

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5832



Introduced by **Representative AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" A. CRUZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is no stranger to the whims of the warming planet. Typhoons, floods, droughts, and rising sea levels have made climate change not a forecast but a familiar reality. Each year, we rebuild what we have lost, often with courage, sometimes with fatigue, and always with the quiet hope that the next storm will not be worse than the last. But science tells us that hope, endurance, and community spirit will not be enough.

The Climate Change Act of 2009 and the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 provide the legal scaffolding for climate action and disaster governance. The country's scientific and institutional backbone, however, lacks a permanent, interdisciplinary institution with the mandate, expertise, and continuity to anchor the country's climate adaptation and resilience agenda.

The existing University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (UPRI) has made significant contributions in this field, but it must be further strengthened and empowered to match the growing complexity of climate risks. By strengthening and elevating the UPRI into the University of the Philippines National Institute for Climate Adaptation and Resilience (UP NICAR), this measure seeks to provide the country with an enduring institutional backbone for climate foresight, risk governance, and resilience research.

The UP NICAR will be a national center of excellence that unites scientific research, policy translation, and local innovation. It will serve as the country's clearinghouse for climate adaptation knowledge, training programs, and technologies; as a bridge between academia and government; and as a partner to local communities charting their own resilient futures. By formalizing its role, the UP NICAR shall bridge the enduring gap between science and governance to ensure that national decisions on resilience are informed not merely by urgency, but by understanding.

In a country that rebuilds as often as it dreams, resilience must be more than recovery; It must be about building wisely, learning constantly, and preparing

collectively. In creating UP NICAR, we make that readiness a permanent feature of our national landscape. This ensures that every disaster we endure becomes a lesson we no longer have to learn the hard way.

In view of the escalating climate and disaster risks confronting the country, the transformation of UP RI into the UP NICAR is both timely and necessary. Hence, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" AGUILAR CRUZ
Representative, Fifth Legislative District of Bulacan

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL CLIMATE
RESILIENCE INSTITUTE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “University of the
2 Philippines National Institute for Climate Adaptation and Resilience (UP NICAR) Act.”
3

4 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 uphold the right of all persons to life, safety, and human dignity by protecting lives,
6 livelihoods, infrastructure, cultural heritage, and ecosystems from the impacts of disasters
7 and climate change. Toward this end, the State recognizes climate adaptation and
8 resilience as integral to national development, environmental sustainability, and human
9 security, and shall mainstream these into all levels of governance and sectors of society.
10

11 The State shall promote a proactive, anticipatory, and science-based approach to
12 disaster risk reduction and climate governance, anchored in multi-hazard assessment,
13 foresight, and inclusive stakeholder participation. It shall strengthen institutional
14 foundations through a permanent national institute within the University of the
15 Philippines System to lead research, education, and innovation for resilience and
16 adaptation.
17

18 To ensure sustainability, the State shall institutionalize integrated systems for early
19 warning, recovery planning, data management, and communication, supported by digital
20 governance, predictive analytics, and emerging technologies. It shall also pursue
21 sustained investment in resilience-building through public financing, private sector
22 participation, and climate-related investment mechanisms.
23

24 Finally, the State shall strengthen the science-policy interface so that research and
25 innovation effectively inform national and local decision-making, ensuring coherence,

1 accountability, and continuous improvement in the country's adaptation and resilience
2 efforts.

3
4 **Section 3. *Establishment.*** – The University of the Philippines Resilience Institute
5 (UPRI) is hereby strengthened and designated as the University of the Philippines
6 National Institute for Climate Adaptation and Resilience (UP NICAR). It shall serve as the
7 national center for science-based research, education, and policy innovation on climate
8 adaptation and resilience under the administrative supervision of the University of the
9 Philippines System.

10
11 **Section 4. *Mandate.*** – The UP NICAR shall continue the mandate of the UPRI as a
12 proactive hub of innovative research and knowledge vital to the nation's efforts in climate
13 adaptation, mitigation, and resilience. It shall empower local communities through
14 multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary actions toward resilience.

15
16 Among others, it shall:

- 17
18 (a) Undertake policy, action, and interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary research
19 and creative work on climate and disaster risk assessment, adaptation
20 planning, and resilience-building;
21 (b) Disseminate research findings, creative works, and innovations through open-
22 access platforms and collaborative networks;
23 (c) Establish non-degree educational programs and support degree programs in
24 adaptation, resilience science, and disaster risk management;
25 (d) Establish and institutionalize a national system for resilience-oriented research,
26 foresight, and knowledge integration to advance science-based, anticipatory,
27 and adaptive governance;
28 (e) Facilitate collaborative projects with universities, local government units
29 (LGUs), scientific institutions, civil society organizations, and private sector
30 partners, and support the translation of research into actionable policies and
31 local solutions;
32 (f) Develop and maintain a centralized and interoperable Climate and Disaster
33 Risk Information and Knowledge Platform as a public repository of resilience
34 data, research outputs, learning modules, analytics tools, and best practices;
35 (g) Translate scientific and technical outputs and innovations into practical
36 guidance materials, toolkits, planning aids, and operational templates for use
37 by national agencies, LGUs, and local communities; and
38 (h) Develop and implement a results-based monitoring and evaluation system to
39 measure outcomes and impacts of resilience and adaptation programs,
40 consistent with national development and climate action indicators.

41
42 **Section 5. *Powers and Functions.*** – To fulfill its mandate, the UP NICAR shall have
43 the following powers and functions:
44

- (a) To receive budgetary support through the annual appropriations for the University of the Philippines System, with a separate budget line item under the General Appropriations Act;
- (b) To establish *plantilla* positions for researchers, faculty, technical staff, and administrators to ensure long-term institutional capacity;
- (c) To enter into agreements with foreign governments, international organizations, financing institutions, and development partners to implement programs and joint initiatives, consistent with national interest and subject to existing laws;
- (d) To accept grants, donations, endowments, and other forms of official development assistance, which shall be administered as special accounts in the books of the University of the Philippines, subject to existing government accounting and auditing rules;
- (e) To develop and deliver certificate programs, executive courses, and professional trainings, and collect reasonable fees from private sector participants and other beneficiaries, which shall accrue to the Institute's revolving fund for program sustainability;
- (f) To leverage partnerships and mobilize external resources, including research sponsorships, innovation challenges, and public-private partnerships;
- (g) To publish official research outputs, policy briefs, and national adaptation and resilience reports; and
- (h) To exercise such other powers as may be necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Section 6. Governance. – The UP NICAR shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines upon recommendation of the President of the University, subject to the usual qualifications, rules, and regulations of the University of the Philippines.

The Executive Director shall be supported by Deputy Executive Directors for:

- (a) Research and Foresight;
- (b) Education and Training;
- (c) Policy and Governance; and
- (d) Knowledge Management.

There shall be an Advisory Council shall be composed of representatives from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), and Climate Change Commission (CCC), as well as two (2) representatives from the private sector and development community.

Members of the Advisory Council shall serve for a term of three (3) years, renewable once, and shall provide guidance on strategic priorities, international cooperation, and resource mobilization.

1
2 The UP NICAR shall submit an annual report to the Office of the President of the
3 University of the Philippines and to Congress detailing its programs, expenditures, and
4 performance indicators.
5

6 **Section 7. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
7 of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s available appropriations of UPRI
8 whose functions are subsumed or realigned pursuant to this Act. Thereafter, such sums
9 as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the
10 annual General Appropriations Act.
11

12 Funds generated through grants, official development assistance, research
13 contracts, donations, and training fees shall constitute a revolving fund to be administered
14 by UP NICAR, in accordance with existing government accounting and auditing rules.
15

16 **Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from
17 the effectivity of this Act, the University of the Philippines, in coordination with the DBM,
18 DOST, DENR, CCC, and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
19 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
20

21 Such rules shall be developed through a consultative process involving local
22 government units, civil society organizations, private sector, academic and research
23 institutions, international organizations engaged in resilience and climate programs, and
24 other relevant stakeholders.
25

26 **Section 9. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is held
27 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in
28 full force and effect.
29

30 **Section 10. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and
31 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
32 repealed or modified accordingly.
33

34 **Section 11. Effectivity.** – Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the implementing
35 rules and regulations, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete
36 publication in the *Official Gazette* or a newspaper of general circulation.
37

38 *Approved,*