


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



13 JUL -1 P3:42

SENATE

S. NO. 158

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) is the country's first line of defense during the onslaught of natural calamities. Various government bodies such as the National Disaster Coordinating Council, the Philippine Coast Guard, and even the Department of Education rely on the accuracy and timely dissemination of its weather forecasts and advisories during high-risk situations.

Time and again, the agency has received flak and even found itself the subject of suits and severe criticism in the media for allegedly putting out erroneous weather forecasts, which have resulted to high casualties and/or property losses. Yet time and again, PAGASA has sought greater funding to upgrade its weather forecasting equipment, improve its existing technologies and resources and to hire and pay competent weathermen, to no avail.

In fact, despite being certified as "urgent" by President Benigno Aquino III himself, House Bill 6546, *An Act Providing for the Modernization of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)*, failed to pass in the Senate before the close of the 15th Congress.

This measure seeks to immediately place on the table the discussion of PAGASA's request. The bill proposes to modernize PAGASA's physical resources and operational techniques through the acquisition of state-of-the art instruments, equipment and facilities in order to enable the agency to provide timely and reliable weather forecasting and advisory services. This, in turn, will improve the country's disaster prevention and warning services and minimize the vulnerability of our people, our communities, industries and other affected sectors such as agriculture and transportation through early detection of weather systems threatening our country.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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SENATE

S. NO. 158

PREPARED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA), PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER RELATED 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 Modernization Act of*
2 *2013”*.

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to
4 utilize scientific knowledge and information as an effective instrument to ensure the safety, well-
5 being and economic security of the people; to promote national progress and to contribute to
6 regional socioeconomic development through various applications of meteorology, geophysics
7 and space sciences. Towards this end, the State shall undertake the modernization of the
8 Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) to
9 elevate its technological and operational capacity to effectively and efficiently perform its
10 mandate.

11 **SEC. 3. Objectives.** - Pursuant to the foregoing policy, the PAGASA modernization
12 program shall be implemented in accordance with the following objectives:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 **SEC. 5. *Period of Implementation.*** - The modernization program under this Act shall be
39 implemented over a period of three (3) years; *Provided, however,* That payments for
40 amortization of outstanding multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend
41 beyond this period.

42 **SEC.6 Formulation and Submission of PAGASA Modernization Program.** - The
43 Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Director of PAGASA,
44 in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the
45 Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), shall be
46 responsible for formulating the PAGASA Modernization Program based on the policy objectives
47 provided in this Act.

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

50 **SEC. 7. Appropriations.** The amount necessary to carry out the implementation of this
51 Act shall be charged against the current fiscal year appropriations of the Department of Science
52 and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services
53 Administration (DOST-PAGASA). Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued
54 implementation of the modernization program shall be included in the annual General
55 Appropriations Act.

56 The above-stated amount may be augmented by grants, bequests, contributions and
57 donations whether from local or foreign sources: *Provided*, That acceptance of grants, bequests,
58 contributions and donations from foreign governments shall be subject to the approval of the
59 President upon the recommendations of the Secretaries of the DOST and the Department of
60 Foreign Affairs (DFA).

61 **SEC. 8. Progress Report.** - The Director of PAGASA shall prepare an annual report on
62 the status of the implementation of the PAGASA Modernization Program. The annual report
63 shall be submitted, through the Secretary of the DOST, to the President and to the Chairpersons
64 of the Committees on Science and Technology of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

65 **SEC. 9. Cost Recovery Measures.** - The PAGASA, with the approval of the DOST
66 Secretary, shall implement a sustainable cost recovery program that will allow it to earn revenue
67 from its issuance of specialized weather information, certifications, and scientific and technical

68 publications for which the necessary fees can be charged; *Provided*, That the fees collected shall
69 be deposited as income of the General Fund; *Provided, further*, That no fees shall be charged on
70 the issuance of regular and special reports to the general public that affect national safety,
71 weather and economy, and such other relevant data.

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

75 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations or
76 parts thereof which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or
77 modified accordingly.

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

80 Approved,

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