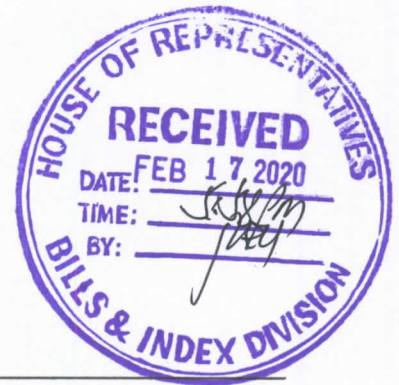




Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 724



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE LOREN B. LEGARDA

A RESOLUTION

**DECLARING A CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY AND
CALLING FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND
INSTRUMENTALITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TOWARDS THE
EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION, AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND
MANAGEMENT LAWS IN LIGHT OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 16 of the Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall "protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, in pursuit of the said constitutional provision, various laws on environmental and climate action, such as the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System, Marine Pollution Control law, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Renewable Energy Act, Environmental Awareness and Education Act, Climate Change Act and its amendatory law creating the People's Survival Fund, Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act, Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act, Green Jobs Act, Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act, have been passed, the effective implementation of which is vital to the country's sustainable growth and development;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9729, or the Climate Change Act, as amended, declares it a State policy "to systematically integrate the concept of climate change in various phases of policy formulation, development plans, poverty reduction strategies and other development tools and techniques by all agencies and instrumentalities of the government";

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 18 of the same law mandates all relevant government agencies
2 and local government units to “allocate from their annual appropriations adequate
3 funds for the formulation, development and implementation, including training,
4 capacity building and direct intervention, of their respective climate change programs
5 and plans”;

6
7 **WHEREAS**, Section 26 of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code
8 emphasizes the significant role played by local government units (LGUs) in the
9 maintenance of ecological balance in their respective communities by requiring
10 national agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations to ensure
11 sufficient consultations have been undertaken and appropriate clearances have been
12 secured in relation to the planning and implementation of any project or program that
13 may cause pollution, climatic change, depletion of non-renewable resources, loss of
14 crop land, rangeland, or forest cover, and extinction of animal or plant species;

15
16 **WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 11465, or the 2020 General Appropriations Act,
17 mandates all agencies of the government “to plan and implement programs and
18 projects, taking into consideration measures for climate change adaptation and
19 mitigation, and disaster risk reduction, based on climate and disaster risk
20 assessments;”

21
22 **WHEREAS**, 197 countries, including the Philippines, are Parties to the United Nations
23 Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), whose ultimate objective is to
24 stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations “at a level that would prevent dangerous
25 anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system” and “should be
26 achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to
27 climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable
28 economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner”;

29
30 **WHEREAS**, in March 2017, the Philippines acceded to the Paris Agreement, a major
31 climate treaty within the UNFCCC which aims to limit global temperature rise to well
32 below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the
33 temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Paris Agreement also
34 aims to enhance the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change;

35
36 **WHEREAS**, as Party to the Paris Agreement, the Government of the Republic of the
37 Philippines will communicate to the UNFCCC by 2020 its Nationally Determined
38 Contributions (NDC), which will present a paradigm shift toward low carbon
39 development and should be attuned to the country’s socio-economic development
40 goals;

41
42 **WHEREAS**, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—the world’s
43 leading scientific body assessing the science related to climate change—has released
44 a three-part series of Special Reports that highlight the urgency of climate action,
45 namely:

- i. *Special Report on the Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius (October 2018)*, which cites that climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C;
- ii. *Special Report on Climate Change and Land (August 2019)*, which cites that global warming has resulted in an increased frequency and intensity and duration of heat-related events, including heat waves, droughts, and precipitation events; and
- iii. *Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (September 2019)*, which cites that human communities in close connection with coastal environments, small islands, polar areas, and high mountains are particularly exposed to ocean and cryosphere change, such as sea level rise, extreme sea level, and shrinking cryosphere;

WHEREAS, reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change will be critical policy objectives, given the findings of the 5th IPCC Assessment Report that climate change will create new poor between now and 2100 and will jeopardize sustainable development. The Global Commission on Adaptation Flagship Report: *“Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience”* found that climate change impacts are becoming an increasingly urgent reality, which could push more than 100 million people within developing countries below the poverty line by 2030;

WHEREAS, the 5th IPCC Assessment Report found that the increased risk of disease outbreaks is one indirect effect of climate change. Local changes in temperature and rainfall have altered the distribution of some disease vectors;

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in 2019 reported that nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history, significantly altered by multiple human drivers, with the great majority of indicators of ecosystems and biodiversity showing rapid decline;

WHEREAS, the 2017 Philippine Climate Change Assessment Report states that terrestrial ecosystems in the country have been radically altered due to anthropogenic causes resulting in the ecosystems’ reduced ability to provide life-sustaining services. Climate change will exacerbate the degraded condition of ecosystems in the country;

WHEREAS, the massive loss and damage of the Philippines from climate-related disasters in recent years shows that climate change is a clear and present threat to the country’s national security, poverty reduction, and sustainable development pursuit;

WHEREAS, according to the Global Climate Risk Index 2020, the Philippines is the second most affected country by climate change in 2018, and fourth most affected

country from 1999 to 2018, a two-decade analysis reporting annual average losses of USD3.118 billion or 0.57% of the country's GDP;

WHEREAS, the 2020 Global Risks Report of the World Economic Forum cites that failure to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change is the top concern of the Forum's network of business leaders, NGOs, academe and other stakeholders;

WHEREAS, despite the enactment of landmark policies on the environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction and management, there is still continued decline of the state of the environment, and its ecological system is one of the greatest threats to the people's well-being;

WHEREAS, the effective and faithful implementation of environmental and climate laws will aid the Philippines in achieving its commitments under the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in the era of a global climate emergency;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon Congress to determine the effective use of public funds in the implementation of the environmental, climate, and disaster risk reduction laws which will redound to the benefit of the next generations;

WHEREAS, a global campaign to declare "Climate Emergency" started as early as 2003,¹ in recognition of the intensifying complications brought about by global warming and climate change, and of the corresponding needs and implications to accelerate actions, including investments and mobilization of resources. The key elements of the campaign² include building of public awareness as acknowledgement of the threats and emergency, declaration of climate emergency by governments to trigger mobilization of societal actions, and demand for mobilization at a sufficient scale and speed, considering urgency of implementation.

WHEREAS, according to the Climate Emergency Declaration organization,³ a total of 1,341 jurisdictions in 26 countries have declared a climate emergency, including local governments in the Philippines, such as the Cities of Bacolod and Cebu and the Municipality of Tolosa in the province of Leyte;

WHEREAS, there is a growing consensus that the entire planet is under a climate emergency and that failure to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and to build the adaptive capacities of communities to climate change would lead to unprecedented loss to human society, environment and global economy;

¹ "Early Days of the Climate Emergency movement". Climate Emergency Declaration and Mobilization in Action. Retrieved from: <https://www.cedamia.org/ced-timeline/>

² "About the Climate Emergency Declaration and Mobilisation". Retrieved from: <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/about/#history>

³ Climate Emergency Declaration. (2020, January 28). "Climate emergency declarations in 1,341 jurisdictions and local governments cover 803 million citizens". Retrieved from: <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/climate-emergency-declarations-cover-15-million-citizens/>

1
2 **WHEREAS**, this Congress places prime priority in addressing climate change and
3 DRRM concerns, embodied in the urgent call for the establishment of a Standing
4 Committee on Climate Change which shall deal with "matters relating to policies,
5 programs, strategies, practices, technologies, and innovation addressing climate
6 change causes and impacts...and all matters relating to adaptation and mitigation," as
7 evidenced under House Resolution No. 315;

8
9 **WHEREAS**, the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE), as the scientific advisory
10 board of the CCC, issued a declaration calling for the identification of cities and
11 municipalities that are at most risk to the deepening climate emergency and conduct
12 of baseline risk assessments at a city/municipal scale, and likewise stressing the need
13 to acquire datasets available in various government agencies to provide a platform to
14 track our progress on adapting to climate change;

15
16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives declare
17 a climate and environmental emergency, ensuring enhanced and coherent climate
18 actions in the executive and legislative agenda of the government;

19
20 **RESOLVED, FURTHER**, that the House of Representatives, in the exercise of its
21 oversight functions, conduct an audit of relevant national government agencies and
22 local government units in relation to their compliance to existing environmental,
23 climate, disaster risk reduction and management and appropriation laws, and
24 international agreements in light of the climate and environmental emergency with the
25 end in view of ensuring an enhanced national monitoring and evaluation system for
26 the implementation of these laws and warranting the accountability of government
27 officials, private entities and other involved stakeholders;

28
29 **RESOLVED, FURTHERMORE**, that the House of Representatives, urge national
30 government agencies and local government units, to undertake, in line with the
31 National Climate Risk Management Framework (NCRMF) promulgated by the CCC,
32 climate risk assessments and produce baseline studies that consider future scenarios
33 and impacts of climate change, to inform sustainable development and resilient
34 investment planning, programming and financing at the national, sectoral, and local
35 levels;

36
37 **RESOLVED, FURTHERMORE**, that the House of Representatives, enjoin national
38 government agencies to promote convergence of efforts toward strengthening data
39 science, technology development, and research for climate change adaptation and
40 mitigation, including the establishment of a national integrated risk information system
41 and a national loss and damage registry, to support science-based policy formulation
42 and risk governance at national and sub-national levels;

43
44 **RESOLVED FINALLY**, that the Congress mobilize government agencies and
45 instrumentalities and local government units towards the effective implementation of

1 environmental, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction
2 and management laws in light of the global climate and environmental emergency.

3

4 Adopted _____.



LOREN LEGARDA