantial inputs.

The NRCP has been impacted by numerous legislation and executive orders during the course of its 89-year existence, shaping it into the organization it is today. In fact, it participated in the science provision during the 1935 Constitutional Assembly and in the providing legislative advice for the creation of agencies such as the Philippine Institute of Volcanology (Phivolcs) and National Science Development Board, formerly the present Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

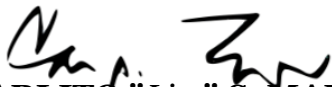
Unfortunately, according to recent reports from the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Philippines still falls far short of the

recommended level of researchers, with only 106 researchers for every 1 million people (down from 189 researchers per million in 2013 reports), which is less than a third of the amount (380 researchers per million)<sup>1</sup>.

In hopes to address the gaps in scientific development, this representation proposes an urgent overhaul of the NRCP by updating its mandate and expected output, as well as empowering the council through a revised organizational framework and additional funding. This is to effectively capacitate more Filipinos across regions to conduct research and that they become the State's pool of research-scientists. It shall also extend technical assistance to both the legislature as well as local government units with evidence-based policy studies, including matters of national defense and security within and alongside scientific lines.

The bill envisions a thriving Filipino scientific community that collaborates with our people and policymakers in the adoption of programs, systems, and laws for the benefit of Filipino citizens through a stronger and more efficient NRCP.

Therefore, the immediate approval of this bill is highly sought.

  
**ENGR. CARLITO "Lito" S. MARQUEZ**  
Chairperson, Committee on Science & Technology

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<sup>1</sup> UNESCO. (2021). *UNESCO Science Report: The race against time for smarter development*.  
<https://www.unesco.org/reports/science/2021/en/dataviz/researchers-million-habitants>

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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE CARLITO “Lito” S. MARQUEZ**

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**AN ACT**  
**STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF THE**  
**PHILIPPINES FOR THE PROMOTION OF RESEARCH WORK ALONG**  
**SCIENTIFIC LINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1       **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “National Research Council  
2 of the Philippines Act.

3  
4       **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – In consonance with the provisions of  
5 Section 10, Article XIV of the Constitution, which provides that the State shall give priority  
6 to research and development, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the state to promote  
7 research and science or evidenced-based policy legislation and government  
8 administration.

9  
10       The State shall support the harmonization of the national research agenda,  
11 including but not limited to the National Integrated Basic Research Agenda (NIBRA),  
12 disciplinary and multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary research for the  
13 advancement of knowledge and the formulation of demand-driven policies for national  
14 and local governance for the promotion of progress and public welfare. It shall also  
15 endeavor to decentralize research efforts to expand opportunities for training and  
16 increase the funds available to researchers, scholars and scientists in the provinces that  
17 will accelerate inclusive development. Empowering the researchers in the provinces will  
18 narrow the disparity on the state of research between the National Capital Region (NCR)  
19 and the provinces.

20       Government institutions, agencies and instrumentalities shall endeavor to  
21 incorporate or embed evidence-based research or studies in the development and passage  
22 of laws within their jurisdiction.

23  
24       The State shall provide support for the creation of a national repository and  
25 clearing house in research; and registry of researchers and scientists.

26  
27       **SECTION 3. Objectives.** – The Council shall have the following purposes and  
28 objectives:  
29

- a) Stimulate and support research in the mathematical, physical and biological sciences, engineering, agriculture, medicine, social sciences, humanities and the arts, with the objective of increasing knowledge, starting studies of problems of the national defense and security, and contributing in other ways to the public welfare;
- b) Survey the larger possibilities of science, to formulate comprehensive projects of research including but not limited to the National Integrated Basic Research Agenda (NIBRA), and develop effective means of utilizing the scientific and technical resources of the country to carry out these projects;
- c) Promote cooperation in research in all the regions of the country and abroad in order to secure concentration of effort, instill ethical standards, minimize duplication, and stimulate progress; but in all cooperative undertakings to give encouragement to individual initiative as fundamentally important to the advancement of science;
- d) Gather and collate scientific and technical information at home and abroad as national repository, in cooperation with governmental and other agencies and to render such information available to duly accredited entities/agencies/corporations/persons;
- e) Provide evidence-based recommendations and advise legislators in crafting laws or plans that are of national and local importance geared towards solving problems of the country.
- f) Provide a national training program for researchers in the country and promote the continuing total development of the Filipino scientist and researcher as a professional and as member of the larger society;
- g) Maintain a mapping of the research of its members to serve as guide for research coordination in the country.

#### **SECTION 4. *Definition of Terms.***

- a) *Clearing House* – a central institution or agency for the collection, maintenance, and distribution of materials, information, etc.
- b) *Research* – is the diligent and systematic inquiry or investigation into a subject in order to discover or revise facts, theories, applications, etc.
- c) *Repository* – a place in which inventory of registered research and registry of researchers and scientists in the country including researchers and scientists of other National Research Councils in the ASEAN and other parts of the world are maintained and preserved under the custody of a government office.
- d) *Registry* – is a record of document for registration entered in the appropriate registry book.
- e) *Evidence-based* – demonstrated through thorough or rigorous scientific research to be effective
- f) *Capacity building* – planned development whereby individuals and organizations obtain, improve, and retain the skills, knowledge, tools, equipment and other resources needed to perform scientific work competently or to a greater extent (through acquisition, incentives, technology, and/or training).
- g) *Human development* – is defined as the process of enlarging people's choices, freedoms and opportunities and improving their well-being. A measurement of achievements by humans through advancement of knowledge, biological

changes, habit formation or other criteria that displays changes of standard of living over time.

- h) *Multiple disciplinary* – involving two or more academic disciplines or fields of study brought together to investigate a topic; may be multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary
- i) *Frontier research* – an undeveloped field of study; a topic inviting research and development; usually addresses highly controversial issues in the scientific community in the area being explored, deals with hard to answer queries employing normal methodological approaches, employs methodologies and concepts atypical for concerned field, takes unexpected findings challenging dominant paradigm used, focuses on issues where resolution is critical for confirmation or rebuttal of the prevailing paradigm, and involves research with extreme degree of uncertainty or failure (high cost, high risk of failure); and
- j) *National Research* – refers to the inclusive quality of research and innovation programs that involve the various disciplines in the sciences and humanities; concerned with national or facets of national concern, and entailing multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research and training. This aims to achieve research, academic, as well as societal and economic impact.

j 1. Academic impact refers to the contribution that quality research makes to developments and advances, across and within disciplines, such as advances in knowledge, method, theory, and application.

j 2. Societal and economic impact refers to the development and contribution that quality research makes to society and the economy, beneficial to individuals, their way of life, and to national development.

## **SECTION 5. Powers.** – The Council shall have the following powers:

- a) Make its own organization, be incorporated, constituted, and declared a corporate body by the name of National Research Council of the Philippines;
- b) Adopt, alter and use a corporate seal; to sue and be sued in its corporate name;
- c) to adopt by-laws pertaining to membership, holding of annual meetings, election of the Governing Board members, division into classes, and other matters needful or usual in such institution;
- d) Collect, receive and maintain a fund or funds from government appropriations and from donations, grants, gifts, bequests, loans from domestic and foreign sources, and to apply the income and principal thereof to the promotion of its aims and purposes;
- e) Own, manage and hold such real and personal property as shall be necessary for the Council's purposes;
- f) Corollary to its purposes and objectives, to extend financial assistance to, and enter into contracts of every kind and for any lawful purpose, with any person, firm, association or corporation, domestic or foreign, or others in which it has a lawful interest;
- g) Shall have the authority to invest its funds in such undertaking as it may deem beneficial or necessary to carry out its objectives; and
- h) Promulgate rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry out the purpose and functions of the Council.

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2  
3       **SECTION 6. *Membership***

- 4           a) The regular members of the National Research Council shall be the  
5               members duly elected by the Council upon nomination of the Governing  
6               Board, the total to be determined from time to time by the Governing board  
7               to meet the changing needs of science in the Philippines. Associate members  
8               shall be elected by the Governing Board upon nomination of the Division.  
9           b) Regular membership in the Council shall be limited to citizens of the  
10               Philippines.  
11           c) Upon invitation of the Governing Board, foreign scientists may be elected  
12               honorary members without the right to vote, for outstanding research  
13               contribution to the Philippines or in the international science and research  
14               community.  
15           d) Regular membership in the Council may be lost only by death, resignation,  
16               or separation for cause.  
17

18       **SECTION 7. *Divisions.* –**

- 19           a) The Council shall be organized in divisions as follows:  
20               I.    Division of Governmental, Educational & International Policies  
21               II.   Division of Mathematical Sciences  
22               III.   Division of Medical Sciences  
23               IV.   Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
24               V.    Division of Biological Sciences  
25               VI.   Division of Agriculture and Forestry  
26               VII.   Division of Engineering and Industrial Research  
27               VIII. Division of Social Sciences  
28               IX.   Division of Physics  
29               X.    Division of Chemical Sciences  
30               XI.   Division of Humanities  
31               XII.   Division of Earth and Space Sciences  
32               XIII. Division of Veterinary Medicine  
33  
34           b.) The number of divisions and the grouping of subjects in Section 7a, may  
35               be reviewed and modified by the Governing Board of the National Research  
36               Council of the Philippines.  
37           c.) The divisions of the Council, with the approval of the Governing Board,  
38               may establish sections.  
39

40       **SECTION 8. *The Governing Board.* –** The affairs of the National Research  
41       Council shall be administered by a Governing Board (GB), as public officials which shall  
42       consist of two members-at-large, the Chairpersons of the Scientific Divisions,  
43       Chairpersons of the Regional Clusters, and the DOST Secretary or his/her designate as a  
44       voting member;  
45

46       The officers of the National Research Council shall consist of a President, Vice –  
47       President, a Corporate Secretary and a Treasurer. The President of the National Research  
48       Council or in case of his absence or inability to act, the Vice-President shall be the Chief

1 Executive Officer of the Council and shall preside over the meetings of the Council and of  
2 the Governing Board.

3  
4 A majority of the members of the GB shall constitute a *quorum* for the transaction  
5 of the business of the GB.

6  
7 **SECTION 9. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Governing Board.* –**  
8 The Governing Board shall have the following functions:

- 9  
10 a) Formulate and adopt policies and measures for the management and  
11 operation of the Council including the admission of its members;  
12 b) Elect the President of the Council who shall come from among the elected  
13 members of the Board;  
14 c) Approve the staffing pattern of the Council;  
15 d) Promulgate rules and regulations for the discharge of its powers and  
16 functions and the internal operations of the Council; provided, that, the  
17 Chair of the GB shall exercise the power to appoint, promote discipline or  
18 remove the personnel of the Council;  
19 e) Manage the financial affairs of the Council and approve the annual budget  
20 of receipt and expenditures of the Council according to its requirements;  
21 f) Delegate any of its powers and duties to the Executive Director or other  
22 officials of the Council as it deems appropriate so as to expedite the  
23 administration of the affairs of the Council;  
24 g) Develop consortia and other forms of linkages with LGUs, institutions and  
25 agencies, both public and private, local and foreign, and to appoint experts  
26 or specialist as consultants, or visiting or exchange researchers, as the case  
27 maybe;  
28 h) Establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative decision  
29 making and transparency within the Council;  
30 i) Approve, monitor and review periodically the institutional programs and  
31 projects of the Council; and  
32 j) Modify the number of divisions and the grouping of subjects to meet the  
33 changing needs of science in the country.

34  
35 **SECTION 10. *President of the Council.* –** The President of the Council shall  
36 be elected by the Governing Board and shall serve three (3) years full-time, with  
37 possibility of re-election for another term. He shall be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
38 of the Council and shall receive compensation with a Salary Grade (SG) 29; and shall have  
39 the following powers and duties;

- 40  
41 a) Prepare, for the approval of the GB, the staffing pattern of the Council,  
42 which shall include the determination of the qualifications, and fixing the  
43 number and compensation of such officials and personnel as may be  
44 necessary for the proper discharge of the function of the Council;  
45 b) Have control and supervision over the personnel, staff, operations and  
46 internal administration of the Council in accordance with existing laws and  
47 rules and regulations promulgated by the Governing Board;  
48 c) Recommend to the GB such policies and measures which he/she deems  
49 necessary for the effective exercise and discharge of the powers and  
50 responsibilities of the Council; and

- d) Submit the annual report to the GB on the operations, the status of the programs funded by, the financial condition of the Council, including a recommendation for its budget for the ensuing year.
- e) Represent the GB in national and international events and negotiations.

**SECTION 11. *Transitory Provision.*** - The President shall continue in his office until the expiration of the term for which he has been elected or appointed. In cases of on hold over capacity, the President shall continue serving until his successor shall have been elected and assumed office.

**SECTION 12. *Executive Director.*** – The Governing Board shall appoint an Executive Director who shall render full service as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Council. The Executive Director shall have a term of three (3) years and is eligible for reappointment based on merit.

In case of vacancy by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause or incapacity of the Executive Director to perform the functions of the office, the Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge within six (6) months from the date of vacancy, pending the appointment of a new Executive Director. In case vacancy of the office of the ED, the successor shall hold office only for the unexpired portion of the term.

The salary of the Executive Director (SG28) of the Council is in accordance with the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System, as amended, and other pertinent budget and compensation law.

**SECTION 13. *Duties of the Executive Director.*** - The Executive Director of the Council shall exercise the following powers and duties:

- a) To submit for the consideration of the Governing Board the policies and measures necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of the Council;
- b) To coordinate and administer the programs and projects of the Council;
- c) To direct and supervise the operations and internal administration of the Council, and to delegate administrative responsibilities in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Council;
- d) To submit an annual report to the Governing Board setting forth the work of the Council during the year, its financial operations and status, and a program and budget for the ensuing year, and
- e) To exercise such powers and to discharge such functions as may be vested in him/her by the Governing Board.

**SECTION 14. *Research Fellows.*** – The Governing Board is hereby authorized to engage its member-researchers to conduct specialized studies and researches of the Council. Moreover, those engaged by the Council as *in-house plantilla* Researcher Fellows shall be paid salaries determined by the Governing Board.

**SECTION 15. *Government Contribution To Research Funding.*** – There shall be an amount from the National Government not less than 10% of the Research and Development (R&D) budget equivalent to that of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in financing the research activities of the Council for national application.

1  
2       **SECTION 16. *Local Government Units (LGUs) Research Fund.*** – The  
3 initial funding requirements for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against  
4 the current appropriations of municipalities, cities and provinces. Thereafter, such sums  
5 as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the LGUs’  
6 yearly budgets under the General Appropriations Act. The State shall prioritize allocation  
7 of all available resources to effectively fulfill its obligations specified under this Act. The  
8 LGUs’ research budgets, which shall be at least one percent (1%) of their total budgetary  
9 allocation, shall also be utilized for the programs and activities to implement this Act.  
10

11       **SECTION 17. *Satellite Offices.*** – In order to decentralize research and  
12 empower the capacity of the regions to perform academic or pure research, and basic  
13 researches with policy outputs, satellite offices shall be established in selected areas. The  
14 Satellite Offices shall oversee the NRCPP Regional Chapters which will be established in  
15 order to address region-specific concerns and to promote a research culture.  
16

17       **SECTION 18. *National Training Institute.*** – In order to provide a human  
18 resource component in the development of research capability of Filipinos, the NRCPP  
19 shall establish a National Training hub. It shall offer specialized and demand-driven  
20 needs on research which will respond to gaps in knowledge, competencies, and  
21 development.  
22

23       The National Government shall provide a one-time lump sum appropriation. The  
24 Institute shall be financially sufficient, and its funds shall come from the following  
25 sources:

- 26           a) Revenue generated from its operations;  
27           b) Donations, bequests, and similar financial contributions; and  
28           c) Others, such as investment and interest income.  
29

30       **SECTION 19. *Repository And Clearing House.*** - The NRCPP shall serve as  
31 “databank” or registry of researches and researchers/scientists in the country including  
32 those from other National Research Councils in the ASEAN and other parts of the world.  
33

34       Likewise, the NRCPP as the Clearing House shall endeavor as the central institution  
35 or agency for the collection, maintenance, and distribution of materials for purposes of  
36 identifying redundancy and duplication in the conduct of research to avoid wastage of  
37 resources and efforts.  
38

39       **SECTION 20. *Exemption from Taxes.*** – All grants, bequests, endowments,  
40 donations and contributions made to and used actually, directly and exclusively by the  
41 council shall be exempt from donor’s tax, and the same shall be considered as allowable  
42 deduction from gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor  
43 in accordance with the provisions of the national internal revenue code of 1997, as  
44 amended.  
45

46       **SECTION 20-A. *Tax Subsidy*** – The Council may avail of the tax expenditure  
47 subsidy administered by the Fiscal Incentives Review Board (FIRB), subject to the  
48 provisions of Title XIII (Tax Incentives) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997,  
49 as amended.  
50

1       **SECTION 21. *Tax Deductions for Research Grants.*** – Grants for research  
2 shall henceforth be deemed as deductions from gross income in accordance with Section  
3 34 (I) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.  
4

5       **SECTION 22. *Monitoring and Reporting Responsibility.*** – The NRCP  
6 shall submit an Annual Summary Report to both Houses of Congress and to the Office of  
7 the President, an accurate account of its research work and activities during the  
8 corresponding fiscal years.  
9

10       **SECTION 23. *Other Benefits and Privileges.*** – The NRCP may draw up other  
11 benefits and privileges, in addition to the ***Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers,***  
12 ***Researchers and other Science Technology Workers,*** which may be extended to  
13 the researchers in the rules and regulations to be issued to implement this Act in  
14 accordance with other existing laws, codes, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
15 department orders and other issuance promulgated for the purpose of accelerating the  
16 research and development of the country.  
17

18       Said rules and regulations may include a one-time incentive bonus and such  
19 additional incentives, benefits and privileges that may be necessary to attract the  
20 researchers to conduct research to help in the scientific, technological and innovative  
21 advancement of the country.  
22

23       **SECTION 24. *Building Site.*** – The parcel of land presently occupied by the  
24 National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP), more particularly described and  
25 delineated under Proclamation No. 376, Series of 1968, for building site and science  
26 community site purposes, containing an area of fourteen thousand four hundred sixteen  
27 (14,416) sq. meters, is hereby permanently entitled to NRCP.  
28

29       **SECTION 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The NRCP with  
30 other concerned government departments, agencies and representatives mentioned in  
31 Section 8 hereof shall within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act issue the  
32 necessary implementing rules and regulations of this Act.  
33

34       **SECTION 26. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, orders, proclamation, rules and  
35 regulation or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
36 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.  
37

38       **SECTION 27. *Separability Clause.*** – Any provision or part of this Act declared  
39 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions hereof which are not affected are thereby  
40 repealed or modified accordingly.  
41

42       **SECTION 28. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen days after  
43 its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*