

ENVIRONMENTAL COURT CASES ACROSS THE WORLD

Climate
Change

GLOBAL LEGAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE V. THE PHILIPPINES GOVERNMENT

Philippines Supreme Court

LAWSUIT LEADS PHILIPPINES GOVERNMENT TO COMMIT TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACTION

Parties

Applicant: Global Legal Action on Climate Change (GLACC)

Defendants: Various government departments, including the Climate Change Commission, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Interior, and Local Government

Key Facts

Applicants sought relief from dangers arising from flooding, which is expected to worsen and become more extreme as climate change intensifies. The applicants asked the court to issue a writ of mandamus (an order for a government official to take a particular action) requiring the defendant government agencies to carry out the provisions of two flood control laws. The first law, Republic Act 6716 (“the Rainwater Collector and Springs Development Law”) requires each Filipino locality to own and maintain a rainwater collector to provide them with fresh drinking water in the event of flooding. The second, Act 7160 (also known as Local Code of 1991), sets forth the responsibilities of local governments with respect to water management. The applicants alleged that government actors are not complying with these two statutes, which will be increasingly harmful to residents of the typhoon-prone Philippines.

Outcome

In order to avoid a court order, the defendant government departments signed a Memorandum of Understanding and submitted a work plan committing them to carrying out the actions required in the flood control statutes.

Key Issues

Climate adaptation, flood prevention, settlement, government inaction

Laws and Agreements Cited

Domestic Law:
Filipino Constitution of 1987

Two statutes related to flood control (Republic Act 6716 “The Rainwater Collector and Springs Development Law” and Act 7160/Local Code of 1991)

References

More information on the case and settlement is available [here](#)

For more information:

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