

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4364



Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

**AN ACT
ENHANCING THE CAPABILITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN DEALING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure recognizes and reinforces the need for resiliency and adaptability to the effects of climate change, especially since the country is vulnerable to numerous natural hazards every year. The country has always been a hotbed for typhoons, earthquakes, and other natural and man-made disasters geographic position in Southeast Asia. According to World Risk Report 2018, the Philippines ranked third among all countries with an index value of 25.14%. Its geographical location and physical environment make it highly susceptible to numerous natural hazards such as sea level rise, storm surges, landslides, flood/flashflood/flooding, and drought. The Philippines is located at the Pacific ring of fire which is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes. It is also located right amid the Pacific typhoon belt. Consequently, more tropical cyclones enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) than anywhere else in the world. The Philippines experiences an average of 20 tropical cyclones yearly, 5-6 of which are highly destructive.

Climate change to date is a pressing global concern and the Philippines is among the highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. As an archipelagic country, climate change places communities near coastlines at risk of flooding due to sea level rise. In recent years, the country has also been experiencing extreme weather conditions, increasing heat indices, more devastating typhoons, and extreme rainfall.

Considering this, there is a need to adopt measures toward making the country more resilient and adaptable to the effects of climate change. In this regard, this measure acknowledges the severity of the problem and proposes to pool efforts from both government and various sectors towards preserving and protecting the environment, with the end view of contributing to the global effort of preventing or reversing climate change and global warming.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4364

Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
ENHANCING THE CAPABILITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN DEALING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Enhancing Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptability Act”.

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology. The State also acknowledges that extreme weather conditions have devastated and may continue to devastate parts of the country which shall radically impact and affect the country's food production and supply, water availability, public health, infrastructure, and economy. Thus, enhancing resiliency and adaptability to the effects of climate change is imperative.

Sec. 3. Roles of Departments and Agencies. – Government departments and agencies shall immediately and efficiently cooperate in taking practicable measures to preserve and protect the environment, as follows:

- a. Climate Change Commission (CCC). - To coordinate, monitor, and evaluate programs and action plans related to climate change, by the National Climate Change Action Plan;
- b. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) - Monitor the integration of climate change resilience and adaptation in the national development plans and create an enabling environment that shall promote multi-stakeholder participation of concerned departments, agencies, local government units, organizations, and other stakeholders;
- c. Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) - Conduct studies and research on the current trend of weather and typhoons that affect the country and worldwide;
- d. Department of Education (DepEd) - Integrate Climate Change education under the Science Curriculum of Grades 2 to Senior High School level, in both private and public educational institutions to raise and increase the awareness of children about the impact and effects of climate change;
- e. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) - Develop, formulate, and recommend climate change strategies, programs, and policies;
- f. Department of Interior and Local Government. (DILG) - Coordinate with local government units to address vulnerability and impacts of climate change in regions, provinces, cities, and municipalities;
- g. Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - Conduct studies in determining the vulnerability to climate change impacts and adaptation assessments and facilitate the formulation of policy in technical assistance for implementation and monitoring;

- h. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) - Ensure that employers promote a healthy and safe environment for the employees which are sustainable and environment-friendly; and
- i. Department of Information and Technology (DICT) - Provide cost-free means for public information dissemination on climate change, vulnerabilities, risks, relevant laws, and protocols specifically those which need immediate dissemination.

Provided that, such other departments and agencies may be called upon by the Office of the President to take part in the efforts in environmental preservation and protection.

Sec. 4. Multi-Sectoral Approach. – Private entities, in coordination with the national government and local government units, shall also take part in the preservation and protection of the environment by ensuring that their business practices are not detrimental and hazardous to the environment.

Concerned government agencies and LGUs shall allocate adequate funds from their annual appropriations for the formulation, development, and implementation, of their respective climate change programs and plans, by R.A. No. 9729 otherwise known as the "Climate Change Act of 2009."

Sec. 5. Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptability Summit. – There shall be a climate change resiliency and adaptability summit to be held on the second week of September every year. The Summit shall be spearheaded by the Climate Change Commission and shall be participated by all the stakeholders mentioned in Section 3 hereof. The Summit shall aim to collaborate all the efforts of the concerned agencies in environment preservation and protection.

Sec. 6. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee. – There is hereby created a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor the implementation of this Act. The Oversight. The committee shall be composed of five (5) Senators and five (5) Representatives to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The Oversight Committee shall be co-chaired by a Senator and a Representative to be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. All concerned departments and agencies shall annually submit to Congress a report of the current status of the country, and the implementation of this Act, and provide recommendations if any.

Sec. 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 8. Separability Clause. – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

Sec. 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,