

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5505



Introduced by: Representatives Augusto H. Baculio; Janette L. Garin, M.D.; Judy J. Syjuco; Arthur C. Defensor; Ferjenel G. Biron; Rolex T. Suplico; Raul T. Gonzalez, Jr.; Fredenil H. Castro; Exequiel B. Javier; Rodriguez D. Dadivas and Florencio T. Miraflores

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to authorize the rehabilitation of the Panay Railways and the expansion of its operation to the Provinces of Aklan and Antique in the Island of Panay.

The Panay Railways that used to operate within the Provinces of Iloilo and Capiz had been a catalyst for the development and enhancement of the delivery of transport services for the many agricultural and industrial products in the Island of Panay. Ultimately, it provided an efficient and cost-effective transportation system for the mobility of the residents therein.

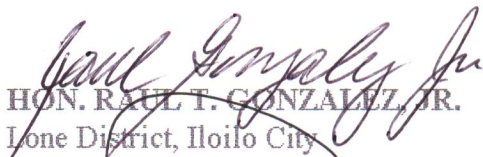
For several years, the said rail network contributed to the economic progress of the area. However, its constant use and operation had taken its toll against rail infrastructures thus major repair and rehabilitation is needed to make it efficiently workable and serviceable. The dilapidated condition of the Panay Railway may be closely addressed if government and private sector participation is secured with sincere assurances that our people in Panay would gain bountiful benefits from this mass-based facility. As the rehabilitation effort is the concern of the government, this bill seeks presidential intervention to allocate a portion of the budget not otherwise appropriated to turn this endeavor into reality.

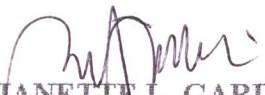
For purposes of this measure, private sector participation is albeit indispensable. Thus, this measure calls for international funding support through any scheme applicable under Philippine laws. This bill further encourages the application of financial grants and/or loans based on Republic Act 6957 otherwise known as the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law. Finally, the rehabilitation of the existing Iloilo City - Pavia - Sta. Barbara - Dingle - Passi City - Dumalag - Dumarao - Dao - Panit-an - Roxas City Line and the proposed expansion of said infrastructure project to the Provinces of Antique and Aklan would definitely propel the industrial and eco-tourism potentials of the entire Island.

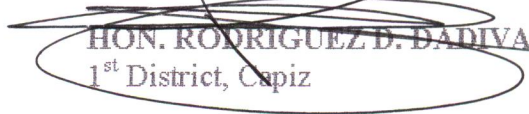
Consistent with our State policies in recognizing the indispensable role of the private sector as the main engine for national growth and development, this bill becomes imperative.

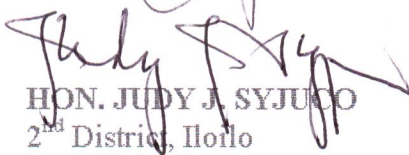
In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


HON. AUGUSTO H. BACULIO
2nd District, Misamis Oriental

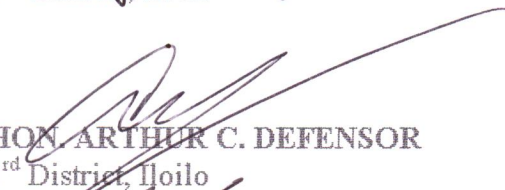

HON. RAUL T. GONZALEZ, JR.
Lone District, Iloilo City

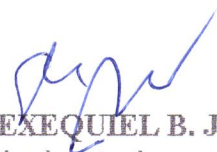

HON. JANETTE L. GARIN, M.D.
1st District, Iloilo

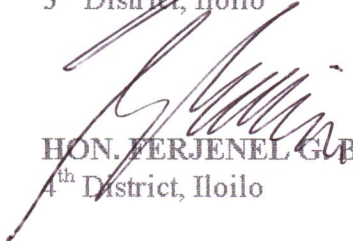

HON. RODRIGUEZ D. DADIVAS
1st District, Capiz


HON. JUDY J. SYJUCO
2nd District, Iloilo

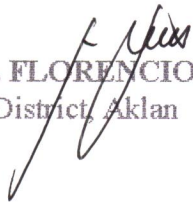
HON. FREDENIL H. CASTRO
2nd District, Capiz


HON. ARTHUR C. DEFENSOR
3rd District, Iloilo


HON. EZEQUIEL B. JAVIER
Lone District, Antique


HON. FERJENEL G. BIRON
4th District, Iloilo


HON. ROLEX T. SUPLICO
5th District, Iloilo


HON. FLORENCIO T. MIRAFLORES
Lone District, Aklan

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Introduced by: Representatives Augusto H. Baculio; Janette L. Garin, M.D.; Judy J. Syjuco; Arthur C. Defensor; Ferjenel G. Biron; Rolex T. Suplico; Raul T. Gonzalez, Jr.; Fredenil H. Castro; Exequiel B. Javier; Rodriguez D. Dadvivas and Florencio T. Miraflores

AN ACT

AUTHORIZING THE REHABILITATION OF THE PANAY RAILWAYS IN THE PROVINCES OF ILOILO AND CAPIZ AND THE EXPANSION OF ITS OPERATION TO THE PROVINCES OF AKLAN AND ANTIQUE IN THE ISLAND OF PANAY.

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

SECTION 1. The Panay Railways in the Provinces of Iloilo and Capiz, shall be rehabilitated and its operation expanded to the Provinces of Aklan and Antique through the Build-Operate-and-Transfer (BOT) scheme or any other modes or arrangements applicable under Philippine laws.

Sec. 2. The Department of Transportation and Communications, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways, shall undertake a comprehensive study of the Panay Railways rehabilitation and expansion programs, taking into consideration the tourism and ecozone potentials, including agro-industrial growth centers of the serviced areas and those to be serviced by said railway.

The Department of Public Works and Highways shall conduct investigations on the safety and efficiency of the rehabilitation program, and undertake land survey for areas to be acquired in the expansion program giving priority to growth centers based on population, trade and commercial viability.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Transportation and Communications shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. The amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the necessary expenses in the conduct of the comprehensive study, investigations on the safety and efficiency of the Panay Railways and to cover the initial costs of rehabilitation and expansion of the rail infrastructure facility.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,