

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9288



Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO**
First District, Bohol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

World Risk Index gave the Philippines an index score of 46.86 making it the number one most-disaster prone country in the world because of high risk, exposure, and vulnerability.¹ Further, according to the Global Risks Report 2023 by the World Economic Forum, the top five (5) risks that the Philippines faced are (1) the natural disasters and extreme weather events; (2) debt crisis; (3) rapid and sustained inflation; (4) misinformation; and (5) geopolitical contestation of resources.²

Furthermore, geographical location and physical characteristics of the Philippines contribute to its exposure to disasters. Annually, an average of twenty (20) typhoons enter the Philippine area of responsibility with the most intense between July and October. The rains brought about by typhoons and the monsoon causes severe flooding, which is another hazard the country is facing.³ The main reason for these disasters is the climate change wherein the impacts are immense.

In the Province of Bohol, there has been an increasing frequency and intensity of El Niño and La Niña which affect the agriculture sector, the degradation of marine environment, and the trees are uncontrollably being cut in upland communities that increase the risk of soil erosion.⁴ Moreover, there is the reported unusual rise in sea levels that impact the lives, livelihood, and the future of their island residents.

In the islands off the towns of Calape, Tubigon, and other islands, sea levels have risen during high tides that have been recorded to reach nearly a meter from the usual tide marks a decade ago.⁵

¹ [https://www.preventionweb.net/news/vulnerable-philippines-working-towards-climate-adaptation#:~:text=The%20WRI%20report%20gave%20the,\(Dela%20Pena%2C%202023\).](https://www.preventionweb.net/news/vulnerable-philippines-working-towards-climate-adaptation#:~:text=The%20WRI%20report%20gave%20the,(Dela%20Pena%2C%202023).)

² https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risks_Report_2023.pdf

³ <https://www.apn-gcr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/4de42b9c9358d1d886fbo141319f342d.pdf>

⁴ https://ppdo.bohol.gov.ph/BIAD_Proposals/BIAD3/BIAD%203%20Disaster%20Risk%20Management%20Project.pdf

⁵ <https://pia.gov.ph/news/2021/07/20/chatto-to-bohol-lgus-declare-climate-change-emergency>

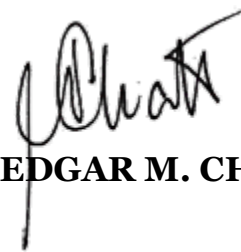
Because the impacts of climate change are getting worse, the Province of Bohol have passed Provincial Ordinance No. 2023-010 creating the Committee on Climate Change as a regular standing committee of the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*.

The local government units (LGUs) play a major role in promoting climate change adaptation, which must be considered an integral element of development and poverty reduction efforts. As such, LGUs must take proactive measures to assist people in coping with the impacts of climate change.

In this regard, this bill is timely which seeks the creation of a standing Committee on Climate Change in every LGU, thus, amending Section 50 (b) (1) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”. This Committee is mandated, among others, to propose ordinances or resolutions which will address specific environmental concerns of the concerned LGU, recommend annual budgetary allocations on plans, projects, and activities for the protection and preservation of the environment, and coordinate with relevant government agencies, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, academe, and private sectors on environmental plans, projects, and programs.

Considering that the impacts of climate change are mostly felt at the local level, the creation of this Committee in every LGU will lead to effective adaptation solutions tailored to a specific location. Additionally, there is a need to entrench local knowledge on adaptation measures and disaster risk reduction programs to make them more comprehensive and accurate to the needs of the LGUs.

In light of the foregoing considerations, the passage of this bill is immediately sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edgar M. Chatto', with a long vertical line extending downwards from the bottom of the signature.

REP. EDGAR M. CHATTO

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**“AN ACT
MANDATING THE CREATION OF A COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE
FOR EVERY SANGGUNIAN”**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Committee on Climate Change”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is declared the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of every Filipino to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Considering the importance of sectoral concerns in local legislations, the State shall mandate each local government unit to create a localized Committee on Climate Change which will address legislation related to the restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems, environmental protection concerns, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction programs.

SEC. 3. *Scope.* – All matters directly and principally relating to policies, programs, strategies, practices, technologies, and innovation addressing climate change causes and impacts, including but not limited, to avoidance and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, climate risk management to enhance adaptive capacity and reduce vulnerability to climate risks, all matters relating to adaptation and mitigation to enhance resilience, promotion of sustainable development including disciplines like disaster management, disaster mitigation, disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness in the province, city, or municipality, and related issues and concerns, shall be within the scope of the Committee on Climate Change.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- a. *Adaptation* refers to the adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities;

- b. *Climate Change* refers to a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods;
- c. *Disaster risk reduction* refers to refers to the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events;
- d. *Mitigation*, in the context of climate change, refers to human intervention to address anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases, including ozone-depleting substances and their substitutes.

SEC. 5. *Creation and Composition of the Committee.* – In addition to the standing committees provided in Section 50 (b) (1) of Republic Act No. 7160, or the “Local Government Code of 1991, a Committee on Climate Change, which shall be an independent committee, shall be established in every province, city, or municipality.

The Committee on Climate Change shall be composed of one (1) chairperson, one (1) vice-chairperson, and at least one (1) member. The chairperson and vice chairperson shall be elected by a majority votes of the members.

SEC. 6. *Powers and Functions of the Committee.* – The Committee on Climate Change shall exercise and perform the following powers and functions:

- a. Propose ordinances or resolutions which address specific environmental concerns of the province, city, or municipality, including but not limited to climate change mitigation and adaptation, climate risks, effects of extreme weather, and disaster risk reduction;
- b. Recommend to the *Sanggunian* concerned annual budgetary allocations and plans, projects, and activities for the protection and preservation of the environment and all matter concerning, but not limited to, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction; and
- c. Coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other relevant government agencies, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, academe, and private sectors on environmental plans, projects, and programs.

Such other powers and functions as may be necessary and incidental for the performance of their mandate.

SEC. 7. *Meetings and Quorum.* – In accordance with Sections 52 and 53 of R.A. No. 7160, the Committee shall meet at least once a week or as often as may be necessary. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 8. *Compensation and Remuneration* – The chairman, vice- chairman, and members of the provincial, city or municipal Committee on Climate Change shall perform their duties without additional compensation or remuneration.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, orders, resolutions, instructions, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,