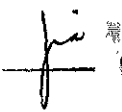




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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1160

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every year the average Filipino expects to be affected by torrential weather between the months of July and October. This stormy season is due to the Philippines geographical location amidst a typhoon belt. The result is an average of 20 typhoons and/or storms per year.

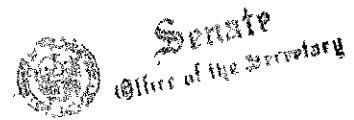
These annual natural disasters ravage our nation and leave our country with huge economic losses, numerous social losses and at times, unavoidable fatalities. According to a report on January 26, 2012 made by Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC); Typhoon Sendong caused PHP1.4 Trillion Pesos of damages in Agricultural and Infrastructure sectors of the Philippines. While the final report of Typhoon Ondoy and Pepeng estimated the damages to be PHP11 Billion Pesos and PHP 27 Billion Pesos respectively.

The tools of PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration) need to urgently be improved and modernized because we rely on them to safeguard the Filipino people and our economy. The Philippine economy is growing at a rapid rate with an increase of 1 % GDP in the past year. By modernizing the tools used by our hardworking officials of PAGASA we can protect our people and their potential for growth by properly anticipating and preparing our nation for incoming typhoons and storms.

While we cannot avoid these annual disasters, we can prepare and ready ourselves against natural adversity in order to minimize the losses suffered by our peoples. The attached bill proposes the modernization of PAGASA and provides for the following, among others: establishment of regional weather service centers in strategic areas in the country; modernization of physical resources and operational techniques through acquisition of state-of-the-art instruments; intensification of human resources development; upgrading of research and development capability; and a PAGASA Modernization Fund partly sourced from income of PAGCOR. It is hoped that the modernization of PAGASA would result in more accurate weather prediction, in order to better prepare the country against the damages of the typhoon season.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR



'13 JUL 30 P2:31

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1160

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE
ATMOSPHERIC GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "PAGASA Modernization of
2 2013."
3

4 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State
5 to improve weather forecasting in the country and to ensure its accuracy and timely
6 dissemination to the public. Towards this end, the State shall undertake the
7 modernization of the national weather service to ensure the safety and well-being of the
8 people and to ensure national progress.
9

10 In the implementation of the foregoing policy, the State shall, in accordance with
11 the provision of this Act:

12 a. Undertake measures to improve on the current state of weather forecasting
13 and warning system in the country;
14

15 b. Cultivate greater awareness by the public of weather systems through the
16 educational projects and programs in storm signals, the development of
17 typhoons, climatic changes, and other related information;
18

19 c. Upgrade, modernize and procure state-of-the-art weather and geophysical
20 equipment, instruments and facilities, and the application of new technologies to
21 improve our capabilities in providing timely and reliable forecasting, warning
22 services, and information for agriculture, transportation and other industries
23 across the country.
24

25 SECTION 3. *Components of Modernization.* - To realize improved and enhanced
26 weather and flood forecasting, climate monitoring/prediction and astronomical and
27 associated services, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical
28 Services Administration (PAGASA) shall undertake a six (6) year modernization

1 program. Towards this end, the PAGASA shall adopt the following four pronged
2 principal approach, in the order of priority:

3
4 a. Establishment of regional weather service centers in strategic areas in the
5 country to broaden the agency's bases for delivery of service to the countryside;

6
7 b. Modernization of physical resources and operational techniques through
8 acquisition of state-of-the-art instruments, equipment and facilities, with
9 emphasis on weather and flood monitoring and warning system and ago-
10 meteorological observational system to strengthen services for agriculture;

11
12 c. Intensification of human resources development to keep at pace with the rapid
13 scientific and technological *advances*;

14
15 d. Upgrading of research and development capability through a more rationalized
16 and totally integrated approach and identified *activities*, with focus on
17 improvement of operations, as well as the development of specialized services
18 for cost *recovery*.

19
20 SECTION 4. *Program Description*. - The modernization program under this Act
21 shall principally be a re-tooling of the PAGASA with modern equipment and facilities,
22 including but not limited to *advanced* observational and surveillance system for
23 meteorological and hydrological elements, whenever possible satellite-based
24 communication network, supercomputers for data processing analysis and forecasting,
25 and computer based workstations for generating increased volume for detailed
26 information. It shall also establish an efficient human resources development program
27 that emphasizes on professional education, training and research.

28
29 SECTION 5. *PAGASA Modernization Oversight Committee*. - There is hereby
30 created a Modernization OverSight Committee composed of the Secretary of Science
31 and Technology, the Director of the PAGASA, the Chairperson of the Congressional
32 Committee on Science and Technology, and a representative from the Office of the
33 President, through the Project Monitoring Staff of the National Economic and
34 Development Authority (NEDA), who shall oversee the implementation of the
35 modernization program provided under this Act. The Committee shall be chaired by the
36 Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

37
38 SECTION 6. *PAGASA Modernization Fund*. - There is hereby created the
39 PAGASA Modernization Fund which shall be used exclusively to fund the modernization
40 program which shall include whatever funds may be made available from, but not
41 limited to, the following sources:

42
43 a. A portion of the net income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming
44 Corporation (PAGCOR) to be taken from the fifty percent (50%) share of the
45 National Government.

46
47 b. Loans, grants, bequests, *and* donations whether from local or foreign sources.
48 The Secretary of the DOST with the approval of the National Economic and
49 Development Authority (NEDA) and subsequently the Department of Finance is

1 hereby granted the authority to enter into loan agreements with foreign financial
2 institutions.

3
4 SECTION 7. *Cost Recovery Measures.* - The PAGASA, *with* the approval of the
5 DOST Secretary, shall implement a sustainable cost recovery program that will allow it
6 to earn revenue from its issuance of specialized weather information, certifications, and
7 scientific and technical publications for which the necessary fees can be charged;
8 Provided that one hundred percent (100%) of the fees collected shall be retained by
9 PAGASA for the next twenty (20) years starting six (6) years after the effectivity of this
10 Act, for the operation and maintenance of the equipment acquired during the
11 modernization program; Provided, however, that no fees shall be charged on the
12 issuance of regular and special reports to the general public that *affect* national safety,
13 weather, and economy, and such other relevant data;

14
15 SECTION 8. *Progress Report.* - The Secretary of the DOST and the Director of
16 the PAGASA shall submit to the *Office* of the President and the Congressional
17 Committees on Science and Technology a quarterly report on the progress of the
18 modernization program for the duration of its implementation.

19
20 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, orders, proclamations, rules and
21 regulations, or part thereof, which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act are
22 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

23
24 SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take *effect* fifteen (15) days following its
25 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
26 circulation.

27
28 Approved,