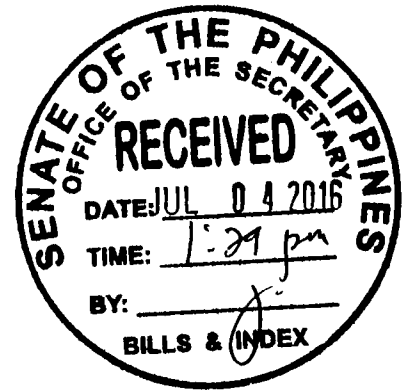


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

S.B. No. 327

Introduced by **Senator Cynthia A. Villar**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

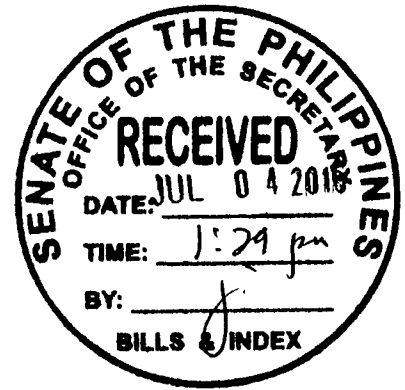
Coastal environments encompass different ecosystems such as shore lands, mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs. They are among the most productive and biologically diverse landscapes known to man. In an archipelagic country like the Philippines, where over 80% of the major settlements are located within ten or twenty kilometers from the shorelines, coastal environments are critical and often dominant ecological presuppositions of economic, social and cultural life. Thus, the protection and proper management of coastal environments are important concerns of the State and are explicitly mandated by the Constitution.

The adoption of a Coastal Environment Program (CEP) is within the objectives, provisions, scoping and principles of the Philippine Strategy for Sustainable Development (PSSD), as well of the actions and agreements adopted by the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) related to the pursuit of the objectives of the Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development (UNCED) and of such other protocols and treaties to which the Philippines has committed to abide.

I earnestly recommend the approval of this bill.


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

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



SENATE
S.B. No. 327

Introduced by **Senator Cynthia A. Villar**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING
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. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Coastal
2 Environment Program (CEP) Act of 2016”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall promote partnerships among
4 all sectors of Philippine society to protect, conserve and manage, on a sustainable
5 basis, coastal environments throughout the territorial jurisdiction of the country.

6 The integrity of coastal ecosystems and their productivity and bio-diversity
7 shall be maximized subject to some areas being designated for protection (exclusion
8 of human exploitation) and others for sustainable use.

9 Equitability of access to and utilization of resources and substantive
10 involvement of local communities and stakeholders shall be the basic concerns of
11 the Program.

12 SEC. 3. *Lead Agency.* – The Department of Environment and Natural
13 Resources (DENR) shall be the lead agency in the implementation of this Act. It
14 shall consult and coordinate with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of
15 the Department of Agriculture, other concerned agencies such as Philippine Council
16 for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources, Research and Development
17 (PCARRD), International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management
18 (ICLARM), and the University of the Philippines Marine Institute, and the local
19 governments, whenever applicable: *Provided*, That in the Province of Palawan, the
20 Palawan Council for Sustainable Development shall implement the provisions of this

1 Act pursuant to Republic Act No. 7611 or the Strategic Environmental Plan for
2 Palawan.

3 SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following
4 terms shall mean:

5 (1) *Coastal environments* - Those areas where, at any given time,
6 socioeconomic interactions among and between humans, land-based and sea-based
7 natural resources occur, extending not more than one (1) linear kilometer from the
8 highest tide point landward and to one hundred (100) fathom isobath or fifteen (15)
9 linear kilometers (whichever is farther) seaward.

10 (2) *Coastal resources* - All objects and processes of nature which are of value
11 to humans, grouped primarily as follows:

12 (a) *Shorelands* - Strips of land extending one (1) linear kilometer from the
13 highest tide point of the nearest body of water, include the mineral,
14 nutrients and life forms found under, on or above the land;

15 (b) *Coastal forests* - Mangroves and other beach vegetation whose
16 structures and forms are consistent with the definition of forests under
17 Presidential Decree No. 705 and the Forestry Master Plan of the
18 Philippines;

19 (c) *Fishery and wildlife resources* - Vertebrates, invertebrates and floral
20 formations in aquatic ecosystems, inhabiting or deriving sustenance
21 from coastal environments;

22 (d) *Minerals* - Solids and gases (free or dissolved) and other liquids found
23 on or under the seabed.

24 SEC. 5. *Program Organization.* – The CEP shall be organized into the
25 following components:

26 (1) *Coastal habitats and biodiversity* - This component shall deal mainly
27 with the conservation and management of coastal areas, enhancing the biodiversity
28 of floral and fauna populations. This component shall include the implementation of
29 Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of
30 1992, relative to protected areas in coastal environments. It shall also include the
31 rehabilitation of mangroves, seagrass and coral reefs in designated areas;

32 (2) *Endangered species* - This component shall focus on the conservation,
33 protection and propagation of endangered species and on the protection and
34 management of their habitats. Existing projects of the DENR on marine turtles,

1 crocodiles, sea snakes, shore birds, whales, sea cows, porpoises and others shall
2 be included in this component;

3 (3) *Coastal industries and pollution* - This component shall focus on the
4 regulation of industrial activities and water pollution in coastal areas. It shall study
5 the impact of industrial activities and draw down pollution on coastal environments,
6 to identify and recommend development and regulatory options to mitigate negative
7 effects;

8 (4) *Resource inventory and assessment* - This component shall include
9 activities to identify and estimate existing and future stocks of ecologically and
10 economically important coastal species;

11 (5) *Research and special projects* - This component shall include activities
12 related to the development, testing and application of methodologies to understand
13 coastal environments and their associated resource systems. Special projects shall
14 include those, which because of their unique scoping or funding specifications, may
15 not be associated with the other four (4) components of the CEP.

16 Future activities of the DENR relating to coastal environments shall be
17 assigned to any of the five components above.

18 SEC. 6. *CEP Implementation.* – All activities included in the CEP shall involve
19 three (3) general phases, as follows:

20 1) Information, education and communication (IEC) campaign coupled
21 with community organizing, to achieve higher levels of participation of local
22 communities in the activities;

23 2) Introduction of intended interventions of package of developmental
24 activities for eventual adoption by partner communities and sectors; and

25 3) Monitoring and evaluation of the activity to seek options and
26 opportunities for follow-up and institutionalization.

27 Each phase may overlap, to the extent deemed needed by the implementers,
28 to ensure success of the activity.

29 SEC. 7. *Local Government and Community Participation.* – CEP activities
30 shall, to all extent possible, involve local communities and sectoral organizations
31 (POs, NGOs and LGUs) in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the
32 activity. Leadership in the CEP activities shall be reposed on, or at least shared by
33 the DENR with the local leaders and community members.

1 SEC. 8. *Trainings.* – The DENR shall give priority to the training of
2 Department personnel and community leaders in the technical aspects of resource
3 inventory and assessment as well as proper monitoring and evaluation of activities,
4 to develop local expertise and to establish a reliable and uniform data base.

5 SEC. 9. *Program Management.* – Overall direction and management of the
6 CEP shall be reposed on the DENR Secretary. However, said direction and
7 management affecting the Province of Palawan shall be exercised by the Palawan
8 Council for Sustainable Development pursuant to Republic Act No. 7611 or the
9 Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan. There is hereby created a committee to
10 be known as the National Coastal Environment Program Steering Committee
11 (NCEPSC) which shall assist the DENR Secretary in formulating the policies and
12 implementing guidelines of the CEP. The NCEPSC shall be composed of the
13 following:

- 14 (a) Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources as Chairman;
- 15 (b) Secretary of Agriculture as member;
- 16 (c) Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources as member;
- 17 (d) Secretary of Science and Technology as member;
- 18 (e) Secretary of the Interior and Local Government as member;
- 19 (f) Director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau as member;
- 20 (g) Two (2) representatives from non-government organizations (NGOs)
21 concerned with coastal environment protection and conservation as
22 members; and
- 23 (h) Two (2) representatives of national organizations or federations of
24 fisherfolk organizations to be appointed by the President for a term of
25 three (3) years as members;

26 The Secretary shall designate a National Coastal Environment Program
27 Coordinator who shall assist in the implementation of the Program nationwide. The
28 NCC shall direct the administrative and technical staff as may be formed by the
29 Secretary, which shall serve as the coordinating body for all CEP activities.

30 Regional Executive Directors may designate any officer or either Regional
31 Technical Director (RTD), Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer
32 (PENRO) or equivalent level to be the Regional CEP Coordinator (RCC), subject to
33 the approval by the Secretary.

1 SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* – The sum necessary to effectively carry out the
2 provisions of this Act during the first year of implementation shall be sourced from
3 the appropriations for the coastal environment program of the Department of
4 Environment and Natural Resources under the current General Appropriations Act.
5 Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued implementation
6 which should not be less than the amount of prior years' appropriations, shall be
7 submitted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to be included
8 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

9 The Department of Environment and Natural Resources may receive grants,
10 subsidies, donations or contributions, bequests or gifts, in cash or in kind from
11 corporations, trusts, foundations, associations and other sources from any private or
12 government office, agency or corporation in the Philippines or abroad. The cash
13 receipts and sale of donated commodities shall be deemed automatically
14 appropriated for purposes specified by the donor.

15 SEC. 11 *Repealing Clause.* – All laws and regulations inconsistent with this
16 Act are hereby repealed.

17 SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
18 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

19 Approved,