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**SENATE**

**S. B. NO. 2558**

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Introduced by **SENATOR JUAN PONCE ENRILE**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Climate change has become a concern for survival over the past years. The Philippines is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, not merely because of its archipelagic nature and economic state but, to a great extent, our vulnerability has been exacerbated by the way government has addressed the climate crisis.

Thus, to enable the government to address climate change, Congress enacted R.A. 9729 otherwise known as the "Climate Change Act of 2009" which also created the Climate Change Commission. However, since its creation, the Climate Change Commission has yet to formulate policies necessary to implement its mandate. Moreover, it has yet to provide the financial policy necessary to effectuate the mandate of the law, caused mainly by the seeming vagueness in relevant provisions, resulting to incoherent and inconsistent funding priorities. Consequently, the country inadvertently suffered from foregone funding opportunities. Indeed, there is a need to review the existing policy framework and mechanism, and wherever needed, strengthen the same to ensure transparency and accountability in the proper utilization and management of climate finance.

Currently, governance chaos reigns over the administration of climate finance that has already entered the national coffers, and of funds still expected to be made available from foreign sources. More international climate finance has gone to mitigation efforts instead of adaptation activities. Worse, it appears that most of the resources allocated for adaptation programs and projects have come in the form of loans. This is contrary to the position championed by the Philippines abroad, which calls for climate finance to be channeled neither as aid nor charity, but in context and by design as compensatory funding.

As a clear manifestation of the country's firm commitment to address the issues of climate change, this legislative measure seeks to establish the People's Survival Fund to finance adaptation programs and projects that are directly supportive of the objectives enumerated in the Climate Change Action Plans of the local government units. The Fund shall be taken from different sources including but not limited to the following, namely: (a) the General Appropriations Act; (b) part of the cash dividends declared by all Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations; (c) a portion of the Certified Emission Reduction earned under the clean development mechanism; and (d) a portion of the Motor Vehicle User's Charge. The Fund shall be used to support different programs and projects of climate change adaptation as stated in our



national goals and objectives, with utmost regards to transparency, equitability and accountability.

The establishment of the Fund, as herein provided, the creation of the People's Survival Fund Board for its administration and institutional measures, and the other amendments to RA 9729 are geared towards the observance of the necessary standards of public accountability as we endeavor to equip the government through concerned agencies and offices with the policy framework most relevant in addressing climate change. Thus, all resources and power borne out of such duty must be used in the most efficient, economical and honest manner to ensure that public interest is best served.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



**JUAN PONCE ENRILE**  
Senator