



S E N A T E

S. No. 2825

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY THE COMMITTEES ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; WAYS AND MEANS; AND
FINANCE WITH SENATORS ZUBIRI, ESTRADA, REVILLA JR.,
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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF
THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF VOLCANOLOGY
AND SEISMOLOGY (PHIVOLCS) AND PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as
2 the “PHIVOLCS Modernization Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the
4 State to utilize scientific and technical knowledge and
5 information as effective instruments to ensure the safety,
6 well-being, and economic security of the people; safeguard
7 the environment; and promote national progress and

1 sustainable socio-economic development through various
2 applications of geosciences and allied sciences. The State
3 adheres to existing treaties and international agreements
4 on geologic activities to which the Philippines is a
5 signatory, to ensure international cooperation, peace, and
6 security. The State recognizes the need to strengthen the
7 capability of government personnel tasked to monitor
8 volcanic and seismological activities, perform related
9 services, and provide adequate and timely information to
10 the public. Towards this end, the State shall undertake the
11 modernization of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology
12 and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) to improve its technological
13 operational capacity, strengthen its role as the principal
14 authority mandated to mitigate hazards of volcanic
15 eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other related
16 geotectonic phenomena through reliable and accurate
17 detection, forecast, and warning systems, and to attain its
18 vision as a center of excellence for geotectonic information
19 services.

1 SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – The PHIVOLCS Modernization
2 Program shall have the following objectives:

3 (a) Upgrade physical resources and operational
4 standards through the acquisition and development of
5 state-of-the-art instruments, equipment, facilities, and
6 systems to enhance capabilities in providing critical,
7 timely, accurate, and reliable volcanological and
8 seismological data and localized warning and information
9 services for decision support in disaster preparedness,
10 climate change adaptation, the security and management
11 of water resources, agriculture, transportation, health,
12 tourism, and other sectors;

13 (b) Advance research and development capabilities by
14 adopting a systematic approach and integrating all
15 developed methodologies focused on the improvement of
16 vital operations and specialized functions and services;

17 (c) Expand volcanological and seismological
18 monitoring stations in strategic sites in the country to

1 broaden the base for the delivery of services in the
2 countryside;

3 (d) Strengthen a state-of-the-art data center
4 consistent with international standards, in order to
5 centralize the provision of volcanic, earthquake, tsunami,
6 and other related information to the public and
7 stakeholders involved in Disaster Risk Reduction and
8 Management (DRRM);

9 (e) Facilitate the appreciation and enhance delivery
10 of information, products, and services, including education
11 and advocacy on geoscience and geotectonic phenomena,
12 their dangers and impacts, and the risks and
13 vulnerabilities of communities and the different sectors of
14 society to decision makers, national and local DRRM
15 planning, media, and the general public towards
16 sustainable socio-economic development;

17 (f) Strengthen linkages and cooperation at the
18 national level among the various providers and users of
19 geological, seismological, and other services;

1 (g) Provide opportunities for continuous learning and
2 improvement of the knowledge, skills, and capacities of
3 PHIVOLCS personnel; and

4 (h) Provide a more competitive base pay and benefits
5 for the PHIVOLCS personnel to promote professionalism
6 and commitment to the service.

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

8 (a) *Disaster Risk* refers to the potential loss of life,
9 injury, or destruction or damage of assets, which could
10 occur in a system, society, or a community in a specific
11 period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of
12 hazard, exposure, vulnerability, and capacity;

13 (b) *Hazard* refers to a process, phenomenon, or
14 human activity that may cause loss of life, injury, or other
15 health impacts, property damage, social and economic
16 disruption, or environmental degradation;

17 (c) *Risk transfer* refers to the process of formally or
18 informally shifting the financial consequences of particular
19 risks from one (1) party to another whereby a household,

1 community, enterprise, or state authority will obtain
2 resources from the other party after a disaster occurs, in
3 exchange for ongoing or compensatory social or financial
4 benefits provided to that other party;

5 (d) *Seismology* refers to the scientific study of the
6 sudden, violent movements of the earth connected with
7 earthquakes;

8 (e) *Tsunami* refers to a series of large waves of
9 extremely long wavelength and period usually generated
10 by a violent, impulsive undersea disturbance or activity
11 near the coast or in the ocean;

12 (f) *Volcanology* refers to the multidisciplinary study
13 of volcanoes, volcanic processes, eruptions, hazards,
14 impacts, and other related aspects including the
15 monitoring, modeling, assessment, and communication of
16 the same;

17 (g) *Vulnerability* refers to the conditions determined
18 by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors or
19 processes which increase the susceptibility of an

1 individual, a community, asset, or system to the impacts of
2 hazards;

3 (h) *Whole-of-Government Approach* refers to an
4 approach that instills and fosters collaboration among all
5 the government instrumentalities at both the national and
6 local levels toward shared sustainable development goals
7 and outcomes; and

8 (i) *Whole-of-Society Approach* refers to an approach
9 that encourages the meaningful and active participation
10 and synergy of the different stakeholders of society toward
11 climate change adaptation, and DRRM at the national and
12 local levels.

13 SEC. 5. *Mandate.* – The PHIVOLCS is mandated to:

14 (a) Predict volcanic eruptions, earthquakes,
15 tsunamis, and related geotectonic phenomena through
16 reliable and accurate detection, forecast, and warning
17 systems;

1 (b) Determine how volcanic eruptions, earthquakes,
2 tsunamis, and related geotectonic phenomena occur, the
3 possible hazards thereof, and the areas at risk; and

4 (c) Reduce the impacts of volcanic eruptions,
5 earthquakes, tsunamis, and related geotectonic events and
6 enhance disaster preparedness with timely and accurate
7 information products and services.

8 SEC. 6. *Organizational Structure.* – The PHIVOLCS
9 shall be an attached agency of the Department of Science
10 and Technology (DOST) for purposes of policy and program
11 coordination to ensure alignment with national science and
12 technology policies and priorities. It shall be headed by an
13 Executive Director, with the rank and compensation of a
14 Department Undersecretary, who shall be appointed by the
15 President of the Philippines upon recommendation by the
16 Secretary of the DOST.

17 The Executive Director shall be assisted by three (3)
18 Deputy Executive Director for Operations Services; Research
19 and Development and Science and Technology (S&T)

1 Services; and Administration, Finance, and Information and
2 Communication Technology Services, all with the rank and
3 compensation of a Department Assistant Secretary, to be
4 appointed by the President of the Philippines.

5 SEC. 7. *Qualifications.* – The Executive Director must
6 be a natural-born citizen and a resident of the Philippines,
7 of good moral character, with a masteral or doctorate
8 degree in geosciences, engineering, or other related fields,
9 and at least five (5) years of expertise and competence in
10 volcanology, geophysics, or allied sciences: *Provided*, That
11 the Executive Director and the three (3) Deputy Executive
12 Directors shall be Career Executive Service Officers
13 (CESOs).

14 SEC. 8. *Components of Modernization.* – The
15 PHIVOLCS Modernization Program shall have the
16 following components:

17 (a) Upgrading and Maintenance of Physical
18 Resources and Operational Standards. – It shall entail the
19 acquisition of and/or upgrade to state-of-the-art

1 instruments, equipment, facilities, systems, and
2 operational techniques, with emphasis on volcano,
3 earthquake, and tsunami monitoring and disaster-resilient
4 warning and communication systems: *Provided*, That prior
5 to such acquisition and/or upgrade, an inventory of existing
6 government volcanological and seismological instruments
7 nationwide shall be undertaken;

8 (b) Volcano Monitoring Network and Information
9 System Development. – It shall involve sustained
10 development of volcano monitoring networks and
11 observatories for all active volcanoes of the Philippines
12 that will ensure early warning of volcanic activity;

13 (c) Earthquake Monitoring Network and Information
14 System Development. – It shall entail the establishment,
15 operation, and maintenance of an advanced system for
16 earthquake and tsunami monitoring throughout the
17 Philippines that operates with high performance
18 standards, gathers critical data, and effectively provides

1 information products and services independently and
2 directly to meet the needs of the stakeholders;

3 (d) Reliable Monitoring. – It shall ensure
4 uninterrupted monitoring of volcanoes, earthquakes, and
5 other related geotectonic phenomena throughout the
6 Philippines, including earthquakes that may cause a
7 tsunami or precede a volcanic eruption, with special focus
8 on regions of moderate to high hazard and risk;

9 (e) Enhancement of Earthquake Monitoring Network
10 for the Protection or Conservation of the Built Environment. –
11 It shall thoroughly measure strong earthquake shaking at
12 ground sites and in buildings and critical structures, with
13 focus on urban areas and near major active fault zones to
14 gather critical data and information for reducing
15 earthquake impacts on buildings and structures;

16 (f) Development of Forecasting Capability for
17 Impending Major Earthquakes or Tsunami Events. – It
18 shall develop machine-learned capability to determine
19 earthquake parameters. The resulting information will

1 automatically be broadcast to mobile phones, social media
2 accounts, and other platforms whenever a significant
3 earthquake or tsunami occurs;

4 (g) Enhancement of Research and Development
5 Facility. – It shall involve the enhancement of research
6 and development facilities including the establishment of
7 state-of-the-art earthquake and volcano research
8 laboratories, focusing on the transdisciplinary approach on
9 the generation of knowledge for the provision of science-
10 based recommendations;

11 (h) Enhancement of Public Information and Linkages
12 with Local Government Units (LGUs) and other
13 Stakeholders. – It shall include continuous sharing of
14 information with LGUs and other stakeholders to help in
15 disaster planning, preparation, and disaster mitigation,
16 among others;

17 (i) Enhancement of Data and Information
18 Dissemination Services. – It shall involve the development
19 of communication strategies to ensure the use of easily

1 understandable local language, non-technical terms, and
2 familiar graphical presentations, in combination with
3 science-based information that will ensure the delivery of
4 accurate, up-to-date, and timely earthquake-, tsunami-,
5 and volcano-related information to create greater public
6 awareness and draw appropriate response for disaster risk
7 reduction: *Provided*, That the PHIVOLCS shall partner
8 with the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF), various
9 Sentro ng Wika at Kultura institutions, Philippine
10 Commission on Women (PCW), and other rights-based
11 organizations for the development or enhancement of
12 socially inclusive products. The PHIVOLCS shall
13 collaborate with public and private organizations to
14 effectively disseminate data and products;

15 (j) Strengthening of the Human Resource
16 Development Program (HRDP). – The HRDP shall be
17 aligned with PHIVOLCS’ strategic goals. The PHIVOLCS,
18 in consultation with the Department of Budget and
19 Management (DBM), shall create new plantilla positions.
20 The HRDP shall likewise ensure that personnel have equal

1 opportunities for continuous learning to be competent,
2 motivated, and rewarded.

3 It shall prioritize the complementation and capacity-
4 building of a wide range of experts in volcanology,
5 seismology, engineering, information technology,
6 communication, social and other related sciences to
7 efficiently develop, operate, and maintain advanced
8 monitoring systems and distill and communicate accurate
9 volcanic, earthquake, and tsunami information for public
10 guidance. Support for continued professional learning shall
11 ensure skills development and motivation that will
12 translate to better S&T services;

13 (k) Provision of Risk Information. – This involves the
14 sharing of risk information with LGUs and other
15 stakeholders in disaster planning, preparation, disaster
16 mitigation, and risk transfer, among others, to provide
17 social and economic protection and increase resilience in
18 times of disaster;

1 (l) International Cooperation. – It shall enhance
2 interaction and cooperation with the international
3 community and ensure that the Philippines has official
4 representation in the geoscientific community;

5 (m) PHIVOLCS Hazards and Risk Information
6 Platforms. – The PHIVOLCS shall exert sustained efforts
7 to collaborate and align with LGUs, including on the
8 platforms for information sharing and monitoring, so that
9 the agency’s hazards and risk information systems, such as
10 GeoRiskPH and Rapid Earthquake Damage Assessment
11 System (REDAS) platforms, can be updated regularly for
12 disaster planning, preparation, disaster mitigation, among
13 others; and

14 (n) Establishment of Permanent PHIVOLCS Main
15 Office Building and Facilities. – This includes land
16 acquisition for the Data Receiving/Operation Centers for
17 real-time volcano, earthquake, and tsunami monitoring,
18 among others. This shall ensure the stability and

1 protection of government investments in scientific,
2 technical equipment and research laboratories.

3 SEC. 9. *Whole-of-Government- and -Society Approach.* –

4 This Act shall be implemented using a whole-of-
5 government and -society approach to ensure proper and
6 effective coordination of various aspects in disaster risk
7 mitigation and response across all areas of government
8 policy spanning local governance, education,
9 communication, science and technology, among others. The
10 PHIVOLCS shall engage with the private sector, civil
11 society, academic community, and other stakeholders to
12 pursue areas of collaboration consistent with Section 5 of
13 this Act. The PHIVOLCS Modernization Program shall be
14 aligned with national policies and priorities. Accordingly,
15 the PHIVOLCS shall:

16 (a) Incorporate its latest geohazard maps and
17 scientific studies in the appropriate seismic provisions in
18 the National Structural Code of the Philippines and its
19 future revisions;

1 (b) Include the teaching of volcano, earthquake,
2 tsunami, and other hazards related to geotectonic
3 phenomena as part of the regular school curriculum, in
4 consultation with the Department of Education (DepEd)
5 and other concerned agencies;

6 (c) Support the development and promotion of
7 volcanology, seismology, and other related courses in state
8 universities and colleges (SUCs) and higher education
9 institutions (HEIs) in communities at risk to active
10 volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis, in coordination
11 with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);

12 (d) Collaborate with academic institutions and
13 research organizations by providing technical assistance,
14 sharing data and resources, and supporting studies that
15 promote disaster risk reduction and resilience; and

16 (e) Closely coordinate with Telecommunications
17 Service Providers (TSPs) in the allocation of ports, Virtual
18 Private Networks (VPNs), and other related facilities that
19 will help ensure the unimpeded transmission of critical

1 real-time data to and from PHIVOLCS stations and
2 equipment. The TSPs shall assign a PHIVOLCS
3 counterpart that will ensure the expeditious resolution of
4 concerns crucial to the effective implementation of this Act.

5 SEC. 10. *Collaboration or Linkages with LGUs.* – The
6 PHIVOLCS shall develop and strengthen collaboration
7 with LGUs to cover the following areas:

8 (a) *Disaster Risk Mitigation.* – In the implementation
9 of the National Building Code of the Philippines and its
10 implementing rules and regulations, the PHIVOLCS shall
11 closely collaborate with LGUs to ensure that its geohazard
12 maps and other research outputs are incorporated in the
13 disaster risk mitigation plans such as the Comprehensive
14 Land Use Plan;

15 (b) *Public Intermediary.* – The local government,
16 national and local news media, and the emergency
17 management community shall act as intermediaries
18 between the PHIVOLCS and the general public,
19 institutional decision makers, and emergency responders

1 in crafting plans attuned to the local needs of its
2 constituents to increase public resilience to earthquakes,
3 tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions; reduce or eliminate long-
4 term risk to human life and property; and shorten recovery
5 periods based on risk assessments;

6 (c) Information Dissemination. – The PHIVOLCS
7 shall work closely with the national and local disaster
8 agencies to craft appropriate information messages, to
9 regularly test and evaluate their dissemination
10 communication channels, and to help identify gaps and
11 dissemination problems, to ensure that accurate
12 information on volcanic unrest, earthquake, tsunami, and
13 related hazard reach the intended users in a timely manner;

14 (d) Awareness and Promotion. – The PHIVOLCS
15 shall encourage the LGUs and other stakeholders to
16 promote their own interfaces with the enhanced
17 PHIVOLCS services in local and international recognition
18 programs, to help expand the coverage and benefits to the
19 public. In collaboration with the PHIVOLCS, a regular

1 public education and awareness campaign on the hazards
2 of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and disaster
3 risk reduction procedures shall be designed and
4 implemented by the LGUs concerned, considering the
5 special needs of different communities, such as the
6 marginalized, indigenous peoples, and persons with
7 disabilities. Information on volcanic, seismic, tsunami
8 risks, and measures taken in case a threat of a hazard is
9 present in the area, shall be simplified and made available
10 in a commonly understood local language or dialect;

11 (e) Data Inputs and Exchange. – The PHIVOLCS
12 shall enlist the contribution of the LGUs in the review of
13 local research and update of information used in DRRM to
14 ensure that the exposure database of PHIVOLCS is
15 updated and the LGU is kept abreast with the latest
16 information to ensure readiness so that appropriate
17 guidelines are consistently crafted and local support
18 infrastructure to the enhanced PHIVOLCS systems are
19 funded; and

1 (f) Other Assistance. – The PHIVOLCS shall seek
2 the assistance of the LGUs in the identification and
3 acquisition of lands under their jurisdiction where new
4 PHIVOLCS offices and/or stations for equipment shall be
5 established.

6 SEC. 11. *Components of the HRDP.* – The HRDP
7 component shall include:

8 (a) Increase in Plantilla Positions. – The PHIVOLCS,
9 subject to the review and approval of the DBM, and in
10 accordance with existing civil service laws, rules, and
11 regulations, shall determine the necessary human resource
12 requirements for the modernization program;

13 (b) New Salary Scale for PHIVOLCS Personnel. –
14 The DBM shall develop a new salary scale for the
15 PHIVOLCS personnel, in consonance with Republic Act
16 No. 8439, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for
17 Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and other S & T
18 Personnel in the Government”, as amended, with a

1 corresponding increase in base pay, allowances, and other
2 benefits;

3 (c) PHIVOLCS Personnel Retention Incentive. – An
4 additional incentive to be known as the “Personnel
5 Retention Incentive” shall be provided to qualified
6 technical PHIVOLCS personnel, to be determined by the
7 PHIVOLCS, in consultation with DBM in an amount not
8 exceeding twenty percent (20%) of the monthly basic salary
9 subject to the IRR which shall be hereinafter formulated;
10 and

11 (d) Scholarship Program. – Not later than three (3)
12 years from the enactment hereof, scholarships shall be
13 provided for undergraduate and graduate studies in
14 volcano- and seismology-related fields, as well as for
15 specialized training programs, in coordination with the
16 DOST, CHED, and HEIs. Cooperation on human resources
17 upgrading and capability enhancement with regional and
18 international organizations shall also be undertaken.

1 SEC. 12. *Disaster Preparedness, Public Information*
2 *and Dissemination Services.* – The modernization of the
3 PHIVOLCS shall enhance public information, education
4 and advocacy on earthquake, tsunami, and volcanic
5 hazards and risks. To facilitate the appropriate
6 appreciation and delivery of science-based information to
7 target stakeholders for proper response before, during, and
8 after the occurrence of these hazards, there shall be a:

9 (a) Data Receiving Center (DRC). – A fully equipped
10 state-of-the-art DRC shall serve as PHIVOLCS' centralized
11 reception, processing, visualization, and dissemination hub
12 for real-time earthquake, tsunami, and volcano monitoring
13 and data;

14 (b) Modern Learning Hub. – The PHIVOLCS shall
15 establish a Modern Learning Hub consisting of the
16 following:

17 (1) Library – a state-of-the-art library that utilizes
18 both traditional and modern research and learning
19 facilities. The library shall continue to be updated with the

1 most recent scientific journals relevant to the mandate of
2 the PHIVOLCS;

3 (2) Exhibit Area – an exhibit area that can
4 accommodate large groups and is equipped with the latest
5 audio-visual equipment and simulation facility;

6 (3) Training Center – a fully equipped and
7 well-staffed training center that shall serve as a platform
8 for planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating
9 capacity development programs for various stakeholders
10 regarding mitigation and preparedness for volcanic
11 eruptions, earthquakes, and tsunami-related hazards; and

12 (c) Media Room. – a fully equipped media room shall
13 be set up as a venue for press conferences and interviews;
14 and

15 (d) Other facilities that aim to improve and enhance
16 the dissemination of public information, education, and
17 advocacy on hazards and risks.

18 SEC. 13. *Formulation and Submission of the*
19 *PHIVOLCS Modernization Program.* – The Executive

1 Director of the PHIVOLCS, in coordination with the
2 Secretary of the DBM and the Director-General of the
3 National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA),
4 shall formulate the PHIVOLCS Modernization Program
5 and oversee its implementation based on the policy
6 objectives provided in this Act.

7 The PHIVOLCS Modernization Program shall, among
8 others, indicate the:

9 (a) PHIVOLCS' requirements in terms of personnel,
10 equipment, and facilities during the various stages of
11 modernization;

12 (b) Modernization projects, which shall indicate the
13 equipment and technology acquisitions, including major
14 construction or upgrade of facilities and the particular
15 objective and components for such intended acquisition,
16 construction, and upgrading; and

17 (c) Priorities, schedules, and estimated cost of each
18 modernization project.

1 Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this
2 Act, the PHIVOLCS Modernization Program shall be
3 submitted to the President for approval.

4 SEC. 14. *Period of Implementation.* – The PHIVOLCS
5 Modernization Program shall be implemented for a period
6 of five (5) years: *Provided,* That payments for multi-year
7 contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend
8 beyond this period: *Provided, further,* That PHIVOLCS
9 shall continue to modernize and update its operational
10 capabilities to keep pace with best international practices.

11 SEC. 15. *PHIVOLCS Modernization Fund.* – There is
12 hereby created the PHIVOLCS Modernization Fund to be
13 used exclusively for the PHIVOLCS Modernization
14 Program, which shall be sourced from the following:

15 (a) An amount of Seven billion pesos
16 (P7,000,000,000.00) appropriated by Congress under the
17 General Appropriations Act (GAA). It shall be treated as a
18 distinct and separate budget item from the regular
19 appropriation for the DOST. For five (5) years following the

1 effectivity of this Act, an amount of One billion two
2 hundred fifty million pesos (P1,250,000,000.00) per year for
3 the first four (4) years and Two billion pesos
4 (P2,000,000,000.00) for the fifth (5th) year shall be
5 appropriated for the PHIVOLCS Modernization Fund. The
6 entire amount of Seven billion pesos (P7,000,000,000.00),
7 including any interest income thereon, shall be used
8 exclusively for capital outlay; and

9 (b) The Secretary of the DOST, with the approval of
10 the NEDA and subsequently, the Department of Finance
11 (DOF), is hereby granted the authority to enter into loan
12 agreements with foreign financial institutions, and to
13 receive grants, bequests, and donations, whether from local
14 or foreign sources.

15 The PHIVOLCS Modernization Fund shall be
16 administered by the Executive Director of the PHIVOLCS
17 in accordance with existing government budgeting,
18 accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

1 SEC. 16. *Official Site.* – The PHIVOLCS shall acquire
2 available land for establishing its new headquarters,
3 preferably within the greater Metropolitan Manila.
4 Alternatively, a land area, equivalent to at least five (5)
5 hectares within the Clark Freeport and Special Economic
6 Zone (CFEZ) in Tarlac, which is under the administration
7 of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority
8 (BCDA), shall be allocated for the free and exclusive use of
9 PHIVOLCS.

10 SEC. 17. *Tax Exemptions.* – Donations, grants, gifts,
11 endowments, legacies, and contributions used actually,
12 directly, and exclusively by the PHIVOLCS shall be
13 exempt from donor's tax and considered as allowable
14 deduction from gross income for purposes of computing the
15 taxable income of the donor, in accordance with Section
16 34(H)(2)(a) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997,
17 as amended: *Provided,* That such other transfers of
18 ownership and/or possession of real or personal properties
19 of all kinds shall be exempt from all taxes.

1 SEC. 18. *Simplification of Documentation*
2 *Requirements.* –

3 (a) Consignment of equipment sent by international
4 collaborative research partners shall be cleared or released
5 based on a simplified equipment declaration, which shall
6 contain the minimum information as may be required by
7 the Bureau of Customs (BOC), to identify the equipment
8 and object, accompanied by a Declaration of Undertaking
9 to complete the information or submit the necessary
10 supporting documents within a specified period;

11 (b) The requirements for the declaration, release, and
12 clearance for all import of equipment by or on behalf of
13 international collaborative research partners and any
14 supporting documents relating thereto shall be simplified
15 and lodged without fee;

16 (c) Economic prohibitions and restrictions on
17 designated categories of special goods and equipment, as
18 identified by the PHIVOLCS, may be waived;

1 (d) Clearance for imported equipment shall be
2 granted without regard to the country of origin or the
3 country from which the goods have arrived, subject to
4 monitoring for reasons of public health and security; and

5 (e) Urgent and necessary monitoring equipment
6 required during an ongoing volcanic eruption shall be
7 immediately released.

8 SEC. 19. *Annual Report.* – The Executive Director of
9 the PHIVOLCS shall prepare an annual report on the
10 implementation status of the PHIVOLCS Modernization
11 Program which shall be submitted through the DOST
12 Secretary, the President of the Philippines, and to the
13 Chairpersons of the Committees on Science and
14 Technology of the Senate and the House of Representatives
15 not later than June 30 of the succeeding year.

16 SEC. 20. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to
17 carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be
18 charged against the current year's appropriations of the
19 DOST-PHIVOLCS. Thereafter, such amount needed for

1 the continued implementation of the modernization
2 program shall be included in the annual GAA.

3 SEC. 21. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within
4 ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
5 PHIVOLCS, in consultation with relevant stakeholders,
6 shall formulate the rules and regulations to effectively
7 implement the provisions of this Act.

8 SEC. 22. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part
9 of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof
10 not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

11 SEC. 23. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential
12 decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction,
13 proclamations, or administrative regulations that are
14 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
15 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

16 SEC. 24. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
17 (15) days after the completion of its publication in the
18 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,