


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'22 JUL -7 P 4 :02

SENATE
S. No. 158

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR "JV" G. EJERCITO

AN ACT
MANDATING THE FORMULATION AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF A
COMPREHENSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Progress takes time and to achieve progress, no time should be put to waste. Our government continue to build infrastructures to provide conveniences to our people's daily lives. However, with the increasing rates of population growth and urbanization, instituted reforms and significant achievements in infrastructure seems inadequate.

According to the 2019 World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report, the Philippines ranked 102nd in overall transport infrastructure, out of 141 countries. With the other components, we are still lagging in comparison with the other countries. In terms of the quality of road infrastructure, the Philippines ranked 88th, while 125th for road connectivity; in the efficiency of train services, the country ranked 88th; with respect to air connectivity, the Philippines ranked 26th, and 96th in the efficiency of air transport services; for efficiency of seaport services, the country ranked 88th, and 59th in liner shipping connectivity.¹ These are all manifested in the lingering problems of traffic congestion, worst mass public transportation, port congestion and air traffic that we are consistently experiencing.

¹ https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2019.pdf

We have witnessed the efforts of the Duterte Administration to support the development of infrastructure in the country. The renowned Build, Build, Build Program of the Duterte administration proved that such an ambitious program can be realized. Indeed, upgrading the infrastructure of the country is crucial in promoting economic growth and development, not only in the cities but also in the rural areas. We need continuity of the projects and plans in order to sustain and to continue to improve the economic impact of such.

In line with this, the proposed measure mandates the creation of a Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Master Plan. This will serve as a blueprint for the different departments of the government in the construction, upgrading, and improvement of the infrastructure projects all over the country in the next thirty years or more. It aims to create a developed, integrated and coordinated infrastructure development.

Everything shall be built for a purpose. Roads built will lead to homes; bridges shall connect businesses separated by bodies of water. These roads and bridges shall be lit and electrified, as well as villages. An efficient water and sewage system shall be in place to ensure a healthful environment. A comprehensive master plan shall not only produce edifices but a well-rounded Philippine Society.

This blueprint shall be the handbook for local and national infrastructure development. Every piece of public work shall comply with its minimum requirements. Such standardization will lead to a more organized systematic process of construction.

Socio-economic development will rapidly find its way to every household. Thru this master plan, there will no longer be a place for impulsive and careless constructions. This also deters corruption in public works as this set standards and any subpar structure will be clearly noticeable.

Having a long term plan entices foreign investors to do and establish business in the country having assured that continued development will bring them more profit. More businesses would mean more job opportunities for our fellow Filipinos and

stimulate growth in the countryside. This proposed measure would be a catch all law, addressing the economic, social and infrastructure development of our country.

The enactment into law of this legislative measure will ensure that the infrastructure projects in the Master Plan will continue, despite changes in administration. Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a horizontal line followed by a stylized, cursive 'JV' and a short horizontal stroke.

JOSEPH VICTOR "JV" G. EJERCITO

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Comprehensive
2 Infrastructure Development Master Plan".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to provide
4 an efficient and integrated infrastructure system to promote sustainable development
5 and inclusive economic growth across the country. The State also recognizes the
6 crucial role of public investment in infrastructure and human capital geared towards
7 job creation and promoting economic growth.

8 Toward this end, the State shall undertake to develop reforms in infrastructure
9 planning to achieve higher economic growth trajectory and improve the quality of life
10 of the Filipinos.

11 Sec. 3. *Formulation of a Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Master*
12 *Plan.* – The National Economic Development Authority NEDA Board Executive
13 Committee (NEDA Board), organized under Administrative Order No. 8, series of 2017,
14 is hereby mandated to formulate a Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Master
15 Plan, hereinafter referred to as "Master Plan", that will serve as a blueprint for
16 investment planning towards a strategic infrastructure development.

1 The Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Master Plan shall include the
2 priorities, schedules, and phases of implementation of the projects and activities as
3 well as the estimated funding requirements and financing modalities for the following:

- 4 a. Transportation and Logistics Infrastructure Program;
- 5 b. Energy Infrastructure Program;
- 6 c. Water Resources Infrastructure Program;
- 7 d. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Infrastructure Program;
- 8 e. Social Infrastructure Program;
- 9 f. Agri-Fisheries Modernization and Food Logistics Infrastructure Program; and
- 10 g. Asset Preservation and Maintenance Strategies.

11 Sec. 4. *Infrastructure Development Thrust* – The NEDA Board, in preparing the
12 Master Plan including amendments thereto, shall consider the following thrust:

- 13 a. Establishment and pursuit of a whole-of-government approach to coordinate
14 infrastructure investment planning and implementation that promotes
15 collaboration among key actors;
- 16 b. Development of an efficient, safe, economical, accessible, affordable, reliable
17 integrated, seamless, and environmentally sustainable national infrastructure
18 system.
- 19 c. Adoption of appropriate infrastructure risk management measures, including
20 risk identification, allocation, and mitigation, in project development and
21 management;
- 22 d. Incorporation of green and sustainable design, climate change adaptation and
23 disaster resilience measures, as well as updated strength, safety, health and
24 environmental standards in the design and construction of infrastructure
25 projects;
- 26 e. Establishment of a strategic national transport network consisting of
27 complementary roads, railways, ports, and airports that serve medium and
28 long-distance high-density traffic between key cities and municipalities,
29 economic hubs, international gateways and major corridors in urban centers.
- 30 f. Promotion of public consultation and feedback mechanisms on infrastructure
31 investment priorities and projects at the national and local levels;

1 g. Preferential use of quality construction materials that have a high domestic
2 content, especially those that use sustainable materials and appropriate
3 technology; and

4 h. Emphasis on food security infrastructure that will ensure the smooth flow of
5 cargo across the archipelago.

6 *Sec. 6. Consideration of Approved National Infrastructure Projects.* – The
7 infrastructure projects approved by the NEDA Board before the effectivity of this Act
8 shall be given due consideration in the formulation and implementation of the
9 Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Master Plan.

10 *Sec. 7. Submission to Congress.* – Every quarter after the enactment of this
11 Act, the NEDA Board shall submit to Congress, progress reports on the formulation of
12 the Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Master Plan until its final approval. In
13 the same manner, Congress shall be notified of any amendments to the approved
14 Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Master Plan.

15 *Sec. 8. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC).*– A Congressional
16 Oversight Committee is hereby created to monitor and oversee the implementation of
17 this Act. The Committee shall be composed of six (6) members from the Senate and
18 six (6) members from the House of Representatives. The JCOC shall be headed by the
19 Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Economic Affairs and Committee of Public
20 Works, and the Chairperson of the House Committee on Economic Affairs and
21 Committee on Public Works and Highways. The other members of the Committee shall
22 be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House, respectively.
23 The Minority shall have at least two (2) representatives from both chambers.

24 *Sec. 9. Appropriations.* – The initial funding requirements for the
25 implementation of this Act shall be charged against existing appropriations of the
26 member-agencies of the NEDA Board and such other appropriate funding sources as
27 the DBM may identify, subject to relevant laws, rules and regulations. Thereafter, such
28 sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be
29 included in the General Appropriations Act.

30 *Sec. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days of the
31 approval of this Act, the NEDA Board, in consultation with stakeholders from the public
32 and private sector, including local government units, business groups, community

1 organizations, and non-government organizations, shall formulate the implementing
2 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the law.

3 *Sec. 11. Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
4 unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force
5 and effect.

6 *Sec. 12. Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
7 parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
8 hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

9 *Sec. 13. Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect immediately after fifteen (15) days
10 from its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,