

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 766, June 20, 1952 ]**

**AN ACT TO SAFEGUARD LIFE AND PROPERTY AGAINST VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS AND DANGERS BY CREATING A COMMISSION ON VOLCANOLOGY AND PROVIDING RELIEF FOR THE VICTIMS OF SUCH CALAMITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

SECTION 1. For the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act, there is hereby created under the Executive Board, National Research Council, an office to be known as the Commission on Volcanology.

SEC. 2. The Commission on Volcanology shall be composed of the Director of Mines, the Director of the Weather Bureau, the Chairman of the Section on Geology, Seismology and Volcanology of the National Research Council, the head of the Department of Geology, University of the Philippines, and a representative of the Geological Society of the Philippines. Said members shall elect among themselves a Chairman who shall serve for a term of one year and until his successor is duly elected and has qualified as such. All the members shall serve without compensation. There shall be in said Commission such personnel and other employees to be appointed by the Executive Board, National Research Council, upon the recommendation of the Commission on Volcanology, as may be required to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 3. The Commission shall have the following powers and duties.

1. To investigate and conduct studies of all active Philippine volcanoes;
2. To establish necessary facilities in order to predict their eruption in advance, if possible;
3. To formulate in advance and in detail specific plans of action and of relief in the event of the eruption of any volcano;
4. To recommend to the President of the Philippines such measures as may be necessary to protect life and property in areas which may be affected by volcanic eruptions, including the declaration of certain areas as closed to human habitation or subject to regulation, as provided in section four hereof; and
5. To perform such other duties as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 4. Whenever public interest and safety shall so demand, the President of the Philippines may, upon the recommendation of the Commission on Volcanology, declare any area affected by or exposed to volcanic eruptions and dangers closed to