



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE

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Senate Bill No. **2097**

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every year, an average of 20 – 25 typhoons and tropical depressions hit the country leaving behind massive destruction of agricultural resources, properties and loss of lives. The damage is further aggravated by the lack of disaster preparedness of the people as well as of government agencies concerned. Worse, there have been instances of inaccurate weather forecasts by the government through the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), which all the more confuse the public.

These errors committed by the agency are attributable to inadequate equipment and technical know-how to its personnel to cope up with the changing weather and climate conditions in the country. Recently, there have been reports of dissension among, and exodus of employees of the agency due to low wages and insufficient benefits given to them considering the highly technical nature of their functions and the hazards they face on the job. This has resulted to a brain drain of available expertise in the field and has made it more difficult for the agency to discharge its mandate.

On the above premise, there is a need to modernize the equipment and facilities of PAGASA, further train its personnel, and increase the base pay and benefits of its officials and personnel to improve the agency's services and enhance professionalism and patriotism among its employees.

Primarily, this bill seeks to:

- 1) Upgrade the physical resources and operational techniques of the agency to improve its capability and services in providing timely and accurate weather forecasts and warnings;
- 2) To raise the research and development capability of human resources development by adopting a rationalized and integrated approach; and

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3) To increase the base pay and benefits of the agency's personnel to encourage them to continue on their jobs and avert a brain drain and to encourage a higher level of commitment to their tasks and sworn duties.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of the bill is earnestly urged.



FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

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3 **AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE**
4 **ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES**
5 **ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA), PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR**
6 **OTHER PURPOSES**
7

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

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11 **SECTION 1. Title** – This Act shall be known as "The PAGASA Modernization
12 Act of 2014".

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14 **SEC. 2. Declaration Policy** – It is hereby declared to be the policy of the
15 State to utilize scientific knowledge and information as an effective instrument to
16 ensure the safety, well-being and economic security of the people; to promote
17 national progress and to contribute to regional socioeconomic development
18 through various applications of meteorology, geophysics and space sciences. It
19 also recognizes the responsibility of the State to strengthen the capability of the
20 State towards the institutionalization of a highly efficient and competent
21 personnel of the government agency tasked to provide Atmospheric,
22 Geophysical, Astronomical and other Weather-Related services and information
23 to the public. Towards this end, the State shall undertake the modernization of
24 the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services
25 Administration (PAGASA) to elevate its technological, operational capacity and
26 strengthen/enhance its role as a premier national weather agency to effectively
27 and efficiently perform its mandate.
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29 **SEC. 3. Mandate of the PAGASA.** PAGASA has the mandate to provide
30 protection against atmospheric, astronomical and other weather related and
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1 natural calamities caused by typhoons, floods, landslides, storm surges, extreme
2 climatic events, climate change and other weather phenomena, and utilize
3 scientific knowledge as an effective instrument to ensure the safety, well-being
4 and economic security of all the people, and for promotion of national progress.

5 **SEC. 4. Objectives** – Pursuant to the foregoing policy, the PAGASA
6 modernization program shall be implemented in accordance with the following
7 objectives:

- 8 a) To upgrade physical resources and operational techniques through
9 acquisition of state-of-the-art instruments, equipment and facilities to
10 enhance current capabilities in providing timely, accurate and
11 reliable weather, flood, climate monitoring, forecasting, and warning
12 services for the general public and information for agriculture,
13 transportation and other industries across the country;
- 14 b) To raise the research and development capability and human
15 resources development, adopting a rationalized and integrated
16 approach with focus on improvement of operations for specialized
17 services and cost recovery;
- 18 c) To develop mechanisms for integrating disaster management and
19 socioeconomic urban and rural development planning and water
20 resource management at the national and local levels in connection
21 with appropriate government agencies;
- 22 d) To establish and enhance regional weather service centers in strategic
23 areas in the country to broaden the agency's bases for delivery of
24 service to the countryside;
- 25 e) To cultivate greater awareness by the public of weather systems, the
26 progress of typhoons, floods and other related hazards information
27 through the educational projects and programs and the use of social
28 media;
- 29 f) To develop a technology-based and financially self-sufficient data
30 center which will serve as the central information station for real time
31 weather related updates available to every individual and for the
32 Philippines' typhoon preparedness plan; and
- 33 g) To determine a better and more competitive base pay and other
34 benefits of its personnel to promote professionalism and commitment
35 to the service.

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1 **SEC. 5. Human Resource Development** – The three (3)-year modernization
2 plan shall provide a human resource development training component that
3 shall include undergraduate and postgraduate degree training subcomponents
4 and shall be upgraded to keep pace with rapid international scientific and
5 technological advances and increasing demands of weather services.

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7 Not later than three (3) years from the enactment of this Act, scholarships
8 shall be provided for undergraduate and graduate degree in Meteorology in
9 coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST),
10 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Higher Education Institutions
11 (HEI's).

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13 **SEC. 6. Office of the PAGASA Administrator**–The Administrator shall have
14 the rank/compensation of a Department Undersecretary who shall be
15 appointed by the President upon recommendation by the Secretary of the
16 Department of Science and Technology. He/She shall be assisted by three (3)
17 Deputy Administrators for the Research and Development, Operations and
18 Services, and Engineering services.

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20 **SEC. 7. Period of Implementation** –The modernization program under this
21 Act shall be implemented for a period of three (3) years. Provided, however,
22 that payments for amortization of outstanding multi-year contract obligations
23 incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period. PAGASA shall continue
24 to modernize and constantly update its operational capabilities to keep pace
25 with best global practices.

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27 **SEC. 8. Formulation and Submission of PAGASA Modernization Program** –
28 The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the
29 Administrator of PAGASA, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department
30 of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Director-General of the National
31 Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), shall be responsible for
32 formulating the PAGASA Modernization Program based on the policy objectives
33 provided in this Act.

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

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4 **SEC. 9. SALARY AND OTHER BENEFITS** – In order to promote the general
5 welfare, commitment to service and professionalism, the Department of Science
6 and Technology (DOST) in coordination with the Department of Budget and
7 Management (DBM) (DBM) shall develop a new salary scale consistent with
8 Republic Act 8439 (Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and
9 other Science and Technology personnel in government) with a corresponding
10 increase of the base pay, allowances, and other benefits of the agency subject
11 to the approval of the President to enhance the achievement of the objectives
12 of this Act.

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14 **SEC. 10. Appropriations** – The amount necessary to carry out the
15 implementation of this Act shall be initially charged against the current fiscal
16 year appropriations of the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine
17 Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST –
18 PAGASA). Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of
19 the modernization program shall be included in the annual General
20 Appropriations Act.

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22 The above-stated amount may be augmented by grants, bequests,
23 contributions and donations whether from local or foreign sources: *Provided*,
24 that acceptance of grants, bequests, contributions and donations from foreign
25 governments shall be subject to the approval of the President upon the
26 recommendation of the Secretaries of the DOST and the Department of Foreign
27 Affairs (DFA).

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29 **SEC. 11. Progress Report** – The Administrator of PAGASA shall prepare an
30 annual report on the status of the implementation of the Modernization
31 Program. The annual report shall be submitted, through the Secretary of the
32 DOST, to the President and to the Chairperson of the Committees on Science
33 and Technology of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

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35 **SEC. 12. Cost Recovery Measures** – The PAGASA, with the approval of the
36 DOST Secretary shall implement a sustainable cost recovery program that will

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1 allow it to earn revenue from its issuance of specialized weather information,
2 certifications, and scientific and technical publications for which the necessary
3 fees can be charged; *Provided* that fees collected shall be deposited as
4 income of the General Fund; *Provided, further* that no fees shall be charged
5 on the issuance of regular and special reports to the general public that affect
6 national safety, weather and economy, and such other relevant data.

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8 **SEC. 13. Separability Clause** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared
9 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions hereof which are not affected
10 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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

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16 **SEC. 15. Effectivity Clause** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
17 its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

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19 Approved