

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10692, November 03, 2015 ]**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE  
PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL  
SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA), PROVIDING FUNDS  
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION. 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as “The PAGASA Modernization Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to utilize scientific and technical knowledge and information as an effective instrument to ensure the safety, well-being and economic security of the people; to safeguard the environment; and to promote national progress and sustainable socioeconomic development through various applications of meteorology, geophysics, astronomy and allied sciences. The State also recognizes the need to strengthen the capability of government personnel tasked to provide atmospheric, geophysical, astronomical and other weather and climate-related services and information to the public. Towards this end, the State shall undertake the modernization of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) to improve its technological operational capacity, strengthen its role as the premier national weather agency and to attain its vision as a center of excellence for weather-related information services.

SEC. 3. *Mandate of the PAGASA.* – The PAGASA shall provide adequate, up-to-date data, and timely information on atmospheric, astronomical and other weather-related phenomena using the advances achieved in the realm of science to help government and the people prepare for calamities caused by typhoons, floods, landslides, storm surges, extreme climatic events, and climate change, among others, to afford greater protection to the people. It shall also provide science and technology-based assessments pertinent to decision-making in relevant areas of concern such as in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and integrated water resources management, as well as capacity building. The PAGASA shall ensure that the country fulfills its commitments to international meteorological and climate change agreements.

SEC. 4. *Objectives.* – Pursuant to the foregoing policy, the PAGASA Modernization Program shall be implemented in accordance with the following objectives:

(a) To upgrade physical resources and operational techniques through acquisition and development of state-of-the-art instruments, equipment, facilities and systems to enhance current capabilities in providing useful, timely, accurate and reliable weather, flood and climate monitoring, forecasting, and localized warning and information services for use in decision-making in disaster preparedness, climate

change adaptation, water resources management, agriculture, transportation, health, tourism and other sectors;

(b) To enhance research and development capabilities by adopting a rationalized and integrated approach with focus on the improvement of basic operations and specialized services;

(c) To integrate disaster risk reduction and management, climate change adaptation and water resources management in the sustainable socioeconomic development planning at the national and local levels in coordination with appropriate government agencies and other entities;

(d) To strengthen linkages and cooperation at the national level among the various providers and users of weather, climate, and water-related information, products and services as well as to provide for the appropriate mechanisms for this purpose;

(e) To establish and enhance field weather service centers in strategic areas in the country to broaden the agency base for the delivery of service in the countryside;

(f) To strengthen a technology-based data center consistent with international standards to make information available to those involved, whether from the government or private sector in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans, Climate Change Adaptation Program and Water Resources Program, among others;

(g) To enhance public information, education and advocacy on atmospheric, astronomical and hydro meteorological hazards such as heavy rainfall, strong winds, floods, landslides, storm surges, droughts, extreme weather and climatic events, and climate change, as well as their impacts, risks and vulnerability;

(h) To facilitate the appropriate appreciation and delivery of information, products and services to decision makers, media, other users and the general public; and

(i) To provide a more competitive base pay and other benefits for its personnel in order to promote professionalism and commitment to the service.

**SEC. 5. *Organizational Structure.*** – The PAGASA shall be an attached agency of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for purposes of policy and program coordination, to ensure alignment in national science and technology policies and priorities. It shall be headed by an Administrator with the rank and compensation of a Department Undersecretary who shall be appointed by the President upon recommendation by the Secretary of the DOST.

The Administrator shall be assisted by three (3) Deputy Administrators for Operations and Regional Services, Research and Development and Administration, Finance and Engineering Services, to be appointed by the President.

**SEC. 6. *Qualifications.*** – No person shall be appointed as Administrator or Deputy Administrator unless that person is a citizen and resident of the Philippines, of good moral character, of proven integrity, with an advanced degree in Meteorology or related fields of study, and with at least five (5) years of competence and expertise in meteorology, geophysics, astronomy or allied sciences: *Provided*, That the Administrator and the two (2) Deputy Administrators shall be career executive officers.

SEC. 7. *Components of Modernization.* – The PAGASA modernization shall have the following components:

(a) Modernization of Physical Resources and Operational Techniques. – This shall entail the acquisition and/or upgrade of state-of-the-art instruments, equipment, facilities and systems, with emphasis on weather and flood monitoring and warning system and agro-meteorological observation system to strengthen services for agriculture and food security: *Provided, That* prior to such acquisition and/or upgrade, an inventory of all existing government and private weather instruments nationwide shall be undertaken: *Provided, further, That* the acquisition of new instruments, equipment and systems shall be harmonized with the phase-out of uneconomical and obsolete instruments, equipment and systems in the PAGASA inventory;

(b) Enhancement of Research and Development Capability. – This shall involve the enhancement of research and development capability through a more rationalized and totally integrated, approach and identified activities, with focus on improvement of operations, as well as the development of specialized services with cost recovery measures:

(c) Establishment of Regional Weather Service Centers. – This shall include the establishment of flood forecasting and warning sub-centers in strategic areas in the country to broaden the agency base for delivery of service to the countryside;

(d) Establishment of PAGASA Data Center. – This shall include the centralization of the different technical outputs which include facts, figures and statistics derived from the PAGASA operations and systems, through the establishment of a technology-based data-center that is consistent with international standards in order to make atmospheric, astronomical and weather-related information accessible and readily available to all government agencies involved in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and management, the academe, researchers, media and the general public.

(e) Enhancement of Weather Data Collection and Information Dissemination Services. – This shall involve the development and use of effective weather information method using local dialects, nontechnical terms and familiar graphical presentations that will ensure the delivery of accurate, up-to-date and timely atmospheric, astronomical and weather-related information to create greater public awareness and draw appropriate response for disaster risk reduction: *Provided, That* PAGASA should partner with, other government agencies and private entities for the collection and dissemination of weather data and information.

(f) Creation of a Human Resource Development Program. – This component shall include the following:

(i) New Salary Scale for PAGASA Personnel. – The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall develop a new salary scale for PAGASA personnel in consonance with Republic Act No. 8439, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and other Science and Technology Personnel in Government" with a corresponding increase in the base pay, allowances and other benefits;

(ii) PAGASA Personnel Retention Incentive. – An additional incentive to be known as the "Personnel Retention Incentive" shall be provided to qualified PAGASA personnel,