



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6546

BY REPRESENTATIVES TEODORO, ARROYO (D.), MACAPAGAL-ARROYO (G.), PALMONES, EJERCITO, RODRIGUEZ (R.), RODRIGUEZ (M.), VILLAR, SUAREZ, LEDESMA, PIAMONTE, CAJAYON, YAP (A.), SARMIENTO (C.), COJUANGCO (K.), CATAMCO, ANGARA, CALIMBAS-VILLAROSA, BAGASINA, AUMENTADO, CABALUNA, CLIMACO, LAPUS, SYJUCO, KHO (A.), LACSON-NOEL, VILLAFUERTE, SARMIENTO (M.), DEL MAR, LAGMAN, GONZALES (N.), ERIGUEL, TINGA, SAMBAR, CELESTE, PADILLA, ARNAIZ, PALATINO, GOLEZ (R.), HERRERA-DY, GUANLAO, YAP (S.) AND MACAPAGAL ARROYO (J.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT No. 2389

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA), PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as “The PAGASA
2 Modernization Act of 2012”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared to be the policy
4 of the State to utilize scientific knowledge and information as an effective
5 instrument to ensure the safety, well-being and economic security of the people;
6 to promote national progress and to contribute to regional socioeconomic

1 development through various applications of meteorology, geophysics and space
2 sciences. Towards this end, the State shall undertake the modernization of the
3 Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration
4 (PAGASA) to elevate its technological and operational capacity to effectively
5 and efficiently perform its mandate.

6 SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – Pursuant to the foregoing policy, the PAGASA
7 modernization program shall be implemented in accordance with the following
8 objectives:

9 (a) To upgrade physical resources and operational techniques through
10 acquisition of state-of-the-art instruments, equipment and facilities to enhance
11 current capabilities in providing timely and reliable forecasting, warning services
12 for the general public and information for agriculture, transportation and other
13 industries across the country;

14 (b) To raise the research and development capability and human resource
15 development, adopting a rationalized and integrated approach with focus on
16 improvement of operations for specialized services and cost recovery;

17 (c) To develop mechanisms for integrating disaster management and
18 socioeconomic development planning at the national and local levels;

19 (d) To establish regional weather service centers in strategic areas in the
20 country to broaden the agency's bases for delivery of service to the countryside;

21 (e) To cultivate greater awareness by the public of weather systems, the
22 progress of typhoons, climatic changes and other related information through the
23 educational projects and programs; and

24 (f) To develop a technology-based and financially self-sufficient data
25 center which will serve as the central information station for real time weather
26 updates available to every individual and for the Philippines' typhoon
27 preparedness plan.

1 SEC. 4. *Manpower Training.* – The three (3)-year modernization plan
2 shall include a manpower training component that shall include undergraduate
3 and postgraduate degree training subcomponents. Scholarships shall be provided
4 for undergraduate and graduate degree trainings. The University of the
5 Philippines Los Baños is mandated, along with the Bicol University, the Central
6 Luzon State University, the Mariano Marcos State University, the Pamantasan
7 ng Lungsod ng Maynila and the Visayas State University to offer an
8 undergraduate degree program in Meteorology within three (3) years from the
9 enactment of this Act. Other state and private universities and colleges may
10 likewise offer a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology.

11 SEC. 5. *Period of Implementation.* – The modernization program under
12 this Act shall be implemented over a period of three (3) years: *Provided,*
13 *however,* That payments for amortization of outstanding multi-year contract
14 obligations incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period.

15 SEC. 6 *Formulation and Submission of PAGASA Modernization*
16 *Program.* – The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology
17 (DOST) and the Director of PAGASA, in coordination with the Secretary of the
18 Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Director-General of the
19 National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), shall be responsible
20 for formulating the PAGASA Modernization Program based on the policy
21 objectives provided in this Act.

22 Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of
23 the DOST shall submit to the President the PAGASA Modernization Program
24 for final approval.

25 SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the
26 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current fiscal year
27 appropriations of the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine

1 Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration
2 (DOST-PAGASA). Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued
3 implementation of the modernization program shall be included in the annual
4 General Appropriations Act.

5 The abovestated amount may be augmented by grants, bequests,
6 contributions and donations whether from local or foreign sources: *Provided,*
7 That acceptance of grants, bequests, contributions and donations from foreign
8 governments shall be subject to the approval of the President upon the
9 recommendations of the Secretaries of the DOST and the Department of Foreign
10 Affairs (DFA).

11 SEC. 8. *Progress Report.* – The Director of PAGASA shall prepare an
12 annual report on the status of the implementation of the PAGASA
13 Modernization Program. The annual report shall be submitted, through the
14 Secretary of the DOST, to the President and to the Chairpersons of the
15 Committees on Science and Technology of the Senate and the House of
16 Representatives.

17 SEC. 9. *Cost Recovery Measures.* – The PAGASA, with the approval of
18 the DOST Secretary, shall implement a sustainable cost recovery program that
19 will allow it to earn revenue from its issuance of specialized weather
20 information, certifications, and scientific and technical publications for which
21 the necessary fees can be charged: *Provided,* That the fees collected shall be
22 deposited as income of the General Fund: *Provided, further,* That no fees shall
23 be charged on the issuance of regular and special reports to the general public
24 that affect national safety, weather and economy, and such other relevant data.

25 SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is
26 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions hereof which are not
27 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

1 SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, proclamations, rules and
2 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act
3 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
5 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers
6 of general circulation.

Approved,

O