

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10746



Introduced by the **Honorable ANIELA BIANCA N. TOLENTINO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is shaped by more than thirty-six thousand kilometers of coastline. It can be said that the Filipino identity, our food, our economy, our culture: all of it is molded by the sea and the coastline bordering it. Millions of Filipinos live along shores, reports show that six out of ten Filipinos live their lives in coastal communities. Clearly, the ocean, seas and coastline represent food, embody home, symbolize both life and death. Despite the great importance of the ocean, our seas and shores, Filipinos are experiencing real threats on our coastline.

According to a study published last February 2026 by Oceana, a non-governmental organization, 88% of assessed fish stocks in the Philippines now show signs of overfishing and the country has consistently been losing an average of 45 million kilograms of fish, every year since 2010. It should also be pointed out that climate change is bringing enormous damage to our country, thus requiring further action for protecting our coastline. In 2024, six typhoons struck the Philippines in 25 days, conditions made nearly twice as likely by human-induced climate change, with storm intensities only projected to worsen.

The bill herein proposes a National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan - a national inventory of our coastlines, priority greenbelt zones, and a requirement for every coastal LGU to prepare a local action plan. It sets clear prohibited acts, effective penalties, and prioritizes converting abandoned fishponds back to mangrove forests. This will ensure that those coastlines are still there for those communities ten, twenty, fifty years from now. A coastal greenbelt takes up to 30 years to fully mature and this the reason why it is imperative to pass the proposed legislation herein.

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

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Introduced by the Honorable ANIELA BIANCA D. TOLENTINO

**"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT PROGRAM,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "***National Coastal Greenbelt Act***".

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby the declared policy of the State to advance and ensure the protection of the rights of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology. The State shall encourage the active participation of the national government, local governments, businesses, non-government organizations, local communities and the public to prevent and reduce the adverse impacts of climate change and disaster risks consistent with the Climate Change Act of 2009 (Republic Act No. 9729), as amended by Republic Act No. 10174 and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (Republic Act 10121). The State shall also develop and effectively implement a coherent, comprehensive, integrated National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan that aims to reduce vulnerability to climate change and disaster risks, enhance adaptive capacity and build resilience to climate change-related hazards.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

a. Abandoned, Undeveloped or Underutilized (AUU) Fishponds refer to fishponds that have been leased to qualified persons and fisherfolk organizations/cooperatives that are not fully producing within five (5) years from the date of approval of the lease contract that shall be automatically reverted to the public domain for reforestation, in accordance with Republic Act

8550, as amended by Republic Act 10654, otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code;

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. Coastal Greenbelts refer to at least 100-meter-wide strip of natural or planted coastal vegetation, primarily of mangrove and beach forest species, extending from the seaward edge of mangroves (middle intertidal zone) towards land, or extending from the seaward edge of beach forest (high tide line) towards land, in cases where mangroves are absent. Its function is to absorb wave energy from the sea towards land, prevent coastal erosion, and mitigate the adverse impacts of natural coastal hazards on human lives and property;

d. Coastal Zone is a band of dry land and adjacent ocean space (water and submerged land) in which terrestrial processes and uses directly affect oceanic processes and uses, and vice versa; its geographic extent may include areas within a landmark limit of one (1) kilometer from the shoreline at high tide to include mangrove swamps, brackish water ponds, nipa swamps, estuarine rivers, sandy beaches and other areas within a seaward limit of 200 meters isobath to include coral reefs, algal flats, seagrass beds and other soft-bottom areas;

e. Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) refers to the document formulated by the cities and municipalities, in consultation with its stakeholders, that defines or provides guidelines on the allocation, utilization, development, and management of all lands within a given territory or jurisdiction according to the inherent qualities of the land itself and supportive economic, demographic, socio-cultural and environmental objectives as defined in Republic Act No. 11201, otherwise known as the "Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Act";

f. Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) refers to a six-year multi-sectoral plan formulated at the city or municipal level embodying the vision, sectoral goals, objectives, development strategies, and policies within the terms of the officials of the LGU, and the medium-term. It contains an ecological profile, sectoral development plan, and implementation instruments;

g. Department refers to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources herein;

h. Designated area refers to site-specific stretches of vegetation in the coastal zone, defined in relation to risk factors and vulnerability to coastal hazards, and reserved for protection and maintenance under the National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan. The area may undergo rehabilitation, reforestation, or afforestation with locally appropriate mangrove and beach forest species. Designated areas with abandoned fishponds require the reversion of these fishponds to mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally appropriate species. Designated areas with illegal structures, such as

breakwaters, permanent residential/commercial structures, and the like, require removal of such structures;

i. Fisherfolk Settlement Areas refer to certain areas, particularly close to or near fishing grounds, that have been granted to or reserved for the settlement of municipal fisherfolk;

j. Integrated Coastal Management refers to a holistic and integrative management that incorporates the following components: (1) connectivity of various ecosystems – environment and resources; (2) various sectors and stakeholders; (3) institutional arrangements that are relevant; and (4) assessment of drivers of coastal ecosystem degradation, management planning and implementation, including research and education, to address coastal degradation and biodiversity losses, and to improve the well-being of communities in coastal and interconnected areas;

k. Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) refers to the action plan formulated by LGUs to address climate change concerns. It focuses on both climate change and adaptation and mitigation and describes how LGUs plan to respond to impacts of climate change and mainstream them into mandated local plans, i.e., land use plan, sectoral development plan, investment program, pursuant to Section 14 of R.A. No. 9729, or the Climate Change Act of 2009, as amended;

l. Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (LCGMAP) refers to the local action plan adopted by local government units which shall be based on the NCGMAP. It shall contain specific goals and targets for the implementation of the program set in the NCGMAP.

m. Mangroves refer to a community of intertidal plants in the tropics and subtropics including all species of trees, shrubs, vines and herbs growing along tidal mudflats and shallow water coastal areas extending inland along rivers, streams and their tributaries where the water is generally brackish;

n. Mangrove Forest refers to the forested wetland growing along tidal mudflats and along shallow water coastal areas extending inland along rivers, streams, and their tributaries where the water is generally brackish and composed of low elevation species, such as *Avicennia marina*, *A. alba*, and *Sonneratia alba*. The mid zone is dominated by *Rhizophora* species, *Sonneratia caseolaris*, *Xylocarpus granatum* and *Nypa fruticans* while the landward zone or areas with higher elevation are inhabited by *Avicennia rumphiana*, *A. officinalis*, and *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*;

o. National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (NCGMAP) refers to the operational plan that shall serve as the guide for the Local Greenbelt Management Action Plan (LCGMAP). It shall contain the implementing guidelines on how to go about Section 4 of this Act.

SECTION 4. *National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (NCGMAP).*

- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Biodiversity Management Bureau, shall, within six (6) months, identify and convene the National Coordinating Council, consisting of all national agencies responsible for foreshore

management, mangrove and beach forest protection and utilization, coastal land and sea-use planning, coastal tourism development, social welfare of coastal communities, and other relevant mandates, to prepare an integrated National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (NCGMAP). The Department shall be responsible for consolidating the NCGMAP not later than twelve (12) months from the date this Act takes effect.

The NCGMAP shall, at the minimum, contain the following:

- a. Spatial representation, or if feasible, quick/rapid inventory of the status of coastlines and foreshores, including the status of mangroves, beach forests, settlements, structures and fishponds within one hundred (100) meters therein;
- b. Assessment of priority areas to be designated as Coastal Greenbelt Zones, for each coastal province, city and municipality, based on their vulnerability to storm surges, waves, tsunamis and the like. This shall be completed within twelve (12) months from the adoption of the NCGMAP.
- c. Designation of priority areas as Coastal Greenbelt Zones that are already included as either a protected area under the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (Republic Act 11038), or as a fish refuge or sanctuary under the Amended Fisheries Code (Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act 10654), or as a local marine protected area as may be declared by municipalities and cities through local ordinances. The designation shall be completed within six (6) months from the completion of the assessment. Designation shall also be done through a proposal to the appropriate agency, municipality or city as may be deemed necessary. In the event an area is designated as a priority area as Coastal Greenbelt Zone, no structure shall be allowed in said area. Designation as a priority area, however, shall not affect structures found in fisherfolk settlement areas reserved for the settlement of municipal fisherfolk and shall not impair existing foreshore leases and other similar agreement: Provided, that existing grantees shall be tasked to implement the plans and conditions laid down under the NCGMAP and LCGMAP, as the case may be;
- d. Operational Plan I for the rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation of designated priority coastal greenbelts with ecologically appropriate mangrove and beach forest species, not less than one hundred (100) meters in width. Existing forests or plantations greater than the minimum width shall not be reduced. The program for rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation shall be community-based, long-term, and implemented through the municipality or city government. The Operational Plan shall indicate that the program for rehabilitation, reforestation and afforestation must cover a minimum target area of twenty percent (20%) of the designated priority areas in the first five (5) years for maximum protection of the most vulnerable communities in the city or municipality. The remaining priority

- areas must be completed within ten (10) years from the designation of the priority areas;
- e. Operational Plan II for the reversion of all abandoned, undeveloped or underutilized (AUU) fishponds to mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally appropriate species. All fishponds that are declared by the DENR and DA-BFAR through a joint assessment as AUU fishponds shall be turned over to the DENR within one (1) year after the assessment. The DENR will then revert the AUU fishponds to their original mangrove state through natural or artificial reforestation in accordance with Section 49 of Republic Act 8550, as amended by Republic Act 10654, otherwise known as the Amended Fisheries Code. All AUU fishponds turned over to the DENR shall be declared as part of a Coastal Greenbelt Zone. The minimum target for the first year of implementation of the NCGMAP will include all AUU fishpond areas turned over to the DENR for reversion to their original mangrove state. The NCGMAP shall indicate that the identification and recovery of possession from delinquent fishpond lease agreement holders shall be completed within one (1) year from the adoption thereof;
 - f. Operational Plan III for the removal of illegal structures (such as breakwaters, permanent residential/commercial structures, and the like), in the identified priority Coastal Greenbelt Zones, subject to existing laws on fisherfolk settlement areas. The NCGMAP shall indicate that the declaration of and notice to persons responsible for removal of illegal structures shall be completed within twelve (12) months from the the issuance of Notice to Vacate. The removal of illegal structures in and start of rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation of these areas shall form part of the minimum target for the first year of implementation of the NCGMAP; and
 - g. Monitoring and evaluation plan, with quantitative and qualitative targets consistent with (c), (d), (e) and (f) above, appropriate indicators and reasonable means of verification. The plan shall become an integrated part of the NCGMAP, NCGMAP-aligned LCGMAP and the Annual Report of the DENR to Congress.

The NCGMAP and all its relevant components shall be incorporated into the mandated local plans of the LGUs, such as, but not limited to, Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Comprehensive Development Plan, Local Climate Change Adaption Plan, Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan, and other applicable local development plans, as well as included in local budget and implementing tools, such as, but not limited to, Local Development Investment Program, Annual Investment Program, Annual Plan and Budget, and other applicable budget and implementing tools.

SECTION 5. *Designated Areas for Coastal Greenbelt Zones.* - Areas designated for Coastal Greenbelt Zones shall cover natural, rural, and urban areas with mangrove or mangrove areas, AUU fishponds turned over to the DENR, site specific stretches of

vegetation in areas requiring the reversion to mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally appropriate species and beach forests, subject to prior vested rights. All applicable biophysical, socioeconomic, and geological assessments shall be conducted prior to the designation of coastal greenbelts. Upon determination by the DENR of a particular area as a designated area for coastal greenbelt under Sec. 4(c) of this Act, CLUPs and zoning ordinances shall be updated accordingly. AUU fishponds turned over to the DENR shall be prioritized in the designation of coastal greenbelts and its corresponding reversion to category of public lands as mangrove reforestation sites shall be completed within the year of identification as such following the guidelines endorsed by the National Technical Working Group pursuant to Section 9 below.

SECTION 6. *Integrated Coastal Management.* The Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) shall be the national framework that seeks to promote the conservation, preservation and protection of as well as address the human impacts on coastal greenbelts comprising of mangrove and beach forest ecosystems. The National ICM Framework shall be developed and implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to provide direction, support, and guidance to relevant LGUs, support agencies, and other stakeholders.

SECTION 7. *National Coordinating Council.* - There is hereby established a National Coordinating Council to coordinate the review and implementation of the NCGMAP. The NCC shall be composed of the following members:

- (a) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) who shall act as Chairperson;
- (b) Vice-Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) as Vice-Chairperson;
- (c) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA);
- (d) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- (e) Secretary of the Department of Economy, Development and Planning (DEPDev);
- (f) Chairperson of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC);
- (g) Representative from the academe;
- (h) Representative from non-government organizations;
- (i) Representative from the private sector;

(j) Representative from artisanal fisherfolk basic sector of the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

The ex-officio members of the NCC may designate their respective permanent representatives to the NCC: *Provided*, That, a permanent representative may designate a duly authorized representative whose rank shall in no case be lower than an undersecretary and whose acts shall be considered as that of the permanent representative: *Provided*, further. That the process for designation of a permanent representative shall be detailed in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act; *Provided*, finally, That the authorized representative shall have no voting right unless duly authorized by the permanent representative in writing.

The representatives from the academe, civil society, and other sectors shall possess relevant work experience and training in disciplines related to climate change, disaster risk reduction, natural resource management, or coastal management, and shall be appointed by the NCC from a list of nominees proposed by its member agencies. Each representative shall serve as a member of the NCC for a period of six (6) years, subject to renewal to be decided by the majority of the members of the NCC and shall perform the duties appurtenant thereto unless they resign, or their representation is withdrawn by the sector that they represent. Appointment to any vacancy shall only be for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

The NCC shall meet once every quarter, or as often as may be deemed necessary. The Department shall serve as the secretariat to the NCC, manned by the organic personnel of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and may be augmented by the employees from member-agencies of the NCC, through detail or secondment.

SECTION 8. *Powers and Functions of the National Coordinating Council (NCC).* The NCC shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) To prepare and implement the National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (NCGMAP) for the preservation, rehabilitation, reforestation, afforestation, and sustainable management of coastal greenbelt composed primarily of mangroves and beach forests;
- (b) To review and adopt relevant policies and procedures for the identification and designation of Coastal Greenbelt Zones;
- (c) To monitor and supervise the development and implementation of the Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plans (LCGMAPs);
- (d) To provide technical support and guidance to LGUs to enhance capacity and competence for coastal greenbelt protection and management;
- (e) To promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Implementation of the NCGMAP.* - The NCC shall take the lead in coordinating and implementing the component plans and programs of the NCGMAP. The DHSUD, through its attached agencies, shall provide appropriation for the relocation of the families or individuals who will be affected by the designated areas to appropriate fisherfolk settlement areas. Other agencies that participated in the preparation of the NCGMAP shall implement their commitments thereto. The actions required of the NCC are immediately executable based on the agreed NCGMAP-responsive LCCMAP, and on all NCC members existing mandates, programs or budgets that are aligned with the action plan, without need for the formulation of the implementing guidelines, rules and regulations for this Act.

All existing laws, rules, and regulations providing protection to coastlines, foreshores, and priority areas shall remain in full force and effect and shall supplement the provisions of this Act unless otherwise terminated, modified or amended.

SECTION 10. *National Technical Working Group.* - A National Technical Working Group shall be created for the coordination of national scientific and technical matters, and to support the NCC in the implementation of its powers and functions under Section 8 of this Act.

The NCC shall convene a National Technical Working Group composed of:

- a. A technical representative from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as lead;
- b. A technical representative from the Climate Change Commission (CCC);
- c. A technical representative from Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR);
- d. Two (2) recognized experts in mangrove and beach forest ecosystems, oceanography or other related disciplines; and
- e. A representative from a non-government organization or a people organization.

The National Technical Working Group shall provide technical and scientific guidance for the design, implementation, and evaluation of actions under the NCGMAP. The experts shall serve on the Committee without compensation but may be reimbursed for basic expenses to attend meetings and prepare technical reports.

SECTION 11. *Role of Local Government Units.* - All coastal LGUs shall act as the frontline agencies in the formulation, planning, implementation, and monitoring of their Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plans (LGCMAP) and related programs and activities within their respective territorial jurisdiction. A Local Technical Advisory Committee (LTAC) on Coastal Greenbelt Zones shall be established in each coastal city and municipality identified as priority Coastal Greenbelt Zone in the NCGMAP.

The LTAC shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) To conduct a comprehensive and participatory assessment of the coastal zone to be identified for the establishment of Coastal Greenbelt Zones;
- (b) prepare and implement a Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (LCGMAP) that shall ensure the implementation of the management strategies and actions as mandated and aligned with the NCGMAP, including the operational plans and guidelines for the rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation of designated Coastal Greenbelt Zones, protection of existing mangrove forests in designated coastal greenbelt zones and removal of encroachments and illegal structures;
- (c) To regularly update and integrate their NCGMAP-responsive LCGMAP into local development and sectoral plans, such as, but not limited to, LCCAPs, CLUPs, and CDPs, to reflect emerging local needs and changing socio-economic, technological, and environmental conditions;
- (d) To ensure that their LGU's annual work and investment plans are aligned based on their NCGMAP-responsive LCGMAP;
- (e) To mobilize and allocate the necessary personnel, resources, and logistics to effectively implement their respective LCGMAP.
- (f) To prioritize the establishment of Coastal Greenbelt Zones through the adoption of appropriate local ordinances and policies to support the proper implementation of the LCGMAP;
- (g) To ensure community participation by enjoining all directly involved barangays and local organizations to actively participate in implementing the LCGMAP.
- (h) To secure the support of the provincial government which shall provide technical and budgetary support to all LTACs in their component coastal cities and municipalities;
- (i) To ensure consistency and/or enter into inter-LGU collaboration and cooperation across contiguous cities and municipalities sharing a common priority Coastal Greenbelt Zone in accordance with the Local Government Code and the NCGMAP;
- (j) To collaborate with DENR, DA and other experts for technical guidance on the implementation of the LCGMAP;
- (k) To lead in the actual implementation of programs aimed at rehabilitation, reforestation and afforestation of Coastal Greenbelt Zones, including engaging in capacity building efforts for managing mangrove nurseries, proper planting procedures, and conducting maintenance activities, among others;
- (l) To develop and maintain a proper database containing information on all local Coastal Greenbelt Zones within their territorial jurisdiction;
- (m) To implement corrective actions against illegal encroachments and violations within Coastal Greenbelt Zones and/or easement areas in accordance with Section 51, Water Code of the Philippines;

SECTION 12. *Local Coastal Greenbelt Action Management Plan.* - Each coastal municipality and city in the identified priority Coastal Greenbelt Zones in the NCGMAP shall prepare a Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (LCGMAP) to facilitate and ensure the implementation of mandated actions in the NCGMAP within their territorial jurisdiction. The City/Municipal Development Council established pursuant to Section 107(b) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code, shall ensure that the LCGMAP elements and strategies are incorporated into the mainstreaming process within their respective Comprehensive Development Plans, Comprehensive Land Use Plans, and other local development and sectoral plans, whether at the highly urbanized city (HUC), independent component city (ICC), component city or municipal, levels, including the implementation and coordination necessary therefor. A detailed step-by-step process of mainstreaming the LCGMAP into the relevant local plans of LGUs shall be provided for by the NCC in accordance with Section 8 of this Act.

SECTION 13. *Incentives.* - LCGMAPs that have been submitted to the NCC by Local Government Units (LGUs) or those LGUs that have been recognized by the Department of the Interior and Local Government and/or the Department of Environment and Natural Resources consistent with appropriate implementing regulations, may be entitled to receive grants and incentives to support their LCGMAPs, programs, and activities which are in line with the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 14. *Prohibited Acts.* - The following shall constitute prohibited acts punishable under this Act, without prejudice to accrued liability for acts and omissions punishable under existing laws:

- (a) Any person who unjustly obstructs the LGU, DENR, or DA through BFAR and Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) in the Province of Palawan in the removal of Illegal structures in the process of reversion of AUU fishponds, shall be liable to the agency for an administrative fine of One Hundred Thousand pesos (P100,000.00) per day that the agency is prevented from performing its function.
- (b) No structures shall be built within the identified coastal greenbelts without a permit from DENR, or DA through the BFAR, or PCSD in the Province of Palawan, consistent with their mandates. Any person who violates this prohibition shall be liable to the agency for an administrative fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) per day from the time the structure was built until its removal.

A crime or offense committed within designated Coastal Greenbelt Zones shall subject the offender to a fine of not less than Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P250,000.00) and not more than Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00), depending on the gravity of the offense.

Any violation of the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations duly promulgated and published, shall be subject to an administrative fine of One Hundred Thousand pesos (P100,000.00) upon any person or entity found guilty thereof.

Proceeds from the administrative fines imposed under this Section shall be remitted to the Bureau of the Treasury.

Legal actions filed in the exercise of rights and enforcement of obligations under the Act shall also be covered by the Amended Fisheries Code (Republic Act 10654) and the 2010 Supreme Court Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases.

SECTION 15. *Annual Report to Congress.* - The NCC shall report to Congress and the Office of the President on its compliance with its functions under this Act, their progress in meeting the quantitative and qualitative targets under the NCGMAP for each fiscal year. The reports shall be presented to the appropriate Committee in Congress at a meeting called for the purpose.

SECTION 16. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.* - There is hereby created a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC) to monitor the implementation of this Act and to review the implementing rules and regulations promulgated by the **NCC** for a period not exceeding five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act. The Committee shall be composed of five (5) Senators and five (5) Representatives to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The Oversight Committee shall be co-chaired by the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change and the House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change. The secretariat of the JCOC shall be drawn from existing personnel of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, and House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change.

SECTION 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in consultation with other national agencies shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 18. *Appropriations and Other Fund Sources* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of the Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the departments or agencies concerned. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continuing implementation of this Act shall be sourced from and included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGUs concerned may provide the necessary funds for the purpose, in their respective annual budgets.

The NCC, the LGUs and their LTACs, and the national government agencies may source local and international grants, bequests, donations, and other sustainable financing mechanisms in support of implementation. LGUs to be prioritized in the allocation of these funds shall include sixth- up to third-class municipalities and LGUs with existing LCGMAP, programs and activities.

The Land Bank of the Philippines, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the People's Credit and Finance Corporation, and other relevant government financial institutions shall formulate and identify loan and financing mechanisms that shall be made available to support local coastal greenbelt management programs, including alternative livelihood projects for small-scale fisherfolks and cooperatives.

SECTION 18. *Tax Exemption.* - All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to the NCC, the local development councils, the LGUs, the DA, the DENR, and the PCSD to be used actually, directly, and exclusively for the implementation of their mandates under this Act shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes of computing the taxable Income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SECTION 19. *Separability Clause.* - Should any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SECTION 20. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 21. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* and in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,