



DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND THE IMMEDIATE NEED TO CONSOLIDATE GOVERNMENT DATA TO GENERATE A NATIONWIDE CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT

National Panel of Technical Experts
Climate Change Commission

Exactly 30 years ago, the United Nations General Assembly met for the very first time to discuss the Framework for Negotiations on Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Three decades of negotiations later, 2020 marks an unprecedented level of CO₂ with at least 410 parts per million (ppm), a 17% increase since its 1990. [With the resulting increase in global average temperature and a chain reaction of environmental changes, we are left to contend with the consequences of human-induced climate change. It is time to shift from using the term “climate change” – a declaration of an observation, to “climate emergency” – a call to action.] Last year, forty-one economies including 28 European Union member states have signed a climate emergency declaration.

[As one of the most climatically-vulnerable countries in the world, the Philippines should mobilize its people, institutions, and resources to enhance its ability to prepare and even prosper amidst the climate emergency.] What is initially required is to identify the cities and municipalities that are at most risk to the deepening climate emergency. Being that climate risk is a combination of various aspects of natural hazards (H), level and extent of exposure (E) to such hazards, and inherent vulnerabilities (V) of communities, datasets representing H, E, and V need to come together into a single platform where they can be analyzed. These datasets are available in different government agencies including but not limited to DA, DENR, DOST, DILG, DOH, DPWH, Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA), and NAMRIA.

[The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is in the best position to gather and analyze these datasets and produce a baseline climate risk assessment at a city/municipal scale.] Furthermore, such information will naturally set in motion what adaptation measures our LGUs should focus into, drive financing and funding such as the People's Survival Fund (PSF) towards communities that are most in need, and provide a platform to track our progress in our quest to be able to achieve a level of adaptation to climate change.

In view of this, the NPTE recommends that the CCC assemble a team of GIS specialists, remote sensing image analysts and data scientists which can lead the gathering, integration, and analysis of data. The NPTE urges the CCC to fast track its efforts in gathering relevant data from government agencies so that the team can begin the critical work of climate risk assessment. The NPTE will work with the CCC team in the analysis of climate risk once the database is in place.


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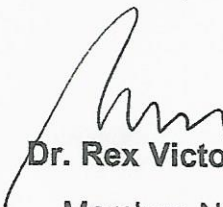



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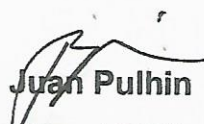

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