



Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Twentieth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8247

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**Introduced by Representative Lorenz R. Defensor**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to institutionalize the University of the Philippines National Climate Resilience Institute (UP NCRI).

In 2010, Republic Act (RA) No. 10121, otherwise known as the "*Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010*," was enacted and reorganized the National Disaster Coordinating Council into the present National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). This landmark legislation shifted the disaster risk reduction and management system from a reactive disaster management strategy that focused on disaster events, rescue, and response to a proactive, science-based, and multi-sectoral strategy that incorporated risk reduction and management.

In July 2012, in response to RA 10121's aim of providing for a more accurate and integrated disaster prevention and mitigation system, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) launched Project NOAH or the Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards, a multi-billion program for disaster prevention and mitigation.

Project NOAH was instrumental in averting several potential disasters that saved and evacuated people living in vulnerable communities within several hours of warning against impending disasters. Project NOAH provided technical assistance to the NDRRMC and local government units in the identification of safe evacuation places through detailed hazard-specific, area-focused, and time-bound information maps using advanced technologies, and established a network of monitoring stations, web portals, and mobile applications for real-time data and information for preparedness.

However, as a grant-in-aid project, the DOST funding for Project NOAH ended in 2017. Fortunately, the University of the Philippines adopted Project NOAH, continued its operations using internal funds and external grants, and relaunched it as the UP NOAH Center, a core component of the University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (UPRI).

The adoption by UP and relaunch of the UP NOAH Center in the UPRI meant sustained operations for hazards assessment and modeling. However, as a project-based initiative, the Institute has been vulnerable to funding gaps and institutional uncertainty, where our very own highly trained scientists and researchers are made to rely on university resources and external grants, leading some personnel to leave due to inconsistent pay and job insecurity.

If we are to maximize its full potential and continue to reap the benefits and the science-driven, transparent, and data-backed solutions that it had contributed, it is timely and fitting to institutionalize the UPRI with UP NOAH Center, one of the country's most widely trusted and transformative disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) innovations. Time and again, UP NOAH Center has proven the lifesaving power of near real-time data on rainfall, flooding, landslides, among other hazards, and the use of hazard modeling, and accessible digital platforms in early warning efforts.

This bill banks on the pressing need to invest in tools and technologies that provide multi-scenario probabilistic assessments, required under the General Appropriations Acts (GAAs) 2018 to 2026, so that we can better prepare for and anticipate disasters. It proposes to strengthen and elevate the UPRI into the National Climate Resilience Institute (UP NCRI), a permanent, nationally mandated research hub for climate and disaster resilience, foresight, innovation, training, and public service. The UP NCRI is envisioned to produce accessible and user-friendly tools and knowledge products that governments and communities can use for planning, and provide academic and training programs to support disaster resilience-building in the country.

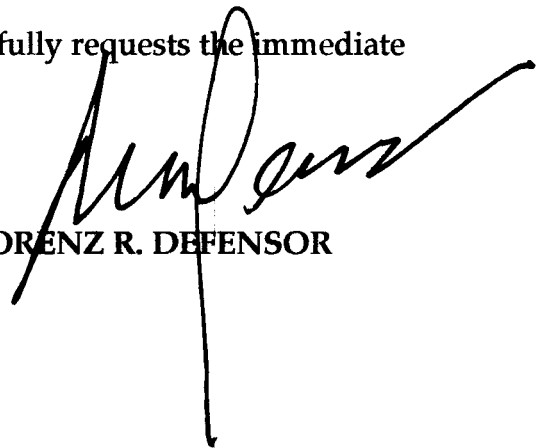
Through the UP NCRI and NOAH Center, the country will finally have a stable, science-grounded national institute for disaster resilience and climate adaptation that will:

- (a) Deliver science-based, multi-hazard probabilistic risk information, tools, and advisories to national agencies, local governments, and communities, in full complement to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Climate Change Commission (CCC), and other relevant government agencies;

- (b) Institutionalize a national system for resilience focused on research, foresight, and knowledge integration to support anticipatory governance;
- (c) Develop open, interoperable, and user-friendly platforms that disseminate and translate complex climate and hazard data into actionable initiatives for governments and communities; and
- (d) Build a multidisciplinary corps of experts and scientists, from engineering, science, statistics, social sciences, public health, and many other disciplines to support the country's whole-of-society approach to sustainable and holistic disaster resilience.

With full and sustained government support, the UPRI, with the UP NOAH Center, can expand its nationwide coverage, improve data accuracy, and continuously update its tools that can prevent casualties, infrastructure damages, and economic losses caused by floods and typhoons. With the establishment of UP NCRI, which integrates the UP NOAH Center into its core mandate, this bill fortifies the country's long term institutional backbone for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation (DRR-CCAM) and anchors our efforts into the nation's premier university.

In view of the foregoing, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this bill.



LORENZ R. DEFENSOR



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HOUSE BILL NO. **8247**

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1 **AN ACT**  
2 **INSTITUTIONALIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL**  
3 **CLIMATE RESILIENCE INSTITUTE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,**  
4 **AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**  
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*  
7

8 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*University of the*  
9 *Philippines National Climate Resilience Institute (UP NCRI) Act.*”

10 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the declared policy of the State to protect the  
11 right of the people to life, safety, and human dignity by pursuing a holistic program for  
12 disaster prevention and mitigation as an essential safeguard for the safety and protection  
13 of the people against disaster risks, climate change impacts, and natural hazards. Toward  
14 this end, the State shall establish a center for nationwide operational assessment of  
15 hazards that shall: (a) provide science-based support to integrated and coordinated  
16 disaster prevention, mitigation, and climate change adaptation efforts of the government;  
17 and (b) advance timely, reliable, and readily accessible data to empower vulnerable

1 communities with information as the basis for decisive action against impending natural  
2 and man-made hazards.

3 **SEC. 3. *University of the Philippines National Climate Resilience Institute.* –**

4 Pursuant to the national policy of promoting scientific research and innovation for climate  
5 and disaster resilience, the University of the Philippines National Climate Resilience  
6 Institute, hereinafter referred to as the “*Institute*”, is hereby established. The Institute shall  
7 be an independent agency attached to the University of the Philippines (UP), vested with  
8 administrative autonomy and provided with its own budget separate and distinct from  
9 that of the UP.

10 The existing University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (UPRI) is hereby  
11 converted into, and shall operate as the Institute, which shall serve as the national  
12 academic and scientific hub for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk  
13 reduction and resilience-building in the country.

14 The principal office of the Institute shall be at the UPRI building in the UP Diliman  
15 campus in Quezon City, Metro Manila. Satellite offices or regional hubs in other areas of  
16 the Philippines may be established whenever necessary to ensure the effective  
17 accomplishment of its purposes and objectives.

18 **SEC. 4. *Functions and Objectives.* –** The Institute shall have the following functions  
19 and objectives:

20 (a) Conduct interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary research on disaster risk  
21 reduction and management, climate change adaptation, and policy development on  
22 relevant issues determined by the Board;

(b) Promote a science-based, collaborative, and multi-disciplinary research and policy development with other government agencies, the academe, and private stakeholders on climate-disaster risk management;

(c) Promote climate change adaptation, disaster foresight, and anticipatory governance through the development and mandated use of multi-hazard probabilistic risk assessments, consistent with the relevant provisions of the General Appropriations Act of 2018 up to the current GAA;

(d) Strengthen the country's institutional capacity for disaster risk and vulnerability reduction by providing the government agencies and the legislature with timely information and data on issues requiring policy intervention;

(e) Establish mechanisms to enhance the accessibility of data and information, and ensure timely dissemination and utilization of tools against possible disasters that may occur due to floods, typhoons, and other natural hazards;

(f) Maximize the use of digital technologies in the storage, dissemination, and application of data and information, and in the performance of the other functions of the Institute;

(g) Encourage private professionals and organizations to assist and take increasing responsibility in preventing and mitigating disasters by providing them with the necessary incentives and assistance;

(h) Support disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation efforts, and encourage public and private sector cooperation and partnership in the prevention and mitigation of disasters;

(i) Serve as a platform in bringing together local and international experts in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation through sustained local and international linkages and exchanges;

(j) Establish and sustain a national scientific research center for disaster risk reduction to generate science-based information, models and applications useful for disaster risk reduction and management, climate change adaptation, resource management, water conservation and planning, land use planning, urban development, and engineering designs;

(k) Organize information, education, and communication campaigns to increase public awareness and promote a culture of disaster awareness;

(l) Generate and strengthen the library of geo-hazard maps and related materials, laboratory, remote sensing, and other facilities, teaching and research capabilities of public or private institutions and foundations of like or similar objectives, alone or in conjunction with other relevant government agencies;

(m) Create, establish and distribute or cause to be published or distributed without profit, flood, landslide, storm surge hazard and risk maps, books, information, case studies, or data on climate change, including rainfall and water level data, disaster risk reduction and management, and other related subjects as a result of studies, researches or projects made thereon;

(n) Assist public and private educational institutions in formulating curricular offerings and instructional materials to support the training and education of future disaster scientists and acquiring equipment related to disaster risk reduction and management and climate change;

(o) Conduct or support training programs, seminars, conferences, and other continuing education courses on disaster risk reduction and management throughout the nation as needed;

(p) Conduct local and international conferences or symposia in coordination with other government agencies and private institutions on problems and solutions related to weather, climate change, and disasters;

(q) Obtain the services of scientists and technical personnel of local and international agencies to accomplish its objectives and to pay such personnel compensation that is competitive locally or internationally;

(r) Receive gifts and donations of real and personal property of all kinds and to administer and dispose of the same when necessary for the benefit of the Institute and subject to the instructions of the donor, if any; and

(s) Establish local and foreign linkages involved in research and activities related to generating science-based information on weather and climate change for disaster risk reduction and management.

**SEC. 5. *Executive Board.*** – The Institute shall be managed by an Executive Board, hereinafter referred to as the “*Board*”, composed of the following:

(a) UP President, as the *ex officio* Chairperson;

(b) Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), as *ex officio* Vice-chairperson;

(c) Undersecretaries of the Department of National Defense (DND)-Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DSHUD), Department

1 of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of Social Welfare and  
2 Development (DSWD), as *ex officio* members; and

3 (d) Seven (7) representatives from the fields of engineering, law, science,  
4 statistics, economics, social science, and public health, either from the academe or the  
5 private sector, as members, with four (4) coming from the academe and three (3) from  
6 the private sector, each representing a different field. The representatives shall be  
7 appointed by the UP President, as the *ex officio* Chairperson of the Board. They shall  
8 serve for a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed: *Provided*, That no  
9 representative shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms.

10 In case of vacancy by reason of death, resignation, removal for cause or  
11 incapacity of the representatives from the academe and private sector, the successors  
12 shall hold office only for the unexpired portion of their term.

13 The Board may invite the secretaries of various national government agencies  
14 as well as advocacy groups as resource persons during its meetings and deliberations.  
15 Compensation of the members from the academe and private sector shall be  
16 determined by the Board. Members holding in an *ex officio* capacity are entitled to  
17 reasonable per diems and reimbursements of actual expenses incurred in every  
18 meeting attended.

19 SEC. 6. *Powers and Functions*. – The Board shall exercise the following powers  
20 and functions:

21 (a) Formulate, review and approve the plans, policies, internal rules of  
22 procedures, programs and projects of the Institute;

1           (b)     Approve the organizational structure of the Institute including position  
2     classification and compensation of employees in coordination with the Department of  
3     Budget and Management (DBM), its annual budget, and the compensation or salaries  
4     of personnel and consultants;

5           (c)     Monitor, evaluate, and review the implementation, efficiency, and  
6     effectiveness of programs and projects undertaken by the Executive Director in  
7     research and policy direction and priorities of the Institute;

8           (d)     Assist the Executive Director in generating resources and obtaining  
9     logistical and financial support for the programs and component units of the Institute;

10          (e)     Advise the Office of the President, the National Disaster Risk Reduction  
11     Management Council (NDRRMC) and other relevant agencies on matters related to  
12     natural hazards and climate change risks for disaster risk reduction and management  
13     at all levels of society;

14          (f)     Ensure that science-based data generated and disseminated by the UP  
15     NCRI are in conformity with the guidelines on data sharing pursuant to Republic Act  
16     (RA) No. 10055, otherwise known as the "*Philippine Technology Transfer Act of 2009*";

17          (g)     Adhere to the precept that publicly-funded research data are produced  
18     in the interest of the public, and should therefore be accessible to the maximum extent  
19     possible. However, the policy recognizes intellectual property rights and the need to  
20     restrict the release of proprietary information that may compromise such rights,  
21     consistent with RA 10055;

22          (h)     Provide scientific, technical, policy recommendations, and support  
23     capacity building to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), OCD,

1 NDRRMC, DILG, and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) on matters related to  
2 hazard risk, infrastructure resilience, land use planning, and disaster preparedness;

3 (i) Conduct projects and research geared towards the development of  
4 advanced tools and technologies for disaster prevention and mitigation;

5 (j) Encourage public and private sector cooperation and partnerships,  
6 including collaboration with other academic institutions;

7 (k) Organize information, education, and communication campaigns, in  
8 coordination with the Department of Education (DepED) and CHED, to increase  
9 public awareness and promote a culture of disaster awareness;

10 (l) Generate and strengthen the library of geo-hazard maps and related  
11 materials, laboratory, remote sensing, and other facilities, teaching and research  
12 capabilities of public or private institutions and foundations of like or similar  
13 objectives, alone or in conjunction with other relevant government agencies;

14 (m) Create, establish and distribute or cause to be published or distributed  
15 without profit, flood, landslide, storm surge hazard and risk maps, books,  
16 information, case studies, or data on climate change, including rainfall and water level  
17 data, disaster risk reduction and management, and other related subjects as a result of  
18 studies, researches or projects made, provided that the methodologies to produce  
19 these products are supported by reputable peer-reviewed journal articles or books;

20 (n) Ensure that science-based data generated and disseminated by the  
21 Institute are in conformity with the guidelines on data sharing pursuant to RA-10055;

22 (o) Assist public and private educational institutions in formulating  
23 curricular offerings and instructional materials to support the training and education

1 of future disaster scientists, and acquiring equipment related to disaster risk reduction  
2 and management and climate change;

3 (p) Conduct or support training programs, seminars, conferences, and other  
4 continuing education courses on disaster risk reduction and management throughout  
5 the nation as needed;

6 (q) Conduct local and international conferences or symposia in  
7 coordination with other government agencies and private institutions on problems  
8 and solutions related to weather, climate change, and disasters;

9 (r) Obtain the services of scientists and technical personnel of local and  
10 international agencies to accomplish its objectives and to pay such personnel  
11 compensation that is competitive locally or internationally;

12 (s) Receive gifts and donations of real and personal property of all kinds  
13 and to administer and dispose of the same when necessary for the benefit of the  
14 Institute and subject to the instructions of the donor, if any;

15 (t) Establish local and foreign linkages involved in research and activities  
16 related to generating science-based information on weather, climate change, and  
17 geological hazards for disaster risk reduction and management; and

18 (u) Promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the  
19 purposes and functions of the Institute.

20 SEC. 7. *Integration of the UP NOAH Center.* - The University of the  
21 Philippines Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards (UP NOAH) Center shall  
22 constitute the core operational, research, and hazard analytics arm of the Institute. All  
23 its applicable mandates, programs, appropriations, assets, and personnel are deemed

1 absorbed by, and subsumed under the Institute, subject to relevant civil service laws,  
2 rules, and regulations. Subject to existing contracts, intellectual property rights,  
3 and applicable laws, the scientific, technological, and information systems, data  
4 repositories, software, platforms, and equipment of UP NOAH Center currently  
5 hosted or maintained by UP or other government agencies may be made available to,  
6 shared with, or transferred to the Institute, under such terms as may be agreed upon  
7 by the concerned institutions.

8 Technical and research personnel with demonstrated expertise and track  
9 record in the UP NOAH Center may be engaged or absorbed by the Institute, in  
10 accordance with relevant civil service and personnel rules.

11 **SEC. 8. *Organizational Structure.*** - The Institute shall be headed by an  
12 Executive Director with the rank and compensation of a Department Undersecretary,  
13 and shall report directly to the Board.

14 The Executive Director shall be assisted by seven (7) Deputy Executive  
15 Directors with the rank and compensation equivalent to a Department Assistant  
16 Secretary under the following offices: (a) UP NOAH Center, (b) Office for Research  
17 and Creative Work, (c) Office for Institution Building, (d) Office for Knowledge  
18 Sharing, (e) Office for Education and Instructional Development, (f) Office for Finance,  
19 and (g) Office for General Services and Administration.

20 The Institute's policy direction and priorities shall be determined by the Board  
21 and implemented by the Executive Director. The Institute shall be supported by a pool  
22 of research fellows in carrying out its functions, which shall include permanent  
23 plantilla positions for scientific researchers, data scientists, social scientists, and

1 technical staff from various disciplines, and administrative personnel, subject to  
2 applicable civil service and DBM rules.

3 Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the Board  
4 shall:

5 (a) Submit to the President of the Philippines, the House of Representatives,  
6 and the Senate the Institute's five (5) year development plan, and the corresponding  
7 budget; and

8 (b) Set up its organizational and administrative structure, including the  
9 appointment of key officials, technical staff, and secretariat personnel necessary to  
10 accomplish the purposes and functions of the Institute.

11 SEC. 9. *Executive Director.* - The UP President, as *ex-officio* chairperson of the  
12 Board, shall appoint, upon the recommendation of the Board, an Executive Director  
13 who shall render full- time service as the chief executive officer of the Institute. The  
14 Executive Director must be a recognized expert in disaster risks and climate change  
15 sciences, and a highly qualified professional, with experience in disaster risks  
16 reduction and management for at least ten (10) years.

17 The Executive Director must have good moral character and an advanced  
18 degree in geosciences, engineering, or other related fields, and at least five (5) years of  
19 expertise and competence in meteorology, geology, volcanology, geophysics, or other  
20 allied sciences. The Executive Director shall have a term of six (6) years and may be  
21 reappointed for another term. In case of vacancy by reason of death, resignation,  
22 removal for cause, or incapacity of the Executive Director to perform the functions of  
23 the office, the Board shall designate an officer-in-charge pending the appointment of

1 a new Executive Director. The successor shall hold office only for the unexpired  
2 portion of the term.

3 Other officers and employees of the Institute shall likewise be appointed by the  
4 Chairperson upon the recommendation of the Executive Director.

5 SEC. 10. *Powers and Functions.* – The Executive Director shall:

6 (a) Implement and enforce research and policy direction, priorities,  
7 decisions, orders, rules and regulations determined by the Board;

8 (b) Exercise administrative and supervisory functions over the planning,  
9 implementation, and evaluation of the policies, programs, and projects of the  
10 Institute;

11 (c) Recommend to the Board, the following:

12 (1) Organizational structure of the Institute including the position  
13 classification and compensation of employees;

14 (2) Appointment of research fellows, officers, and employees of the  
15 Institute; and

16 (3) Overall budget of the Institute;

17 (d) Submit to the Board, regular reports on the Institute, including annual  
18 reports on operations, status of programs and projects, and the financial condition of  
19 the Institute;

20 (e) Apprise regularly the Board on the programs and projects of the  
21 Institute;

22 (f) Execute contracts, incur obligations, acquire and dispose of assets, and  
23 deliver documents on behalf of the Institute, including negotiated or consultancy

1 contracts for personnel and for the Institute's pool of researchers within and outside  
2 of the UP, within the limits of the authority determined by the Board;

3 (g) Generate and obtain logistical and financial support for the programs  
4 and component units of the Institute with the assistance of the Board; and

5 (h) Exercise and perform such other powers, functions, and duties as may  
6 be authorized or assigned by the Board, and in accordance with the objectives of this  
7 Act.

8 SEC. 11. *Deputy Executive Directors.* – The deputy executive directors shall  
9 assist the Executive Director in the day-to-day operation of the Institute and the  
10 following offices under it:

11 (a) UP NOAH Center. – The Deputy Executive Director for the UP NOAH  
12 Center shall oversee the implementation of the following functions:

13 (1) Developing and maintaining an integrated platform that  
14 provides open access, to the greatest extent practicable, to updated hazard and  
15 risk information, including but not limited to near real-time weather data,  
16 flood, and landslide hazard maps, storm surge inundation maps, and the  
17 identification of local critical facilities;

18 (2) Undertaking research and innovation projects to advance the  
19 use of technology in disaster risk reduction, including the development of  
20 tools that enhance government and community capacity in disaster  
21 preparedness, response, and recovery;

22 (3) Strengthening and expanding its early warning systems and  
23 digital applications, such as the NOAH website, mirror sites, and mobile

1 applications including NOAH and Arko, to ensure that hazard information  
2 are user-friendly and accessible to all sectors of society;

3 (4) Sustaining the operation and continuous improvement of the  
4 impact-based forecasting system application and similar analytical tools  
5 which provide decision support for the allocation of resources and emergency  
6 planning during severe weather and other hazard events.

7 (5) Translating scientific information into practical, accessible tools  
8 and knowledge for the use of the NDRRMC and other relevant agencies on  
9 matters that relate to natural hazards, natural and man-made disasters, climate  
10 change, including their risks, risk reduction and management, and adaptation  
11 measures;

12 (6) Undertaking, promoting, and supporting research activities or  
13 studies on natural hazards and climate change risks aimed at preventing and  
14 mitigating risks from disasters that may occur from typhoons, earthquakes,  
15 volcanism and other natural hazards using frontier science and advanced  
16 technology;

17 (7) Conducting advanced disaster science research and  
18 comprehensive multi-disciplinary assessment of natural hazards, including  
19 their compounding effects to improve the country's disaster science;

20 (8) Developing and maintaining databases and other science-based  
21 information on natural hazards and climate change risks that are useful for  
22 disaster risk reduction and management, climate change adaptation, resource

1 management, water conservation and planning, land use planning, urban  
2 development, and engineering designs;

3 (9) Creating and upgrading high-resolution hazard maps for floods,  
4 storm surges, landslides, and developing a framework for multi-hazard  
5 mapping to assess the compounded impact of multiple hazards occurring  
6 simultaneously;

7 (10) Providing free and open access, through its website, to hazard  
8 maps and other outputs of the Institute;

9 (11) Gathering and validating hazard data through combinations of  
10 scientific simulations, modeling, satellite data, and community-based field  
11 surveys;

12 (12) Translating complex scientific information into user-friendly  
13 tools for the use of local government units, community leaders, and the public  
14 in mitigating the effects of disasters;

15 (13) Providing timely and reliable information to LGUs and disaster  
16 response agencies for their pre-disaster risk assessment and early warning  
17 systems;

18 (14) Promoting an interdisciplinary and participatory approach in  
19 the design and implementation of disaster prevention and mitigation systems  
20 by integrating meteorology, hydrology, geology, engineering, information  
21 technology, social sciences, arts and the humanities, and engaging  
22 communities and indigenous peoples where appropriate; and

1           (15) Supporting capacity-building initiatives, policy formulation,  
2           and community education programs that enable proactive and science-based  
3           disaster governance at both the national and local levels.

4           (b) Office for Research and Creative Work. – The Deputy Executive  
5           Director for Research and Creative Work shall oversee and strengthen the research  
6           and creative agenda of the Institute by:

7           (1) Formulating and implementing research priorities aligned with  
8           the mandate and national development goals of the Institute;

9           (2) Undertaking policy and action research with respect to disaster  
10          risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation;

11          (3) Supporting interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and creative  
12          work initiatives across programs and units;

13          (4) Establishing policies and standards for research quality, ethics,  
14          intellectual property, and innovation; and

15          (5) Facilitating research grants, fellowships, partnerships, and  
16          external funding opportunities.

17          (c) Office for Institution Building. – The Deputy Executive Director for  
18          Institution Building shall be responsible for long-term organizational development  
19          and the improvement of the Institute as an agent of change for disaster resilience in  
20          the country and the Pacific Rim region by:

21          (1) Leading strategic planning, performance management, and  
22          organizational development initiatives;

1           (2)    Developing institutional policies, frameworks, and systems to  
2 enhance effectiveness, accountability, and sustainability;

3           (3)    Promoting and facilitating collaboration and coordination  
4 among the regional offices of the Institute, UP Constituent Units, as well as  
5 with other State Universities and Colleges or Higher Education Institutions;

6           (4)    Strengthening partnerships and networks with public, private,  
7 academic, and international institutions; and

8           (5)    Supporting initiatives related to governance reforms,  
9 accreditation, and institutional benchmarking.

10       (d)    Office for Knowledge Sharing. - The Deputy Executive Director for  
11 Knowledge Sharing shall ensure the effective dissemination of knowledge products,  
12 tools, and innovations by:

13           (1)    Designing and implementing education, training, and  
14 professional development programs for internal and external stakeholders;

15           (2)    Leading public engagement, outreach, and extension activities,  
16 including community-based learning initiatives for the widest dissemination  
17 of research findings;

18           (3)    Developing knowledge products, publications, and learning  
19 resources for diverse audiences;

20           (4)    Promoting open data, open science, and inclusive access to  
21 knowledge; and

1           (5)     Coordinating with academic institutions, government agencies,  
2           and civil society for collaborative knowledge sharing and capacity-building  
3           efforts.

4           (e)     Office for Education and Instructional Development. - The Deputy  
5     Executive Director for Education and Instructional Development shall lead the  
6     design, implementation, and institutionalization of education, training, and learning  
7     programs to strengthen disaster resilience, climate change adaptation, and science-  
8     informed governance across sectors by:

9           (1)     Designing and implementing education, training, and  
10          professional development programs for national and local government  
11          agencies, state institutions, practitioners, educators, and other stakeholders;

12          (2)     Developing and integrating disaster risk reduction, climate  
13          change adaptation, and resilience concepts into formal and non-formal  
14          education systems, including curriculum development and instructional  
15          materials, in coordination with academic institutions;

16          (3)     Building the capacity of state institutions, local government  
17          units, and communities through applied, practice-oriented learning programs  
18          that translate scientific knowledge into policy and action;

19          (4)     Supporting human capital development in resilience and climate  
20          science through scholarships, fellowships, internships, and supervised  
21          training and research programs; and

1           (5) Collaborating with academic institutions, government agencies,  
2           and civil society organizations to harmonize education and capacity-building  
3           initiatives and ensure wide, inclusive access to learning opportunities.

4           (f) Office for Finance. – The Deputy Executive Director for Finance shall  
5           oversee the financial affairs of the Institute, and shall be responsible for:

6           (1) Maintaining the books of accounts and recording of all the  
7           income and expenditures of the Institute;

8           (2) Processing of salaries, allowances, benefits, and other expenses  
9           concerning personnel services;

10          (3) Paying miscellaneous, operating, and capital outlay expenses;  
11          and

12          (4) Preparing financial statements and ensuring compliance with  
13          the requirements of the Commission on Audit (COA), Bureau of Internal  
14          Revenue (BIR), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), National Health  
15          Insurance Corporation (Philhealth), Pag-IBIG and other government  
16          regulatory agencies;

17          (g) Office for General Services and Administration. – The Deputy  
18          Executive Director for General Services and Administration shall oversee human  
19          resources management, supply and property management, engineering and physical  
20          facilities, medical and dental services, and legal affairs services, and shall be  
21          responsible for:

1           (1) Managing the Institute's human resources requirements,  
2 including recruitment, selection, placement, personnel development, welfare  
3 programs, grievance and disciplinary systems, and rewards and recognition;

4           (2) Recording of inventories and procurement of supplies,  
5 properties, equipment and other tools necessary for daily operations of the  
6 Institute;

7           (3) Overseeing repairs and maintenance of buildings, plants and  
8 equipment and other physical facilities or properties of the Institute;

9           (4) Providing medical and dental services to officials and employees  
10 of the Institute; and

11           (5) Handling legal affairs, including drafting and reviewing legal  
12 documents, consultancy contracts, and imposing fines and penalties on erring  
13 officials and employees.

14       SEC. 12. *Scientific Independence, Integrity, and Transparency.* - To ensure  
15 policy coherence, operational synergy, and effective use of public resources, the  
16 Institute shall not assume or duplicate the core mandates of the OCD, NDRRMC,  
17 DOST, PAGASA, PHIVOLCS, CCC, and other relevant government agencies. The  
18 Institute shall enjoy the following rights:

19       (a)     Scientific Integrity. - The Institute shall uphold the highest standards  
20 of scientific integrity, objectivity, ethical conduct, and methodological rigor. All of its  
21 research, risk assessments, models, tools, and advisory outputs shall be evidence-  
22 based, peer-reviewed, and accompanied by transparent documentation of methods,  
23 assumptions, and limitations.

1           (b)     Non-Interference. – No person, office, or agency shall interfere with,  
2     suppress, delay, alter, or unduly influence the research agenda, methodologies,  
3     findings, publications or policy advisories of the Institute.

4           (c)     Right to Publish. – Researchers and scientists of the Institute shall have  
5     the right to publish and disseminate their findings in a timely manner, subject only  
6     to limitations imposed by national security, public safety, and applicable data privacy  
7     laws.

8           (d)     Data Transparency. – All data, maps, models, and risk information  
9     generated using public funds shall be made publicly accessible to the maximum  
10    extent possible, consistent with existing laws on intellectual property, national  
11    security, data privacy, and technology transfer.

12          (e)     Research Protection. – No researcher, scientist, or technical staff shall  
13    suffer retaliation, discrimination, or adverse employment action for the lawful  
14    conduct or publication of scientific work.

15          (f)     Non-Diminution Clause. – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as  
16    diminishing the statutory mandates of PAGASA, PHIVOLCS, DOST, CCC,  
17    NDRRMC, OCD, or other concerned agencies. The Institute shall complement and  
18    strengthen these agencies through research, analytics, capacity-building, and  
19    knowledge translation.

20          SEC. 13. *Building Construction and Equipment Purchase.* – The Institute is  
21    hereby authorized to construct buildings and other facilities and to purchase  
22    equipment locally and abroad as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

1           SEC. 14. *Regional Hubs.* – The Board may establish, operate, and maintain  
2 regional or satellite offices or hubs throughout the country, in partnership with state  
3 universities and colleges (SUCs), which serve as regional hubs for climate and  
4 disaster resilience research, capacity-building, and local government support.

5           SEC. 15. *Climate Resilience Fund.* – A Climate Resilience Fund, herein referred  
6 to as the Fund, is hereby established to finance research, data systems, capacity-  
7 building programs, regional hubs, innovation initiatives, and resilience-building  
8 activities of the Institute.

9           The Fund shall be sourced from the following:

- 10           (a)   Annual appropriations;
- 11           (b)   Grants, donations, and endowments from domestic and foreign  
12 sources;
- 13           (c)   Income from partnerships, research commercialization, and  
14 consultancy services; and
- 15           (d)   Other lawful sources.

16           The Fund shall be used exclusively for the following:

- 17           (a)   Research and development;
- 18           (b)   Data systems and analytics infrastructure;
- 19           (c)   Capacity-building and training;
- 20           (d)   Policy and knowledge translation;
- 21           (e)   Publication, dissemination, and community engagement; and
- 22           (f)   Administrative and operational expenses directly related to the  
23 implementation of this Act.

1           The Institute shall administer the Fund in accordance with existing budgeting,  
2   accounting, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations, including pertinent provisions  
3   of the Government Auditing Code and the rules of the Commission on Audit (COA).

4           Unutilized funds at the end of each fiscal year shall remain in the Fund and  
5   shall not revert to the national treasury, unless otherwise provided by law.

6           SEC. 16. *Procurement Exemptions.* - The Institute shall be exempt from the  
7   application of the provisions of RA 12009, otherwise known as the "*New Government*  
8   *Procurement Act*," particularly in the procurement of items, supplies, materials and  
9   general support services, including consulting services, which may be necessary in  
10   the pursuit of any research and development undertaking, project or activity by  
11   departments, agencies, state universities and colleges, government-owned or-  
12   controlled corporations, and organizations.

13          For this purpose, the Board shall certify such procurement whether in the  
14   nature of equipment, furniture, materials for construction, or personal property of  
15   any kind, including contractual services, repair and maintenance of equipment and  
16   furniture, as well as trucking, hauling, and other related or analogous services such  
17   as lease or purchase of office space, media advertisements, health maintenance  
18   services, and other services essential to the operation of the procuring entity in  
19   connection with any research and development undertaking, project or activity.

20          SEC. 17. *Tax Exemptions.* - The Institute is entitled to all the tax exemptions  
21   enumerated under RA 9500, otherwise known as the "*University of the Philippines*  
22   *Charter of 2008*," as amended by RA 10963, otherwise known as the "*Tax Reform for*  
23   *Acceleration and Inclusion Act*."

1       Donations, grants, gifts, endowments, legacies, and contributions used  
2 actually, directly, and exclusively by the Institute shall be exempt from donor's tax  
3 and considered as allowable deduction from gross income for purposes of computing  
4 the taxable income of the donor, in accordance with Section 34(H)(2)(a) of the  
5 National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended: *Provided, That* such other  
6 transfers of ownership or possession of real or personal properties of all kinds shall  
7 be exempt from all taxes.

8       SEC. 18. *Transitory Provisions.* - Such personnel, properties, assets and  
9 liabilities, functions and responsibilities of the UPRI and UP NOAH Center are  
10 hereby transferred to the Institute.

11       All regular or permanent employees transferred to the Institute shall not suffer  
12 any loss of seniority or rank or decrease in emoluments. Personnel of the UPRI and  
13 UP NOAH Center not otherwise transferred to the Institute shall be reassigned by  
14 the UP Systems in any of its offices: *Provided, however, That*, any employee who  
15 cannot be accommodated shall be given all the benefits as may be provided under  
16 existing laws, rules and regulations.

17       SEC. 19. *Oversight Committee.* -There is hereby created a Joint Congressional  
18 Oversight Committee to oversee the implementation of this Act for a period not  
19 exceeding five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act. The Committee shall be  
20 composed of the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural  
21 Resources and Climate Change and two members thereof appointed by the Senate  
22 President, and the Chairpersons of the House Committees on Disaster Resilience and

Climate Change, and two members from each committee to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Institute shall regularly appear before the Joint Committee, as may be required, and shall promptly act on recommendations issued pursuant to such oversight.

SEC. 20. *Annual Report.* - To ensure transparency, accountability, and alignment with the national policy, an annual report on the implementation, budget utilization, accomplishments and challenges of the Institute shall be submitted through the UP President as *ex officio* Chairperson, to the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, and House Committees on Disaster Resilience and Climate Change not later than June 30 of every year.

SEC. 21. *Appropriations.* - The amount of One billion pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) for the initial operation of the Institute is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued operation of the Institute shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 22. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Executive Board, in consultation with relevant stakeholders such as the UP Board of Regents and DBM shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

1        SEC. 23. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act is declared  
2        unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall  
3        remain in full force and effect.

4        SEC. 24. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, ordinances,  
5        rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent  
6        with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

7        SEC. 25. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
8        its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

9        Approved,