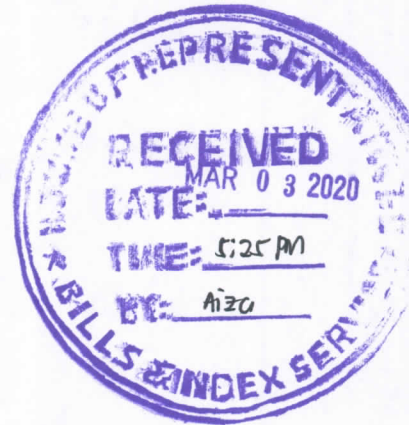


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 761



Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO**, First District, Bohol

RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FOR THE DECLARATION OF A NATIONAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in the 15th Edition of the Global Climate Risk Index released December 2019, Philippines ranks second (2nd) most affected by climate change in 2018 and the fourth (4th) among the long-term climate-impacted countries (1999-2018) in the world;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has a minimal share in the global emissions, a mere 0.31% in 2010 and 0.39% in 2015. However, the country's emissions are on the rise as the economy continues to grow;

WHEREAS, four sectors that are the biggest contributors of greenhouse gas emission are: energy, industrial processes, agriculture and waste generation. The use of coal and fuel oil for electricity generation contributed 41.8%, almost half of the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the country in 2010 and is growing annually by 3.7 percent. Transport ranked second with 35% of the total emissions. The agriculture sector, particularly livestock farming and rice cultivation, produces methane (CH₄) that is more potent as heat-trapping gas;

WHEREAS, Filipino climate scientists from the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) has recently issued a Resolution¹ calling on the Philippine Government to declare a "climate emergency", shifting from the use of the term "climate change" to further underscore the need for immediate action against this human-induced phenomenon. The NPTE is composed of leading experts in different fields such as climate, biodiversity, meteorology, oceanography and health. Further, the NPTE provides technical assistance and advises the Climate Change Commission (CCC) on concerns related to climate science;

WHEREAS, in its Resolution entitled, "Declaration of a Climate Emergency and the Immediate Need to Consolidate Government Data to Generate a Nationwide Climate Risk Assessment", the NPTE manifests that 2020 marks an unprecedented level of CO₂ with at least 410 part per million (ppm), a 17% increase since 1990 exactly thirty (30) years ago when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) met for the very first time to discuss the Framework for Negotiations on Greenhouse Gas Emissions;

¹ Dated February 5, 2020

WHEREAS, the NPTE said that various data sets – which contain information on natural hazards, levels and extent of exposure, and inherent vulnerabilities must be gathered in a single platform that can be analyzed for the purpose of producing baseline climate risk assessments at a city/municipality scale. These data may be sourced from various government agencies, including the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Health (DOH);

WHEREAS, the NPTE Resolution also recommended that the CCC be the lead agency and assemble a team of GIS (geographic information system) specialists, remote sensing image analysts, and data scientist to work on the gathering, integration and initial analysis of data sets from national government agencies;

WHEREAS, having a climate risk assessment will help identify the cities and municipalities that are at most risk to the deepening climate emergency and important for local governments to know which adaptation measures are best for their communities. According to the CCC, a nationwide climate risk assessment will likewise contribute to national and local development and investment planning;

WHEREAS, according to Greenpeace Southeast Asia, the Philippines have been in a state of climate emergency for decades now, and the situation is not getting any better and called on the Philippine government to formally acknowledge this emergency situation and act with the utmost urgency and defend the interests of its people in the face of climate injustice;

WHEREAS, as of 2019, forty one (41) economies, including 28 European Union member states have signed a climate emergency declaration²;

WHEREAS, in the Philippines, the City of Bacolod, the Municipality of Tolosa in Leyte and the City of Cebu have all made Climate Emergency Declarations in their respective jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, in declaring a climate emergency, a government admits that global warming exists and that the measures taken up to this point are not enough to limit the changes brought by it. The decision stresses the need for the government and administration to devise measures that try and stop human-caused global warming³;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED TO EXPRESS, AS IT HEREBY EXPRESSES, the sense of the House of Representatives towards the Declaration of a National Climate Emergency;

RESOLVED THAT, the House of Representatives encourage that climate urgency be placed at the center of all policy decision-making from a local to national level;

RESOLVED THAT, the House of Representatives encourage local governments to issue Climate Change Declarations within their respective jurisdictions;

² NPTE Declaration, paragraph 1

³ Gorey, Colm (2019-05-10). "What Does Declaring a Climate Emergency Actually Mean?". Silicon Republic. Retrieved 2019-12-12; Resolution, Climate Emergency. "What is a Climate Emergency Declaration". The Climate Mobilization. The Climate Mobilization. Retrieved 2019-12-12.

RESOLVED THAT, the House of Representatives call on the Climate Change Commission to spearhead the collection and consolidation of relevant data available with the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Health (DOH) and, in collaboration with the National Panel of Technical Experts, come up with a climate risk assessment of the country;


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 call on local governments to adopt a "No to Coal" or "No to New Coal Policy" within their respective jurisdictions;

RESOLVED THAT, the House of Representatives call on local industries and local government units to pursue renewable and sustainable energy sources;

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