

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3508**



Introduced by **Honorable ANIELA BIANCA D. TOLENTINO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates that "*The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature*"[Section 16, Article II]. The proposed legislation herein aims to ensure that Filipinos will benefit from the cited requirement from our fundamental law as the effects of climate change adversely affect our communities and lifestyle.

Climate change is causing extreme weather conditions and has devastated lives of Filipinos, causing floods, landslides, and extended dry seasons. Climate change is also seen to radically affect food production and supply, water availability, public health, infrastructure, and economy. The proposed law being pushed by this representation aims to enhance resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

It has been reported that the impact of climate change to the Gross Domestic Product of the Philippines will be 7.6% by 2030, 13.6% by 2040, and 18%-25% by 2050. The projected numbers were provided by the World Bank and came with analytics that showed damages from climate change that ranged from productivity losses to business interruptions, including infrastructure destruction due to disasters.

The subject bill herein was filed in the 19th Congress but it did not reach the finish line and was not passed into law. This representation believes that the entire country must work together to have legislation and mechanisms that will ensure that Filipinos will be resilient from the harmful effects of climate change.

For the Filipino people, approval of this bill is earnestly being sought.

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**AN ACT DECLARING A CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY AND ENHANCING
RESILIENCY AND ADAPTABILITY TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

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 “Climate Change Resilience Act”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology. The State also acknowledges that extreme weather conditions have devastated and may continue to devastate parts of the country which have radically affected food production and supply, water availability, public health, infrastructure, and economy. Further, demographics, settlements and communities, energy and industry, environment and waste, and transportation are elements that can influence change in climate and can be influenced by climate change policies. Thus, enhancing resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change is imperative and the declaration for an environment and climate emergency is necessary for the protection and preservation of people’s lives, livelihoods, and the environment.

SECTION 3. *Declaration of a Climate Change Emergency.* – It is hereby declared that the country is in the state of climate emergency and the government acknowledges that global warming exists. The declaration stresses the need for the government to devise measures to stop human-caused global warming, to limit its effects, and to mobilize funds for climate mitigation efforts.

SECTION 4. *Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptability to the Effects of Climate Change.* – There is hereby created a Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptability Program, hereinafter referred to as the “Program”, that shall develop and implement

solutions to adapt and mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change. The Program shall have the following components:

- (a) Open sharing of data amongst the stakeholders – All datasets related to climate change and disaster efforts generated by the national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), civil society organizations (CSOs), academe, and the private sector shall be shared through a digital platform that is readily accessible to all stakeholders;
- (b) Probabilistic Climate Risk Assessments (PCRA) – PCRA shall consider all possible scenarios, likelihood and inherent uncertainties, associated impacts of climate change, and the climate change projections in extremes in consultation with collective strengthening for community awareness on natural disasters agencies. The PCRA shall generate the needed localized baseline information on climate risk faced by vulnerable communities and their support system for potential climate-related hazards;
- (c) Multi-level national educational plan on climate resilience – There shall be a knowledge and competency building education agenda on climate change from primary to tertiary levels of the education system, including the country's research and development program, producing citizens with progressive conceptual and operational knowledge and skills to build resilient communities, sectors, and nation.

Children and youth shall be provided with climate education and green skills, necessary for their adaptation to and preparation for the effects of climate change: *Provided*, That they shall be included in all climate-related decision making: *Provided*, further, That the youth shall be included in all national, regional and international climate negotiations and decisions;

- (d) Link between health and climate change – The link between health and climate change will promote, account for, and monitor the health co-benefits from climate interventions which shall be reflected in decision making at all levels of governance.

The right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment shall also be recognized: *Provided*, That policies and processes to safeguard this right shall be adopted: *Provided*, further, That to strengthen the science of health and climate change, it is necessary to close knowledge gaps and build capacity to reach on the health impacts of climate change and health co-benefits of climate actions;

- (e) Critical services – Increasing investment in climate change adaptation and resilience in critical services, such as water, sanitation and hygiene systems, health,

and education, shall be supported in order to protect the children, communities, and the most vulnerable from the worst impacts of climate change; and

(f) Ecosystem protection strategies – The following ecosystem protection strategies shall be pursued:

- 1) Insurance and financing – Assistance from the insurance and financing industries shall be made to help mitigate the impacts of climate change, ensure food security, and assist in a post-catastrophe scenario in order for the insured populace to rebuild and re-establish their lives and livelihoods while greatly increasing their resilience to disasters;
- 2) Innovations and information technology – Innovations in information and communications technology and digital transformation are essential in the open sharing data and conduct of PCRA. These shall also provide valuable input into climate change negotiations and decision-making;
- 3) Green-grey solutions or infrastructures – These are solutions which offer the best protection against calamities and shall be pursued to help mitigate the effects of climate change. Green-grey infrastructure is the conversion and restoration of natural systems combined with conventional approaches;
- 4) Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) – These are actions where we use the forces of nature itself to achieve economic resilience like food and water security, for reduced physical risks including flood control, coastal protection and ecosystem and health, and reduced carbon emissions through sequestration and avoided emissions which are necessary to promote ecosystem resilience;
- 5) Urban green spaces – The usage and expansion of urban green spaces shall be encouraged to address urban heat island effect, promote more sustainable cities, improve resilience to climate change, mitigate its impacts, and increase its co-benefits to health and environment; and
- 6) Vulnerability assessment – LGUs shall be assisted by the relevant national government agencies in the conduct of vulnerability assessment including its Local Climate Change Action Plan.

SECTION 5. *Roles of Departments and Agencies.* – Government agencies shall immediately and efficiently coordinate and lead in taking practicable measures to preserve and protect the environment, as follows:

- (a) The Climate Change Commission (CCC) shall coordinate, monitor, and evaluate programs and action plans related to climate change based on the National Climate Change Action Plan;
- (b) The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shall monitor the integration of climate change resilience and adaptation in the national development plans and create an enabling environment that shall promote multi-stakeholder participation of concerned departments, agencies, LGUs, organizations, and other stakeholders;
- (c) The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) shall conduct research and development on the science of climate and changing weather patterns worldwide; and provide and disseminate climate projections and weather forecasts;
- (d) The Department of Education (DepEd) shall integrate climate change education under the Science Curriculum from Grade 2 to Senior High School level, in both private and public educational institutions, to raise and increase the awareness of children about the impacts and effects of climate change;
- (e) The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall integrate climate change education under the General Science subjects of the secondary and tertiary levels, in both private and public educational institutions, to raise and increase the awareness of children and youth about the impacts and effects of climate change.
- (f) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall develop, formulate, and recommend climate change strategies, programs, and policies especially on physical vulnerability;
- (g) The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall coordinate with LGUs to address vulnerability and impacts of climate change in regions, provinces, cities, and municipalities;
- (h) The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) shall conduct research and development on the effects of climate change and pathways to climate disasters, including determining vulnerability and assessing climate risks of natural ecosystem; develop technologies to enhance climate change adaptation; facilitate the formulation of climate change policies on science, technology, and innovations (STI) and related technical assistance; and

monitor and assess the impacts of provided technical assistance and/or intervention;

- (i) The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall ensure that employers promote a healthy and safe environment for the employees which are sustainable and environment-friendly;
- (j) The Department of Information and Technology (DICT) shall provide cost-free means for public information dissemination on climate change, vulnerabilities, risks, relevant laws, and protocols specifically those which need immediate dissemination;
- (k) The National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) shall provide the feasibility studies and the determination of how climate change policies will help in the economic development of the country;
- (l) The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall institutionalize a comprehensive program to strengthen the resilience of the country's food system;
- (m) The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall represent the stakeholders that are affected by climate change and extreme weather conditions as indicated in Section 2 of this Act and ensure their adaptive social protection;
- (n) The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall design, plan, implement, and inspect public works and infrastructures, which are resilient and adaptive to climate change; and
- (o) Other departments and agencies may be called upon by the Office of the President, incumbent upon their mandate, to provide relevant information relative to their sectors. This includes the following agencies:
 - i. Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA);
 - ii. National Youth Commission (NYC);
 - iii. Philippine Commission on Women (PCW);
 - iv. Philippine Commission on Urban Poor (PCUP);
 - v. National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC); and
 - vi. National Council for Indigenous People (NCIP).

Provided, That other departments and agencies may be called upon by the Office of the President to take part in the efforts in environmental preservation and protection.

SECTION 6. *Multi-Sectoral Approach* – Concerned government agencies and LGUs shall allocate adequate funds from their annual appropriations for the formulation, development, and implementation of their respective climate change programs and plans, in accordance with Republic Act No. 9729, otherwise known as the “Climate Change Act of 2009”.

Private entities, in coordination with the national government and LGUs, civil society organizations, and non-government organizations shall also take part in the preservation and protection of the environment by ensuring that their organizational practices are not detrimental and hazardous to the environment.

SECTION 7. *Corporate Social Responsibility of Private Entities*. – Projects undertaken by private entities under this Act shall be considered as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility Program.

SECTION 8. *Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptability Summit*. – There shall be a Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptability Summit to be held on the second week of September every year. The Summit shall be spearheaded by the CCC and shall be participated in by all stakeholders mentioned in Section 5 hereof. The Summit shall aim to collaborate all the efforts of the concerned agencies in environment preservation and protection.

SECTION 9. *Reportorial Requirement*. – All agencies mentioned in Section 5 of this Act shall submit an annual report on the current status of the country’s resiliency and adaptability to climate change, the implementation of this Act, and their recommendations, if any, to the Congress of the Philippines, through the Committee on Climate Change of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change of the Senate of the Philippines, on or before the scheduled Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptability Summit.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, decrees, orders, 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.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause*. – If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,