



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4397

BY REPRESENTATIVES YAP (A.), TEODORO, ABAYON, MERCADO-REVILLA,
ARROYO, MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, YU, VELARDE, PIAMONTE, ERIGUEL,
FORTUN, AUMENTADO, PERNES, ABAYA, ROMULO, CO, BATOCABE,
ROMUALDO AND MANALO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 200

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

*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”.

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 instrument to
5 ensure the safety, well-being and economic security of the people; to promote
6 national progress and to contribute to regional socioeconomic development
7 through various applications of meteorology, geophysics and space sciences.
8 It also recognizes the responsibility of the State to strengthen the capability of
9 the government to provide atmospheric, geophysical, astronomical and other
10 weather-related services and information to the public. Towards this end, the

1 State shall undertake the modernization of the Philippine Atmospheric,
2 Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) to elevate
3 its technological and operational capacity to strengthen its role as the premier
4 national weather agency and to attain its vision as the center of excellence for
5 weather-related information and services.

6 SEC. 3. *Mandate of the PAGASA.* – The PAGASA shall provide
7 adequate, up-to-date data, and timely information on atmospheric,
8 astronomical and other weather-related phenomena using the advances
9 achieved in the realm of science to help the government and the people prepare
10 for calamities caused by typhoons, floods, landslides, storm surges, extreme
11 climatic events, and climate change, among others, to afford greater protection
12 to the people and ensure their safety, well-being and economic security
13 towards the promotion of national progress.

14 SEC. 4. *Objectives.* – Pursuant to the foregoing policy, the
15 modernization of the PAGASA shall be implemented in accordance with the
16 following objectives:

17 (a) To upgrade physical resources and operational techniques through
18 acquisition of state-of-the-art instruments, equipment and facilities to enhance
19 current capabilities in providing timely, accurate and reliable weather, flood,
20 climate monitoring, forecasting, and warning services for the general public
21 and information for agriculture, transportation and other industries across the
22 country;

23 (b) To raise the research and development capability and promote
24 human resource development, adopting a rationalized and integrated approach
25 with focus on the improvement of operations for specialized services and cost
26 recovery;

27 (c) To develop mechanisms for integrating disaster management and
28 socioeconomic urban and rural development planning and water resource

1 management at the national and local levels in cooperation with appropriate
2 government agencies;

3 (d) To establish and enhance regional weather service centers in
4 strategic areas in the country to broaden the agency's bases for delivery of
5 service to the countryside;

6 (e) To cultivate greater awareness by the public of weather systems, the
7 progress of typhoons, floods and other related hazards information through
8 educational projects and programs and the use of social media;

9 (f) To develop a technology-based and financially self-sufficient data
10 center which will serve as the central information station for real time
11 weather-related updates available to every individual and the formulation of
12 the Philippines' typhoon preparedness plan; and

13 (g) To determine a better and more competitive base pay and other
14 benefits for its personnel to promote professionalism and to foster commitment
15 to the service.

16 SEC. 5. *PAGASA Modernization Program.* – The Secretary of the
17 Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Administrator of the
18 PAGASA, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Budget and
19 Management (DBM) and the Director-General of the National Economic and
20 Development Authority (NEDA), shall be responsible in formulating the
21 PAGASA Modernization Program based on the policy objectives provided in
22 this Act.

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

26 SEC. 6. *Human Resource Development.* – The three (3)-year program
27 for the modernization of the PAGASA shall provide a human resource
28 development training component that shall include undergraduate and

1 postgraduate degree training subcomponents and shall be upgraded to keep
2 pace with rapid international scientific and technological advances and
3 increasing demands of weather services.

4 A scholarship program for undergraduate and graduate degrees in
5 Meteorology shall be implemented in coordination with the DOST, the
6 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Higher Education Institutions
7 (HEIs) not later than three (3) years from the enactment of this Act.

8 *SEC. 7. Salary and Other Benefits.* – The DOST, in coordination with
9 the DBM, shall develop a new salary scale consistent with Republic Act
10 No. 8439 (Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and other S & T
11 Personnel in the Government) with a corresponding increase in the base pay,
12 allowances, and other benefits of the agency subject to the approval of the
13 President.

14 *SEC. 8. Period of Implementation.* – The modernization program
15 under this Act shall be implemented for a period of three (3) years: *Provided,*
16 That payments for the amortization of outstanding multi-year contract
17 obligations incurred under the program may extend beyond this period. The
18 PAGASA shall continue to modernize and constantly update its operational
19 capabilities to keep pace with global best practices.

20 *SEC. 9. Office of the PAGASA Administrator.* – The PAGASA shall be
21 headed by an Administrator who shall be appointed by the President upon
22 recommendation of the Secretary of the DOST. The Administrator shall be
23 assisted by three (3) Deputy Administrators for Research and Development,
24 Operations and Services, and Administration and Engineering Services.

25 *SEC. 10. Progress Report.* – The Administrator of the PAGASA shall
26 prepare an annual report on the status of the implementation of the
27 modernization program. The annual report shall be submitted, through the
28 Secretary of the DOST, to the President and to the Chairpersons of the

1 Committees on Science and Technology of the Senate and the House of
2 Representatives.

3 SEC. 11. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the
4 implementation of this Act shall be initially charged against the current fiscal
5 year appropriations of the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine
6 Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration
7 (DOST-PAGASA). Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued
8 implementation of the modernization program shall be included in the annual
9 General Appropriations Act.

10 The amount may be augmented by grants, bequests, contributions and
11 donations whether from local or foreign sources: *Provided,* That acceptance
12 of grants, bequests, contributions and donations from foreign governments
13 shall be subject to the approval of the President upon the recommendation of
14 the Secretaries of the DOST and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

15 SEC. 12. *Cost Recovery Measures.* – The PAGASA, with the
16 approval of the Secretary of the DOST, shall implement a sustainable cost
17 recovery program that will allow it to earn revenue from its issuance of
18 specialized weather information, certifications, and scientific and technical
19 publications for which the necessary fees can be charged: *Provided,* That fees
20 collected shall be deposited as income of the General Fund: *Provided, further,*
21 That no fees shall be charged on the issuance of regular and special reports to
22 the general public on the weather insofar as it affects national safety and the
23 economy.

24 SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is
25 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any of the provisions
26 not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

1 SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, proclamations, rules
2 and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of
3 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 SEC. 15. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
5 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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