



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

The Directors
Environmental Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau

The Officer-In-Charge
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

All Regional Executive Directors

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO COMMITTEE HEARING AND REQUEST FOR POSITION PAPER ON HOUSE BILL 8900 "AN ACT CREATING A LOCAL URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY", HOUSE BILL 9288 "AN ACT MANDATING THE CREATION OF A COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE FOR EVERY SANGGUNIAN", AND HOUSE BILL 8546 "AN ACT PROMOTING THE WELFARE AND ADOPTION OF STRAY AND IMPOUNDED ANIMALS, PROVIDING INCENTIVES THEREFOR" FROM THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 31 January 2024

In reference to the letter received by our Office dated 31 January 2024, the Committee on Local Government of the House of Representatives is inviting the Department to a meeting on **13 February 2024, Tuesday, 10:00AM** at **Ramon V. Mitra**

Building, Conference Rooms 3 and 4 to deliberate on the following legislative measures:

- **House Bill No. 8900** - "AN ACT CREATING A LOCAL URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY" authored by Rep. Ivan Howard A. Guintu;
- **House Bill No. 9288** - "AN ACT MANDATING THE CREATION OF A COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE FOR EVERY SANGGUNIAN" authored by Rep. Edgar M. Chatto; and
- **House Bill No. 8546** - "AN ACT PROMOTING THE WELFARE AND ADOPTION OF STRAY AND IMPOUNDED ANIMALS, PROVIDING INCENTIVES THEREFOR" authored by Rep. Aniela Bianca D. Tolentino

In this regard, may we respectfully request for **position paper** on the abovementioned bills, **in anticipation of the Committee meeting**, as requested by the Committee. Kindly send them on or before **09 February 2024, at 5 PM** via email at denrilo@denr.gov.ph.

Attached herewith are the Letter Invitation, Agenda, and the House bills for your reference.


ROMIROSE B. PADIN

cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Governance Cluster, Committee Affairs Department
Batasan Complex, Batasan Road, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Metro Manila
Telephone Number(s): (Trunk Line) 931-5001 local 7128 (Fax) 931-407

January 31, 2024

HON. MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA
Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Dear Hon. Loyzaga:

The Committee on Local Government will hold a meeting on **February 13, 2024 (Tuesday) at 10:00 AM** at **Ramon V. Mitra Building, Conference Rooms 3 and 4** to deliberate on the following House Bills:

1. **House Bill No. 8900-** "An Act Creating a Local Urban Planning and Development Office in Every City and Municipality" Introduced By Representative Ivan Howard A. Guintu.
2. **House Bill No. 9288-** " An Act Mandating the Creation of A Committee on Climate Change for Every Sanggunian" Introduced by Representative Edgar M. Chatto
3. **House Bill No. 8546-** " An Act Promoting The Welfare and Adoption of Stray and Impounded Animals, Providing Incentives Therefor" Introduced by Representative Aniela Bianca D. Tolentino

In this regard, may we humbly request that the position paper be submitted to our Committee on or before **February 12, 2024 (Monday)**. For your reference, copies of the said House bills are attached to the e-mail. Thank you.

Very respectfully yours,

REP. MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ
Chairperson
Committee on Local Government

FOR THE CHAIRPERSON:


(SGD) LUTH MYR P. TEOXON
Committee Secretary

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES QUEZON CITY
COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
February 13, 2024 (Tuesday), 10:00 am
Conference Rooms 3 & 4, Ramon V Mitra Building**

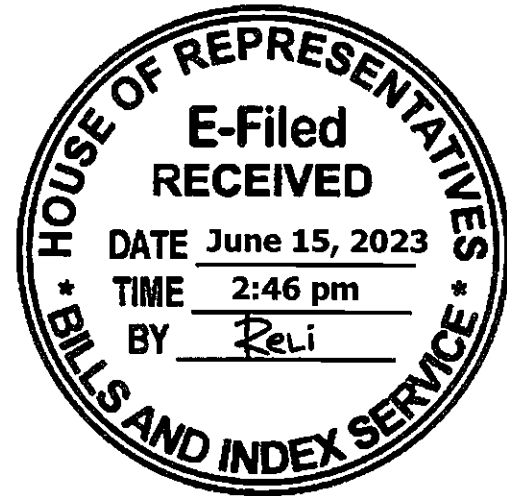
- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. INVOCATION**
- III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 28,2023 MEETING**
- IV. DELIBERATION OF BILLS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SMART CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES NATIONWIDE (1)**
 1. **House Bill No. 1024-** “ An Act Establishing a Developmental, Standardization, and Incentivization Framework for the Establishment of Smart Cities and Municipalities Nationwide, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes” Introduced By Representative Pablo F. Garcia
- V. THE DELIBERATION OF BILLS SEEKING TO CREATE MANDATORY OFFICES IN CERTAIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (2)**
 1. **House Bill No. 8900-** “An Act Creating a Local Urban Planning and Development Office in Every City and Municipality” Introduced By Representative Ivan Howard A. Guintu.
 2. **House Bill No. 9288-** “ An Act Mandating the Creation of A Committee on Climate Change for Every Sanggunian” Introduced by Representative Edgar M. Chatto
- VI. DELIBERATION OF BILL PROMOTING THE WELFARE AND ADOPTION OF STRAY AND IMPOUNDED ANIMALS BILL(1)**
 1. **House Bill No. 8546-** “ An Act Promoting The Welfare and Adoption of Stray and Impounded Animals, Providing Incentives Therefor” Introduced by Representative Aniela Bianca D. Tolentino
- VII. OTHER MATTERS**
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8546**



Introduced by the **Honorable ANIELA BIANCA D. TOLENTINO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A balanced and healthful ecology is one of the hallmark state policies that is enshrined in the Constitution, to wit: "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" [**Section 16, Article II, 1987 Constitution**]. This aim of the country to have a balanced and healthful ecology necessarily includes the proper and humane way of taking care of animals.

The Philippines have gone a long way in upholding animal rights, our country have stringent laws against animal abuse and Filipinos are generally very kind to pets. However, this kindness to pets resulted to an overpopulation of stray dogs and cats. News articles about the matter can easily be found. The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), a non-governmental organization, found made a statement that: "Animal homelessness has reached a crisis point in the Philippines. While countless dogs and cats struggle to survive on the streets, hundred are euthanized every month in municipal pounds."

As such, there is a need to have a mechanism that will resolve the issue on the overpopulation of stray animals, thru the promotion of adoption. The proposed law herein seeks to protect the welfare of every animal, including stray and impounded pets, and ensure that their needs are adequately met. The bill herein also incentivizes the adoption of stray animals.

For the Filipino people, approval of the foregoing bill is earnestly being sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Aniela", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8546**

Introduced by the **Honorable ANIELA BIANCA D. TOLENTINO**

**AN ACT PROMOTING THE WELFARE AND ADOPTION OF STRAY AND
IMPOUNDED ANIMALS, PROVIDING INCENTIVES THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to protect the welfare of every animal, including stray and impounded pets, and ensure that their needs are adequately met. The State recognizes that the responsibility for the welfare of animals is not solely limited to the authorities. Thus, this law aims at promoting responsible pet adoption, providing stray and impounded animal proper protection.

SECTION 2. *Provision for Adoption.*

- a) All impounded and stray animals shall be given the opportunity for adoption.
- b) The local government units (LGU) shall develop and implement programs to promote and facilitate adoption of impounded and stray animals, including but not limited to the establishment of adoption centers, pet fairs, and incentives for adopters.
- c) Adoption of impounded and stray animals shall be considered as a tax is incentive for a percentage of the real property tax of the adoptee.

SECTION 3. *Certificate of Adoption by LGUs.* LGUs shall issue certificate of adoption in accordance with the guidelines to be provided by the Bureau of Animal Industry for purposes of

the tax incentive benefit stated in Sec. 2(c) of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Provision for Corporations.*

(a) Corporations that promote adoption of impounded and stray animals by their employees may apply for tax deduction on expenses incurred in compliance to this Act.

(b) Corporations are encouraged to establish pet-friendly policies that promote responsible pet ownership, including but not limited to pet insurance, pet care services, and pet-friendly workspaces.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days after its signing into law, the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Finance, shall issue the appropriate implementing rules and regulations for the application of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8900



Introduced by Representative Ivan Howard A. Guintu

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The United Nations (UN) recognizes the looming effects of rapid urbanization. Eleventh in the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is Sustainable Cities and Communities. This goal aims to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.” Among the targets this goal aspires to achieve by 2030 are the following:

Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport;

Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management;

Provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces; and

Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, per-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.

According to the UN, over half of the global population currently resides in urban areas. Of this, approximately 1.1 billion people are currently living in slums or slum-like conditions in cities, with an additional two billion people more expected in the next 30 years.

Globally, three out of every four cities have less than 20% of their areas dedicated to public spaces and streets. The supposed target of 45-50% dedicated for public spaces and streets are not met. Consequently, this has brought about worsened air pollution, inadequate infrastructure and services, and an unplanned urban sprawl.

In the Philippine context, 58.93 million or 54% of the country’s total 109.03 million population are living in urban barangays, according to the 2020 census of population of the

Philippine Statistics Authority. UN Habitats estimates that 84% of Filipinos are expected to reside in urban areas by 2050.

The adverse effects of rapid urbanization are already being felt in the Philippines. Uncollected solid wastes go into river systems and esteros and clog waterways, which causes extreme flooding events especially during massive typhoons. Water quality has also deteriorated, and air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions have increased. Furthermore, the increase of population and the lack of housing settlements in metropolitan cities have resulted in informal settlers residing in make-shift settlements in unsafe and inhabitable areas. Unfortunately, these people are the ones most susceptible to the effects of extreme natural calamities.

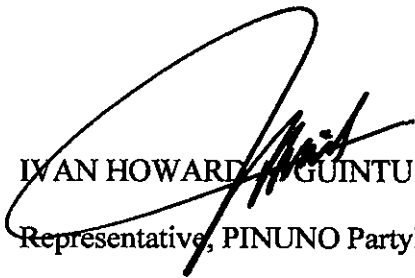
In its 2014 report with the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) said the Philippines the country suffered at least ₱2.4 billion losses daily due to traffic congestion in Metro Manila and is projected to lose ₱5.4 billion a day due in 2035 if the problem remains unsolved.

According to a study made by Prof. Primitivo Cal of the UP National Center for Transportation Studies, the ongoing traffic crisis and transport problem in Metro Manila can be traced to five significant factors related to rapid urbanization and slow development of public transportation in the country: rapid urbanization, mono-centric urban form, limited mass rail transit network, and low ratio of road length to motorization. Professor Cal noted that reducing the concentration of trips in space by boosting the capacity of public transport and expanding the network of highways are a must as part of the long-term solution to the traffic problem.

This measure proposes to create an Urban Planning and Development (UPD) Office in every city and municipality which shall be headed by an Urban Planning and Development Officer. The UPD shall create a comprehensive 10-year urban master plan which shall be consulted first with the stakeholders, then shall be approved by the Sanggunian and shall be reviewed every five years and updated every ten 10 years.

In anticipation of the estimated 84% of Filipinos that are expected to reside in urban areas by 2050, cities and municipalities should be guided and prepared for rapid urbanization.

In view of the foregoing, the passing of this bill is earnestly sought.


IVAN HOWARD AGUINTU
Representative, PINUNO Partylist

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8900

Introduced by Representative Ivan Howard A. Guintu

AN ACT
CREATING A LOCAL URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IN
EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “Local Urban Planning and Development Office Act of 2023.”

SEC. 2. *Creation of Urban Planning and Development Office.* - There shall be a mandatory establishment of an Urban Planning and Development (UPD) Office in every city and municipality, which shall be headed by the UPD Officer.

SEC. 3. Section 443 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 443. Officials of the Municipal Government. –

(a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice-mayor, Sangguniang Bayan members, a secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a municipal accountant, a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning and development coordinator, a municipal engineer/building official, a municipal health officer and a municipal civil registrar [.] AND A MUNICIPAL URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.

x x x”

SEC. 4. Section 454 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 454. Officials of the City Government. –

There shall be in each city a mayor, a vice-mayor, Sangguniang Panlungsod members, a secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod, a city treasurer, a city assessor, a city accountant, a city budget officer, a city planning and development coordinator, a city engineer, a city health officer, a city civil registrar, a city administrator, a city legal officer, a city veterinarian, a city social welfare and development officer, and a city general services officer[.], **AND A CITY URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.”**

SEC. 5. A new section to be denominated as Section 490-A, Article XXI is hereby inserted between Title V and Title VI after Section 490, Article XX of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, to read as follows:

**“ARTICLE XXI
THE URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

SEC. 490-A. APPOINTMENT, QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS, AND DUTIES. –

(A) NO PERSON SHALL BE APPOINT AS URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER UNLESS SUCH PERSON IS A CITIZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES, A RESIDENT OF THE MUNICIPALITY OR CITY AS THE CASE MAY BE, OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER, A HOLDER OF A COLLEGE DEGREE PREFERABLY IN URBAN PLANNING, A FIRST-GRADE CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBLE OR ITS EQUIVALENT, AND MUST HAVE ACQUIRED EXPERIENCE IN URBAN PLANNING FOR AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE CITY URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER AND THREE (3) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE MUNICIPAL URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE APPOINTMENT

(B) THE URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER SHALL TAKE CHARGE OF THE URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, AND SHALL:

(1) CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE TEN (10)-YEAR URBAN MASTER PLAN WHICH SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE SANGGUNIANG AND SHALL BE REVIEWED EVERY FIVE (5) YEARS AND UPDATED EVERY TEN (10) YEARS. THE OLD URBAN MASTER PLAN SHALL CONTINUE TO BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL A NEW URBAN MASTER PLAN IS APPROVED BY THE SANGGUNIANG.

(2) FORMULATE THE COMPREHENSIVE URBAN MASTER PLAN AND POLICIES OF THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY AS AN INPUT TO THE CITY/MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR CONSIDERATION

OF THE SANGGUNIAN. THE URBAN MASTER PLAN SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- (i) LAND USE;
 - (ii) AGRI-ECOTOURISM PROMOTION AND MANAGEMENT;
 - (iii) PROMOTION AND INCLUSION OF URBAN GREEN SPACES IN URBAN PROJECTS;
 - (iv) TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT IN IDENTIFIED HIGHLY-DENSE AREAS IN THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY;
 - (v) ROAD NETWORKING AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT, AND THE INTEGRATION OF BIKE LANES AND SAFE PEDESTRIAN LANES;
 - (vi) ACCESSIBILITY TO BASIC GOVERNMENT SERVICES, HEALTHCARE FACILITIES, SCHOOLS, RECREATIONAL SPACES, AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES;
 - (vii) PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE ZONES, ESTABLISHED HISTORICAL SITES, MONUMENTS, AND LANDMARKS IN THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY;
 - (viii) URBAN HOUSING FACILITIES AND SERVICES, INCLUDING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, SEWERAGE SYSTEMS, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, INTEGRATED FLOOD CONTROL AND CLIMATE CHANGE PROOFING, DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY, AND WATER AND ENERGY;
 - (ix) DEVELOPMENT OF CLIMATE-RESILIENT AND DISASTER-RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS;
- (3) UNDERTAKE CONTINUING STUDIES, RESEARCHES, AND TRAININGS NECESSARY TO EVOLVE URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY;
 - (4) COORDINATE WITH DIFFERENT FUNCTIONAL GROUPS AND AGENCIES FOR INTEGRATION OF THE URBAN MASTER PLAN OF THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY;
 - (5) MONITOR AND EVALUATE THE URBAN MASTER PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION;

- (6) PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE CITY/MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL; AND
- (7) ASSIST THE ZONING OFFICE IN THE RESPECTIVE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY IN THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND SHALL RENDER THE FOLLOWING TECHNICAL SUPPORT FUNCTIONS:
- (i) REVIEW AND PROCESS ALL APPLICATIONS FOR LOCATIONAL CLEARANCES FOR ALL PROJECTS;
 - (ii) PREPARE A LOCATIONAL CLEARANCE FOR EACH PROJECT CONFORMING TO ZONING REGULATIONS OR A NOTICE OF ACTION FOR EACH NON-CONFORMING PROJECT;
 - (iii) EVALUATE APPLICATIONS FOR VARIANCES AND EXCEPTIONS, INNOVATE DEVELOPMENT TECHNIQUES AND SPECIAL USE PERMITS;
 - (iv) STUDY REQUESTS FOR RECLASSIFICATION OR REZONING;
 - (v) PREPARE A CERTIFICATE OF NON-CONFORMANCE OR CLEARANCE FOR REPAIR/RENOVATION ON NON-CONFORMING USES IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES PRESCRIBED IN THE CITY'S OR MUNICIPALITY'S ZONING ORDINANCE.

SEC. 6. After public consultation with the stakeholders and approval by the sanggunian, the UPD Office, through the local chief executive, shall submit a copy of the 10-year urban master plan to the Bureau of Local Government Supervision of the Department of Interior and Local Government. The Bureau of Local Government Supervision shall monitor the compliance of the city or municipality based on the approved urban master plan.

SEC. 7. Appropriations. - The appropriations for the permanent position herein created, including other related budget for its office, shall be included in the annual budget of the local government unit concerned of the year following the approval of this Act, and thereafter.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. - If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, parts of provisions of this Act that are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, implementing rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

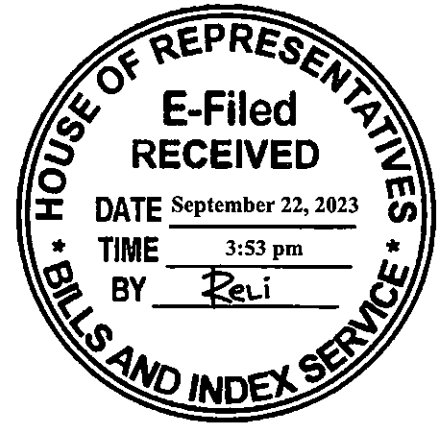
SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9288



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

World Risk Index gave the Philippines an index score of 46.86 making it the number one most-disaster prone country in the world because of high risk, exposure, and vulnerability.¹ Further, according to the Global Risks Report 2023 by the World Economic Forum, the top five (5) risks that the Philippines faced are (1) the natural disasters and extreme weather events; (2) debt crisis; (3) rapid and sustained inflation; (4) misinformation; and (5) geopolitical contestation of resources.²

Furthermore, geographical location and physical characteristics of the Philippines contribute to its exposure to disasters. Annually, an average of twenty (20) typhoons enter the Philippine area of responsibility with the most intense between July and October. The rains brought about by typhoons and the monsoon causes severe flooding, which is another hazard the country is facing.³ The main reason for these disasters is the climate change wherein the impacts are immense.

In the Province of Bohol, there has been an increasing frequency and intensity of El Niño and La Niña which affect the agriculture sector, the degradation of marine environment, and the trees are uncontrollably being cut in upland communities that increase the risk of soil erosion.⁴ Moreover, there is the reported unusual rise in sea levels that impact the lives, livelihood, and the future of their island residents.

In the islands off the towns of Calape, Tubigon, and other islands, sea levels have risen during high tides that have been recorded to reach nearly a meter from the usual tide marks a decade ago.⁵

¹ [https://www.preventionweb.net/news/vulnerable-philippines-working-towards-climate-adaptation#:~:text=The%20WRI%20report%20gave%20the,\(Dela%20Pena%2C%202023\).](https://www.preventionweb.net/news/vulnerable-philippines-working-towards-climate-adaptation#:~:text=The%20WRI%20report%20gave%20the,(Dela%20Pena%2C%202023).)

² https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risks_Report_2023.pdf

³ <https://www.apn-gcr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/4de42b9c9358d1d886fbo141319f342d.pdf>

⁴ https://ppdo.bohol.gov.ph/BIAD_Proposals/BIAD3/BIAD%203%20Disaster%20Risk%20Management%20Project.pdf

⁵ <https://pia.gov.ph/news/2021/07/20/chatto-to-bohol-lgus-declare-climate-change-emergency>

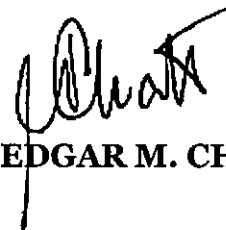
Because the impacts of climate change are getting worse, the Province of Bohol have passed Provincial Ordinance No. 2023-010 creating the Committee on Climate Change as a regular standing committee of the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*.

The local government units (LGUs) play a major role in promoting climate change adaptation, which must be considered an integral element of development and poverty reduction efforts. As such, LGUs must take proactive measures to assist people in coping with the impacts of climate change.

In this regard, this bill is timely which seeks the creation of a standing Committee on Climate Change in every LGU, thus, amending Section 50 (b) (1) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991". This Committee is mandated, among others, to propose ordinances or resolutions which will address specific environmental concerns of the concerned LGU, recommend annual budgetary allocations on plans, projects, and activities for the protection and preservation of the environment, and coordinate with relevant government agencies, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, academe, and private sectors on environmental plans, projects, and programs.

Considering that the impacts of climate change are mostly felt at the local level, the creation of this Committee in every LGU will lead to effective adaptation solutions tailored to a specific location. Additionally, there is a need to entrench local knowledge on adaptation measures and disaster risk reduction programs to make them more comprehensive and accurate to the needs of the LGUs.

In light of the foregoing considerations, the passage of this bill is immediately sought.



REP. EDGAR M. CHATTO

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9288

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

**“AN ACT
MANDATING THE CREATION OF A COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE
FOR EVERY SANGGUNIAN”**

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 “Committee on Climate Change”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is declared the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of every Filipino to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Considering the importance of sectoral concerns in local legislations, the State shall mandate each local government unit to create a localized Committee on Climate Change which will address legislation related to the restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems, environmental protection concerns, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction programs.

SEC. 3. Scope. – All matters directly and principally relating to policies, programs, strategies, practices, technologies, and innovation addressing climate change causes and impacts, including but not limited, to avoidance and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, climate risk management to enhance adaptive capacity and reduce vulnerability to climate risks, all matters relating to adaptation and mitigation to enhance resilience, promotion of sustainable development including disciplines like disaster management, disaster mitigation, disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness in the province, city, or municipality, and related issues and concerns, shall be within the scope of the Committee on Climate Change.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- a. *Adaptation* refers to the adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities;

- b. *Climate Change* refers to a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods;
- c. *Disaster risk reduction* refers to refers to the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events;
- d. *Mitigation*, in the context of climate change, refers to human intervention to address anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases, including ozone-depleting substances and their substitutes.

SEC. 5. *Creation and Composition of the Committee.* – In addition to the standing committees provided in Section 50 (b) (1) of Republic Act No. 7160, or the “Local Government Code of 1991, a Committee on Climate Change, which shall be an independent committee, shall be established in every province, city, or municipality.

The Committee on Climate Change shall be composed of one (1) chairperson, one (1) vice-chairperson, and at least one (1) member. The chairperson and vice chairperson shall be elected by a majority votes of the members.

SEC. 6. *Powers and Functions of the Committee.* – The Committee on Climate Change shall exercise and perform the following powers and functions:

- a. Propose ordinances or resolutions which address specific environmental concerns of the province, city, or municipality, including but not limited to climate change mitigation and adaptation, climate risks, effects of extreme weather, and disaster risk reduction;
- b. Recommend to the *Sanggunian* concerned annual budgetary allocations and plans, projects, and activities for the protection and preservation of the environment and all matter concerning, but not limited to, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction; and
- c. Coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other relevant government agencies, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, academe, and private sectors on environmental plans, projects, and programs.

Such other powers and functions as may be necessary and incidental for the performance of their mandate.

SEC. 7. *Meetings and Quorum.* – In accordance with Sections 52 and 53 of R.A. No. 7160, the Committee shall meet at least once a week or as often as may be necessary. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 8. *Compensation and Remuneration* – The chairman, vice- chairman, and members of the provincial, city or municipal Committee on Climate Change shall perform their duties without additional compensation or remuneration.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, orders, resolutions, instructions, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,