Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Ouezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.

418



Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO**, First District, Bohol and **HON. LOREN LEGARDA**, Lone District, Antique

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE, STRENGTHENED IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY LAWS IN THE COUNTRY AND FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO DELIVER ON THEIR COMMITMENTS

WHEREAS, global emissions are reaching record levels. The last four years were the four hottest on record, and winter temperatures in the Arctic have risen by 3°C since 1990. Sea levels are rising, coral reefs are dying, and we are starting to see the life-threatening impact of climate change on health, through air pollution, heatwaves and risks to food security.

WHEREAS, the US Global Change Research Program¹ (USGCRP) has monitored that climate indicators show trends over time in key aspects of our environment including: greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere; temperatures across land and sea; and, extent of Arctic sea ice:

WHEREAS, global climate change has caused dire consequences to the Philippines. While the Philippines is contributing less to greenhouse gas emissions, it has shown its vulnerability to disasters. Climate data for the past 50 years already shows trends of rising temperatures by about 0.0110C annually, changes in the rainfall pattern, and increasing number of extreme climate events like cyclones, flooding, and drought;

WHEREAS, independent studies and the climate modeling of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) projects the following climate changes in 2020 and 2050:

- A rise in the country's mean annual temperatures by about 0.90C to 1.40C for 2020 and 1.70C to 2.40C by 2050;

- Drier season of March-May will become drier and wet season of July-August and September-November will become wetter with time;

- Reduction in rainfall in most areas in Mindanao is seen for all seasons by 2050;

 A much active and stronger southwest monsoon season is projected as seen in the significant increases in rainfall in June-August becoming greater with time;

https://www.globalchange.gov/browse/indicators/indicator-arctic-sea-ice-extent

WHEREAS, the Global Climate Risk Index Report 2018, developed by the German think tank German Watch that covers 182 countries worldwide, has ranked the Philippines as the 5th most affected country covering the 20-year period from 1997-20172. The Philippines ranked 5th in 2013, 2nd in 2014, 1st in 2015, 4th in 2016 and 5th in 2017 as the most affected country by climate change. An average of 20 typhoons hit the Philippines which have taken a great toll to the lives, well-being and property of the Filipino people, as well as to the Philippine economy.

WHEREAS, disasters cost the Philippine economy some P206 annually, according to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).3 Thus, the annual cumulative impact of disasters on the economy reached 0.5 percent to 0.6 percent of the GDP;

WHEREAS, the impact of these disasters eventually cut the country's GDP by 0.3 to 0.4 percentage point. This means if GDP growth reached 7 percent, the disaster will cut this growth down to 6.6 percent to 6.7 percent;4

WHEREAS, based on the 2017 to 2022 Philippine Development Plan (PDP), disasters caused by climate change have cost Philippine agriculture to suffer P163.6 billion in production losses between 2011 and 2015 alone.5 The World Bank earlier said natural disasters could cost the Philippine economy as much as 6.5 percent of GDP in well-being losses every year;6

WHEREAS, the Philippines continue to import coal even as the law aimed to reduce the volume of coal importations. The volume of coal importation increased by an annual average of 12.8 percent from 1989 to 2015.

WHEREAS, there is evidence that climate change is adding up to the economic predicament of the country and threatens food security. Studies show that the productivity of rice, the most important crop in the Philippines, is influenced by increasing temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns due to climate variability.7

WHEREAS, regardless of the greenhouse gas emissions scenario and implementation of adaptation strategies, tropical countries like the Philippines are very likely, with 90% - 100 % probability, to experience negative crop yield impacts by the end of the twenty-first century as a result of anthropogenic climate8 change.

WHEREAS, the enormous number of displaced families brought about by the series of disasters in the past two decades has accelerated internal migration in great proportions which has caused negative impact to the host cities or localities. Rapid and uncontrolled urbanization will most likely lead to a further decline in the quality of life, greater environmental degradation, acceleration of greenhouse gas emissions, social stress and political turbulence in cities such as Manila;9

4 https://businessmirror.com.ph/neda-reveals-phls-annual-disaster-losses/

² Global Climate Risk Index Report 2018; Topping the list as the most affected countries were Honduras, Haiti, Myanmar, and Nicaragua. To complete the Top 10, following the Philippines were Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnam, Thailand, and Dominican Republic.

The Department of Finance gave a higher estimate of economic loss yearly due to typhoons at P300B. Then Finance Sec. Cesar Purisima gave this figure in 2015 during the "Vulnerable 20" Finance Ministers Meeting at Lima, Peru. Source: https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2015/10/04/1507232/philippines-losing-p300-b-disasters-yearly#sMXrLeFQLbDMrzsb.99

⁵ ibid 6 ibid

⁷ Bohra and Mishra, et.al., "Climate variability and migration in the Philippines"

⁸ When human activities affect nature it's called anthropogenic. 9 https://www.shell.com/energy-and-innovation/the-energy-future/scenarios/new-lenses-on-future-cities.html

WHEREAS, mining operations in the Philippines have produced negative impacts such as forest destruction, toxic contamination of soil and water resources, and air pollution. Large scale and irresponsible mining operations reduces the capacity of the environment and people to adapt to the impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS, over the course of the 20th century the forest cover of the Philippines dropped from 70 percent down to 20 percent. In total, 46 species are endangered, and 4 were already eradicated completely. Only 3.2 percent of total rainforest has been left.¹⁰ The Philippines is among the countries that are losing their forest cover fast, ranking 4th in the world's top 10 most threatened forest hotspots.

WHEREAS, each LGU should have a local climate change action plan (LCCAP) as mandated by the Climate Change Act of 2009. Thus far, out of the total 1,715 LGUs (provinces, cities, municipalities), a total of 1,191 LGUs or 69% were reported to have an approved LCCAP while 524 LGUs or 31% have yet to complete their LCCAP.

WHEREAS, in March last year, President Duterte signed the landmark Paris Agreement on Climate Change that calls for the reduction of carbon emissions, which have been linked to the occurrence of natural disasters and extreme weather conditions. In 2015, the Philippine government submitted to the United Nations the country's commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70 percent by 2030.

WHEREAS, 196 Parties came together under the Paris Agreement¹¹ to transform their development trajectories towards sustainable development, aiming at limiting warming to 1.5 to 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels. The Paris Agreement requests each country to outline and communicate their post-2020 climate actions, known as their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) which embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

WHEREAS, President Duterte, in his State of the Nation Address (SONA) in June 2019, directed the Department of Energy to develop more renewable energy sources, and reduce dependence on traditional energy sources, such as coal. Despite the looming catastrophe of climate change, experts said shifting to renewable energy is key to achieve global emission reduction goals.

WHEREAS, President Duterte expressed grave concern over environmental degradation like soil erosion that affected the livelihood of fishermen. The President expressed that "the Philippines should "make a stand" on mining within the year, in favor of measures to preserve marine life;12

WHEREAS, the Philippine Congress passed into law Republic Act No. 9729 or the Climate Change Act in 2009 creating the Climate Change Commission (CCC) as the principal climate policymaking body of the government. Pursuant to this Act, the CCC promulgated the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (NFSCC) for 2010 to 2022. In 2011, the CCC translated the NFSCC into the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2011-2028 which sets the directional plan for the government in implementing short, medium and long term actions in seven thematic areas: food security, water sufficiency, ecological and

(UNFCCC), dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016
12 https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/09/17/1852155/duterte-philippines-has-take-stand-vs-mining

https://rainforests.mongabay.com/20philippines.htm
The Paris Agreement (French: Accord de Paris) is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

environmental stability, human security, climate smart industries and services, sustainable energy, and knowledge and capacity development;

WHEREAS, Congress passed several other laws that would address multifaceted issues relative to climate change such as Republic Act No. 10174 or the Peoples' Survival Fund Act" in 2012; Republic Act 8749 or the Clean Air Act of; Republic Act Number 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000; Republic Act No. 9275 or the Clean Water Act of 2004; Republic Act No. 9512 (2008) which aims to promote national environmental awareness and education; Republic Act No. 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997; and Republic Act No. 9513 or the Renewable Act of 2003;

WHEREAS, Congress also passed Republic Act No. 11260 (2019 General Appropriations Act), which includes climate change-related general provisions such as implementation of infrastructure projects; installation of rainwater collection system; mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation in all agency programs, climate budget tagging; multi-hazard impact-based forecasting and early warning systems for climate and disaster resilience; and, energy efficiency. The 2019 GAA also provides special provisions on the various mandates of various agencies for climate mitigation and adaptation pursuant to law.

WHEREAS, the United Nations Secretary General António Guterres called on all world leaders during the Climate Action Summit on September 23, 2019 in New York to provide concrete, realistic plans to enhance their nationally determined contributions by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent over the next decade, and to net zero emissions by 2050;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED TO EXPRESS, AS IT HEREBY EXPRESSES, the sense of the House of Representatives, on the urgency of a whole-of-government approach towards enhancing the nation's climate and disaster resilience in keeping with the Philippine commitment to the Paris Agreement towards climate justice. As stipulate in RA 11260, all government instrumentalities, national and local, are hereby mandated to undertake seamless collaboration in:

 Enhancing the nation's climate and disaster resilience towards building safe, adaptive and resilient communities;

b. Ensuring the continuity of service delivery to the general public before, during, and

after the occurrence of natural disasters and;

c. Expeditiously implementing the numerous climate and disaster resilience programs, projects, and activities incorporated in their respective budgets

As a complementary measure, all government instrumentalities are directed to maximize the utilization of their resources towards enhancing the country's resilience to natural hazards, especially floods, erosion and landslides, storm surges, typhoons, earthquakes, global warming, droughts, and sea level rise, among others.

RESOLVED THAT, the House of Representatives fully appreciate the September 2019 Climate Action Summit initiated by United Nations Secretary General António Guterres which calls on all governments to translate into action the formal agreements under the United Nations Climate Change Convention, including its Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement. The House of Representatives welcomes the collaboration among governments, private sector, civil society, and the youth to produce a balanced and diverse set of committed actions for achieving the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement of "well below

 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

RESOLVED THAT, the House of Representatives call on the developed countries to deliver promptly on their financing commitment under the Paris Agreement for the climate actions of developing countries, starting with the immediate replenishment of the Green Climate Fund;

RESOLVED THAT, the House of Representatives call on the major carbon emitters locally and abroad to take responsibility for climate change and to reinvest in renewable and sustainable energy;

RESOLVED THAT, the House of Representatives affirms its full support to the Filipino youth and across the globe for its collective action in finding and implementing transformative climate solutions and in calling on world leaders to respond decisively to the climate emergency with climate justice;

RESOLVED FINALLY THAT, copies of this Resolution be furnished immediately to all local government units, national government agencies and instrumentalities, and other concerned institutions.

Adopted,

EDGAR M. CHATTO First District, Bohol

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