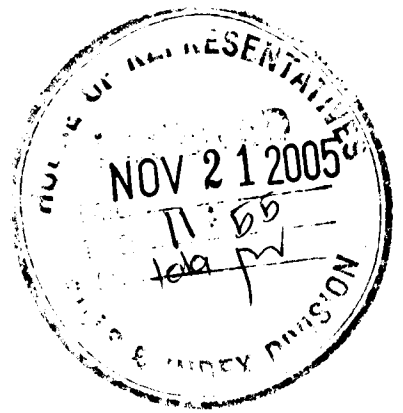


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

4920

HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by: HONORABLE AUGUSTO H. BACULIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As a state policy, it is the principal duty of the government to facilitate and advance the linkages among people at the effective movement of goods and services. Further, it is declared, that the State shall promote socio-economic development, equitable allocation of resources and opportunities and the establishment of an efficient, reliable, safe, affordable and viable railway system.

In furtherance of these principles, the government must exert all possible efforts to implement a railway system in the country particularly in the Island of Mindanao, being the premier business and tourists area in the south.

Hence, this bill seeks to create the Mindanao Railway Office, which shall be under the Department of Transportation and Communication, which shall act as the primary project office to vigorously pursue the implementation of the Mindanao Railway System and closely ensure the effective formulation of policies, operation, maintenance and development of the system.

With this, immediate passage of this measure is imperative and earnestly sought.


REP. AUGUSTO H. BACULIO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4920

Introduced by: HONORABLE AUGUSTO H. BACULIO

AN ACT

CREATING THE MINDANAO RAILWAY OFFICE UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote socio-economic development, equitable allocation of resources and opportunities and the establishment of an efficient, reliable, safe, affordable and viable railway system. The primary duty of the government is to facilitate and advance the linkages among people and the effective movement of goods and services.

SEC. 2. Creation of the Mindanao Railway Office. - The Mindanao Railway Office is hereby created under the Department of Transportation and Communication, which shall be the foremost project office to review and consolidate all plans relating to the Mindanao Railway Project and formulate the policy and operational requirements of the said Project.

The Office shall be composed of a Project Management Officer, a Deputy Project Management Officer and a limited number of technical staff as may be allowed in the exigency of the service.

Sec. 3. Powers and Functions. - The Office shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. To pursue the development and implementation of railway projects in the Island of Mindanao.
- b. Review and consolidate all plans relating to the establishment of the Mindanao Railways.
- c. Develop, in coordination with all other agencies concerned, a master plan for the Mindanao Railways and for this purpose formulate or cause to be formulated engineering studies.

- d. Undertake the implementation of the said plans and programs and toward this end, to enter into contracts subject to existing laws and regulations for the procurement of equipment, construction of facilities and the installation of the system.
- e. Arrange for funding from any source, private, government, foreign or domestic, including Official Development Assistance (ODA) from bilateral and multilateral agencies, to enable it to carry out its objectives subject to applicable laws and regulations.
- f. Coordinate with local and foreign consultants in order to avail of their expertise in railway operation.
- g. Conduct consultation meetings and public hearings with stakeholders, members of the local community, industry, local government units (LGU's), non-governmental organizations (NGO's), and people's organizations (PO's).
- h. Explore the best funding scheme suited for the Mindanao Railway Project that would provide the least budgetary cost on the part of the government such as the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT), Build-Own-Operate (BOO), Counter-Trade and other similar arrangements, and
- i. Perform such other powers and functions as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of this Act

SEC 4. Appropriation. - The amount needed to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Transportation and Communication shall issue the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved.