

# [ PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 78, December 08, 1972 ]

## ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

**WHEREAS**, there were pending before Congress prior to the promulgation of Proclamation No. 1081, dated September 21, 1972, certain priority measures vital to the national development program of the Government, and which were duly certified by the President as urgent measures;

**WHEREAS**, one of these priority measures is the "Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Science Act of 1972," S. No. 940, establishing the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration, introduced in the Senate;

**WHEREAS**, the "Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Science Act of 1972" is necessary for the successful prosecution of the Government's program to mitigate or reduce the losses to life, property, and the economy of the nation occasioned by typhoons, floods, droughts, and other destructive weather disturbances;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS**, Commander-in-Chief of all the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and pursuant to Proclamation No. 1081, dated September 21, 1972, as amended, in order to achieve the Government's avowed objective of providing environmental protection and utilizing scientific knowledge as an effective instrument to ensure the safety, well-being, and economic security of all the people, and for the promotion of national progress, do hereby order and decree that the "Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Science Act of 1972," as follows, with some modifications, shall be as it is hereby adopted, approved and made part of the law of the land:

**SECTION 1. Title.** — This Act shall be known and cited as the "Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Science Act of 1972."

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** — It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to provide protection against natural calamities and utilize scientific knowledge as an effective instrument to insure the safety, well-being, and economic security of all the people, and for promotion of national progress.

In the implementation of the foregoing policy, the Government shall in accordance with the provisions of this Act:

- a. Intensify research efforts in the atmospheric, geophysical and astronomical sciences and furnish incentives for same;
- b. Undertake measures to further minimize the adverse effects of natural disasters such as typhoons, floods, earthquakes, and tsunamis (seismic sea wave);
- c. Recommend progressive innovations in the educational system of the country in order to infuse greater awareness of the growing needs for protection against natural calamities so that said system will provide a steady source of competent scientific personnel and technological manpower;

- d. Facilitate the acquisition, collection, archiving, and processing of atmospheric geophysical and astronomical data and making same available in usable form for the benefit of agriculture, commerce and industry, and the general public;
- e. Promote coordination and cooperation in atmospheric, geophysical and astronomical science research, to obtain consolidated efforts and minimize duplication thereby optimizing results;
- f. Establish weather stations in strategic places throughout the country including Batanes, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon, Samar and Romblon.

**SEC. 3.** Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services: Powers Duties and Functions. — To carry out the provisions of the preceding section, there is hereby created a Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration herein referred to as "PAG-ASA" which shall be under the Department of National Defense with the following functions, powers and duties, among others:

- a. To observe and report the weather of the Philippines and specified adjacent areas issue forecasts and warnings of weather and flood conditions affecting national safety, welfare and economy;
- b. To undertake in coordination with other agencies, activities geared towards the moderation of typhoons availing of modern scientific and technological advances in order to reduce their destructive potentials while retaining their beneficial effects and also to undertake other weather modification projects;
- c. To conduct continuous earthquake recording and observation through an adequate seismological network throughout the country to gather as much information as may be necessary to provide basis for determination of safety factors in the design of building structures and infrastructures and also to serve as contributions to researches leading to earthquake prediction; issue advisories and precautionary measures to areas affected by strong earthquakes for the welfare of the people thereat;
- d. To coordinate with international organizations in tsunami (seismic sea wave) and typhoon warning dissemination particularly to the coastal regions of the Philippines bound to be affected;
- e. To provide and disseminate the precise standard time of the Philippines; to maintain and operate an adequate satellite tracking and monitoring system especially for weather surveillance and for other astronomical information; to observe, analyze and interpret varied astronomical phenomena and collate observational data for publication and exchange with foreign observatories;
- f. To provide for an adequate communications system for efficient reception and transmission of meteorological, seismic and astronomical reports or information from field stations throughout the country and to provide the same for an efficient international weather communication system for exchange of weather information with other countries as reported from land, sea and air;
- g. To coordinate with other national agencies in pre-disaster and community preparedness planning to minimize losses of lives and property due to natural disasters such as typhoons, floods, earthquakes, and tsunami;
- h. To collect, process, archive, publish, disseminate atmospheric, geophysical and astronomical data for use by agriculture, commerce, industry, the scientific and engineering community, and the general public; and coordinate national

activities in meteorological, geophysical and astronomical data problems with the world scientific organizations;

- i. To conduct fundamental and applied research and investigations and experiments needed to achieve advances in applied meteorological, geophysical and astronomical fields in cooperation with the University of the Philippines and other science agencies; and provide the training facilities to meet the country's need for meteorological, geophysical and astronomical personnel; and
- j. To accept donations in the form of equipment, scholarship awards, sites for stations, buildings, etc., from local and/or foreign sources to promote the objectives of the PAG-ASA.

**SEC. 4. *Major Organizational Units: Powers, Duties and Functions.*** — The PAG-ASA shall be composed of the following major organizational units: National Weather Service, National Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Information Service, and National Institute of Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Sciences.

- a. The National Weather Service shall undertake operational activities pertaining to the observation, moderation, modification and reporting of the weather within the Philippine area of responsibility and issue forecasts and warnings of weather and flood conditions affecting national safety, welfare and economy.
- b. The National Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Data Service shall undertake activities concerning the acquisition, collection, quality control, processing and archiving of atmospheric and allied data, to include among others, meteorological, seismic, oceanographic and astronomical data and observations and making same available in usable form for the benefit of agriculture, commerce and industry. This Service shall also conduct continuing studies of Philippine Climatology, Agrometeorology, Solar Radiation; Wind Effects, or Gustiness and other such technological studies vital to national progress.
- c. The National Geophysical and Astronomical Service shall undertake activities or observations and studies of Geophysical and Astronomical phenomena essential for the safety and welfare of the people and also for the economy of the country. The Service shall issue bulletins and/or technical advice to the public in case of significant geophysical events like severe earthquake's, and tsunami, and shall also serve as the official time service agency of the Philippines.
- d. The National Institute of Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Sciences shall undertake activities to develop a high level of knowledge in the atmospheric, geophysical and astronomical sciences to provide for an adequate manpower supply of well-trained scientists and technological personnel in the country with respect to these fields. The Institute shall also conduct researches in Atmospheric Science (especially in weather modification among others), in Geophysics and in Astronomy.

**SEC. 5. *Administrator, Head of Major Organizational Units, Other Personnel.*** — The PAG-ASA shall be headed by an Administrator with a compensation equivalent to that of a class-A Bureau. The Administrator shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, subject to the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments. He shall hold office during good behavior and shall not be removed therefrom except for cause. He shall be a citizen of the Philippines with proven executive ability who shall have distinguished himself in science and technology: *Provided*, That no one shall be appointed Administrator who is already holding an appointive or elective position in