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SENATE

S.B. No. 423

Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

AN ACT TO ADOPT INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND TO ESTABLISH SUPPORTING MECHANISMS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to ensure optimum resource utilization and sustainable coastal and marine development through the adoption of an Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) program, which shall be mainstreamed and implemented in all levels, starting from national to grassroots levels.

Degradation of our coastal areas has long ceased to be merely an environmental issue as it pushed poverty deeper in the coastal communities through losses in livelihood, vulnerability to natural hazards, and even health problems. Recognizing the necessity to put in place a comprehensive framework that will promote the sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment and resources, this bill proposes to develop a national ICM program that shall provide direction, support, and guidance to the local government units (LGUs) in the development of their respective ICM programs. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the primary agency tasked in developing said program, shall consult with all the stakeholders and concerned agencies and sectors. It shall likewise submit an annual report on the status of the program's implementation to the President.

This bill further mandates inter-agency and multi-sectoral coordination in implementing ICM programs, ensuring participation of the national government through its various agencies. To strengthen the objective of this bill, supporting mechanisms and activities are proposed to be put in place such as:

1. ICM Education
2. ICM Training program for LGUs
3. Environmental and Natural Resource Accounting and Valuation for ICM Planning
4. Coastal and Marine Environmental Information Management System.

To help carry out the ICM programs, government financial institutions and other similar financial institutions shall formulate and identify financing schemes, including livelihood projects for small-scale fishers and cooperatives. Local and international grants are also allowed to support the coastal management activities and programs especially of the LGUs.

Through the systematic and comprehensive implementation of a national ICM program, we will be able to realize our goal of achieving food security, sustainable livelihood, poverty alleviation, and reduction of vulnerability to natural hazards while preserving ecological integrity.

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


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator



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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** - This law shall be known as "The Integrated Coastal
2 Management Act."
3

4 **Sec. 2. Policy Statement.** - It shall be the policy of the State to insure optimum
5 resource utilization and sustainable coastal and marine development. Towards this
6 end, it shall adopt Integrated Coastal Management, hereinafter referred to as ICM,
7 and related approaches such as coastal resource management or coastal zone
8 management as the national management policy framework to promote the
9 sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment and resources in
10 order to achieve food security, sustainable livelihood, poverty alleviation, and
11 reduction of vulnerability to natural hazards while preserving ecological integrity.
12

13 **Sec. 3. Scope and Coverage.** - ICM shall be implemented in all coastal and marine
14 areas, addressing the inter-linkages among associated watersheds, estuaries, and
15 wetlands, and coastal seas, by all relevant national and local agencies.
16

17 **Sec. 4. Development of a National ICM Program.** - A National ICM Program shall
18 be developed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in
19 consultation with other concerned agencies, sectors and stakeholders, within one
20 year from the effectivity of this Act to provide direction, support and guidance to the
21 Local Government Units (LGUs) and stakeholders in the development and
22 implementation of their local ICM programs. The National ICM Program shall
23 include principles, strategies and action plans identified after balancing national
24 development priorities with local concerns, define national ICM targets and develop
25 a national ICM coordinating mechanism.
26

27 **Sec 5. Implementation of ICM Program.** - The implementation of ICM programs
28 shall take into account the following elements:
29

- 30 a. an inter-agency, multi-sectoral mechanism to coordinate the efforts of
- 31 different agencies, sectors and administrative levels;
- 32 b. coastal strategies and action plans that provide a long-term vision and
- 33 strategy for sustainable development of the coastal areas, and a fixed-term
- 34 program of actions for addressing priority issues and concerns;
- 35 c. public awareness programs to increase the level of understanding of, and
- 36 appreciation for, the coastal and marine resources of the area, and to

- 1 promote a shared responsibility among stakeholders in the planning and
2 implementation of the ICM program;
- 3 d. mainstreaming ICM programs into the national and local governments'
4 planning and socio-economic development programs and allocating
5 adequate financial and human resources for implementation;
 - 6 e. capacity building programs to enhance required human resource skills,
7 scientific input to policy and planning processes, and enforcement
8 mechanisms to ensure compliance with adopted rules and regulations;
 - 9 f. integrated environmental monitoring for the purpose of measuring the
10 status, progress and impacts of management programs against sustainable
11 development indicators, as may be established, and for use in
12 decision-making, public awareness, and performance evaluation; and
 - 13 g. investment opportunities and sustainable financing mechanisms for
14 environmental protection and improvement and resource conservation.

15
16 ICM programs shall promote the application of best practices, such as, but not
17 limited to:

- 18
19 a. Coastal and marine use zonation as a management tool;
- 20 b. Sustainable fisheries and conservation of living resources;
- 21 c. Protection and rehabilitation of coral reefs, mangroves, sea grass, estuaries
22 and other habitats, particularly through implementation of marine
23 protected areas, nature reserves and sanctuaries;
- 24 d. Development of upland watershed, catchment areas and basin-wide
25 management approaches;
- 26 e. Integrated waste management, including sewage and solid, hazardous, toxic,
27 and other wastes by major sources;
- 28 f. Integrated management of port safety, health, security and environmental
29 protection; and
- 30 g. Involvement of the private sector/business sector as a partner in ICM.

31
32 **Sec. 6. National Government Responsibilities.** - All concerned national agencies
33 shall support the implementation of the ICM program and promote best practices,
34 some of which were indicated in Sec. 5, that fall within their respective mandates.
35 Specifically, the Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior and Local
36 Government, Department of Transportation and Communications, Department of
37 Finance, Department of Tourism, Department of Health, Department of Education,
38 Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Science and Technology, Department
39 of Energy, Department of National Defense, National Economic and Development
40 Authority, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Labor
41 and Employment, and the Department of Justice shall identify, prepare, and
42 provide policy guidance and technical resource assistance to the DENR and LGUs
43 in the implementation of the National and Local ICM Programs and enforcement of
44 relevant coastal and marine policies and regulations. These agencies shall directly
45 consult with relevant LGUs in the development and implementation of national
46 plans and projects affecting coastal and marine areas in their respective localities.

47
48 **Sec. 7. LGU Responsibilities for ICM.** - Consistent with the provision of the Local
49 Government Code (Republic Act 7160) and the national sustainable development
50 policies and strategies, LGUs shall act as the front-liners in the formulation,
51 planning and implementation of ICM programs in their respective coastal and
52 marine areas. The ICM programs of the LGU shall be in line with the National ICM
53 Program and prepared in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. LGUs shall
54 update their respective ICM programs to reflect changing social, economic, and
55 environmental conditions and emerging issues. LGUs shall furnish the DENR
56 within one month from adoption, with copies of their ICM programs and all
57 subsequent amendments, modifications and revisions. LGUs shall mobilize and
58 allocate necessary personnel, resources and logistics to effectively implement their

1 respective ICM programs. Barangays shall be directly involved with municipal and
2 city governments in prioritizing coastal issues and identifying and implementing
3 solutions. Municipal and city governments shall consider ICM as one of their
4 regular functions. Provincial governments shall provide technical assistance,
5 enforcement and information management in support of municipal and city ICM.
6 Inter-LGU collaboration shall be maximized in the conduct of activities related to
7 sustaining the country's coastal and marine resources.

8
9 **Sec. 8. Roles of the Civil Society and the Corporate and Private Sectors.** - In
10 the development and implementation of the ICM program, the NGOs, civic
11 organizations, academe, people's organizations, the private and corporate sectors
12 and other concerned stakeholder groups shall be engaged in activities such as
13 planning, community organizing, research, technology transfer, information
14 sharing, investment and training programs.

15
16 **Sec. 9. Supporting Mechanisms and Activities.** - The following activities shall be
17 undertaken in support of the implementation of ICM programs:

- 18
19 a. ICM Education. The Department of Education shall integrate ICM into the
20 basic education curricula and/or subjects, such as, Science, Biology,
21 History, including in textbooks, primers and other educational materials the
22 basic principles and concepts of conservation, protection and management
23 of marine resources;
- 24 b. ICM Training Program for LGUs. The DENR and the DILG, through the Local
25 Government Academy and building upon existing ICM expertise, shall
26 develop and provide ICM training programs to LGUs;
- 27 c. Environmental and Natural Resource Accounting and Valuation for ICM
28 Planning. NEDA and the National Statistics Coordination Board shall
29 incorporate coastal and marine resource accounting in the national and
30 regional accounts; and
- 31 d. Coastal and Marine Environmental Information Management System. The
32 DENR shall oversee the establishment and maintenance of a coastal and
33 marine environmental information management system and network, in
34 collaboration with other concerned national government agencies,
35 institutions and LGUs.

36
37 **Sec. 10. Monitoring of ICM Progress.** - The DENR shall prepare and submit an
38 annual progress report on the National ICM Program to the President. LGUs shall
39 submit annual progress reports on local ICM program implementation to the
40 DENR.

41
42 **Sec. 11. Appropriations.** - All relevant government agencies and LGUs shall
43 allocate adequate funds for the development and implementation of ICM programs
44 from their existing budgets. In subsequent budget proposals, the concerned offices
45 and units shall appropriate budget for ICM program development and
46 implementation including continuing ICM training and education.

47
48 **Sec. 12. Other Funding Options.** - National government agencies may source
49 local and international grants and donations in support of ICM implementation
50 and in accordance with relevant laws.

51
52 The Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, People's
53 Credit and Finance Corporation and other government financial institutions shall
54 formulate and identify loan and financing mechanisms that will be made available
55 to support local ICM programs, including alternative livelihood projects for
56 small-scale fishers and cooperatives.

57
58 LGUs, particularly coastal cities or municipalities, as may be allowed under

1 relevant laws, may raise revenues and secure funds to implement their ICM
2 program through:

- 3
- 4 1. Enactment of Tax Ordinances;
- 5 2. Allocation of Funds from the Internal Revenue Allotment, subject to the
6 approval of their legislative councils;
- 7 3. Utilization of shares in the development of national wealth;
- 8 4. Secure loans, grants and donations as may be applicable;
- 9 5. Privatization of local government-owned enterprises;
- 10 6. Adopt, as appropriate, user fee schemes for waste management, exclusive
11 use of coastal water areas for commercial and leisure purposes and other
12 environmental services;
- 13 7. Public-Private Partnership schemes under the Build-Operate-Transfer Law
14 (Republic Act 6957 as amended by Republic Act 7718) and related laws;
- 15 8. Arrange credit financing schemes; and
- 16 9. Raise income through inter-LGU cooperation.
- 17

18 **Sec. 13. Separability Clause.** - If for any reason any section or provision of this
19 Act is declared by the Court as unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or
20 provisions shall not be affected thereby.

21

22 **SEC. 14. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, and
23 other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby
24 repealed or modified accordingly.

25

26 **SEC. 15. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect upon its complete publication in
27 the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

28

29 Approved,