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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1013**



Introduced by Hon. Jerry P. Treñas

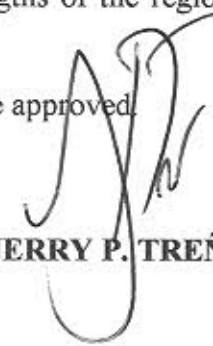
The creation of a Metro Iloilo-Guimaras Economic Development Council is a must to spur growth and development within the region. This bill was originally filed in the 15th Congress as House Bill No. 3956.

In order for a regional economic development strategy to succeed, it is necessary to bolster the effectiveness of inter-local government cooperation. Hence, as early as February 9, 2001, the City of Iloilo already created the Metropolitan Iloilo Development Council (MIDC). Subsequently, the Guimaras-Iloilo City Alliance was formed on May 22, 2005.

Through an executive order¹ issued on August 28, 2006, a regional economic development council was created encompassing the City of Iloilo, the Province of Guimaras, and the Iloilo Municipalities of Pavia, San Miguel, Oton, Leganes, and Sta. Barbara. The council proved effective in accelerating economic and tourism development in the Iloilo-Guimaras area. This proposed bill seeks to consolidate the functions of the existing council and solidify its existence by defining and strengthening its mandate.

The Western Visayas, where the Iloilo-Guimaras area is located, has already been tagged as having an inherent competitive edge in tourism. Moreover, it is considered by the national government as a priority area for investments. A Metro Iloilo-Guimaras Economic Development Council shall be able to capitalize on the identified inherent strengths of the region and boost commerce, industry and tourism in the area.

In view of the foregoing, I highly recommend that this bill be approved.



JERRY P. TREÑAS

¹ Executive Order No. 559, August 28, 2006

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**AN ACT CREATING THE METRO ILOILO-GUIMARAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives duly assembled:

Section 1. The Metro Iloilo-Guimaras Economic Development Council (MIGEDC), hereinafter referred to as the Council, is hereby created.

Section 2. Composition. The Council shall be composed of the following:

- a. The Mayor of Iloilo City as Chairperson
- b. The Provincial Governor of the Province of Guimaras as Co-Chairperson
- c. The Mayor of the Municipality of Pavia, Iloilo
- d. The Mayor of the Municipality of San Miguel, Iloilo
- e. The Mayor of the Municipality of Oton, Iloilo
- f. The Mayor of the Municipality of Leganes, Iloilo
- g. The Mayor of the Municipality of Sta. Barbara, Iloilo
- h. The President of the League of Municipalities of the Province of Guimaras

Section 3. Powers and Functions. The Council shall formulate, coordinate and monitor programs, projects and activities for the acceleration of the economic growth and development of the City of Iloilo, the Municipalities of Oton, San Miguel, Pavia, Leganes and Sta. Barbara, the entire Province of Iloilo, and the entire Province of Guimaras, in support of the regional economic development strategy of the national government. The Council shall specifically undertake to perform the following:

1. Formulate metro-wide plans and programs, coordinate and monitor delivery of services such as, but not limited to, public safety, tourism, economic promotion, infrastructure, land use planning and environmental management;
2. Institute metro-wide complementation of programs and projects for efficient utilization of the resources of Local Government Units (LGU);
3. Facilitate the sharing of manpower, financial and technical resources among the LGUs represented in the Council;
4. Receive grants, loans, national government subsidies, and assistance of any kind for its priority development programs and projects;
5. Serve as a forum for resolving local government issues which may arise among the represented LGUs in the council;
6. Perform any function in the furtherance of the growth and development of the Metro Iloilo-Guimaras area.

Section 4. In the discharge of its functions, the Council shall ensure appropriate coordination with the Regional Development Council (RDC) VI and other relevant local development councils.

Section 5. All departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the national government, including government-owned or controlled corporations and government financial institutions, shall extend full assistance to the Council in support of its programs, projects and activities.

Section 6. A regular yearly budget shall be provided by the LGUs represented in the Council for the purpose of carrying out the operations, programs, projects and activities of the Council.

Section 7. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 8. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 9. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,