

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6413

Introduced by Hon. Salvador B. Belaro Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The establishment of a space technology development and utilization framework in our country is an idea that has come of age.

With a strong and visionary national space policy, the Philippines can become a significant member and contributor to the global space community today and in the future. It can provide benefits to Filipinos, not just in the economic sense, but also in terms of societal benefits and social inclusivity.

Thus, there is a need for a national space program aimed at complementing research and development initiatives in our country, establishing our very own space agency and the application of space science and technology for the interest of the Filipino people and the rest of mankind.

In view of the foregoing considerations, passage of this important legislation is earnestly sought.


SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.
Representative
1-Ang Edukasyon Party List

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE SPACE DEVELOPMENT AND
UTILIZATION FRAMEWORK AND CREATING THE PHILIPPINE
SPACE AGENCY (PhilSA), DEFINING THE SCOPE OF ITS POWERS
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Space Act of 2017”.

SECTION 2. It is hereby declared the policy of the State:

- a) To safeguard Philippine sovereignty, territorial integrity, Philippine national interest, and the right to self-determination as mandated by the Article II, Section 7 of the 1987 Constitution;
- b) To support and commit to the development of science and technology that will foster patriotism and nationalism and accelerate social progress, such as the development of space and technology and applications for its security and for the benefit of our citizens;
- c) To ensure access to space and its environs as a sovereign right;

- d) To recognize that there is an urgent need to create a coherent and unified strategy for space development and utilization to keep up with other nations in terms of space science and technology;
- e) To ensure that the Philippines has official representation in the international space community for establishing cooperation agreements and linkages on space development;
- f) To ensure that the Philippines abides by the various international space treaties and principles promulgated by the United Nations and that it becomes an active participant in the international space community.

SECTION 3. The Philippine Space Development and Utilization Policy, or the Philippine Space Policy, will serve as the country's primary strategic roadmap for space development and embodies the country's central goal of becoming a capable and faring nation in space science.

It shall focus on areas of space science technology application (SSTA) that would address national issues, promote the efficient utilization of space assets, establish capacity-building measures for human resources development and enhance international cooperation and linkages.

SECTION 4. The Philippine Space Policy will focus on six (6) Key Development Areas (KDA) for SSTA development to ensure the State's sustained development:

- a) National Security and Development – The Philippines will focus on space applications that can preserve and enhance country's national security and promote development that is beneficial to all Filipinos;
- b) Hazard Management and Climate Studies – The Philippine will develop and utilize space science and technology applications to enhance our hazard management and disaster mitigation strategy as well as ensure the nation's resiliency to climate change;
- c) Space Research and Development – To spur rapid scientific growth, the Philippines will focus on conducting research and development endeavors in vital areas of space science, technology and allied fields;
- d) Space Industry Capacity Building – The Philippines will create a robust and thriving space industry to support the country's space program through private sector involvement and cooperation;

- e) Space Education and Awareness – The Philippines aims to establish a sustainable pool of trained space scientists, engineers and communicators that will be critical for the country's future space program and increasing public awareness on its value and benefits;
- f) International Cooperation – Through international partnerships and collaborations, the Philippines will become a key player in the ASEAN and global space-community by providing significant contributions and capabilities on SSTA.

SECTION 5. A Philippine Space Agency, hereinafter referred to as the "PhilSA", is hereby established as the central government agency addressing all national activities related to space science and technology applications.

The PhilSA shall be the primary administrative entity responsible for the planning, development and promotion of national space program in line with the Philippine Space Policy.

SECTION 6. The PhilSA shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- I. Policy and Planning Coordination
 - a. Assist the State in the creation, development and implementation of national and international space policies;
 - b. Plan, direct, manage and implement programs and projects relating to scientific space research and development, and its applications;
 - c. Take hold of financial assets such as cash, securities or other personal or moveable property by gift or bequest, and expend, administer or dispose of any such money, securities or property subject to terms, if any, on which the gift or bequest was made in such manner as shall best promote the objectives of PhilSA;
 - d. Implement the Philippine Space Development and Utilization Policy
 - e. Coordinate all space activities of various sectors and stakeholders in the Philippines;
 - f. Provide appropriate and accurate advice to the President of the Philippines and other government agencies on space-related issues and concerns

II. Improved Public Access and Resource-Sharing

- a. Develop, construct, acquire, manage, maintain and operate space research; development and operation facilities and systems on behalf of the Philippine government for use of various government agencies;
- b. Assist departments and other agencies of the State in the utilization of SSTA to aid in the performance of their respective mandates and duties

III. Research and Development

- a. Perform basic and applied research and development relating to SSTA in collaboration with universities, industries and other institutions;
- b. Design, develop and construct space systems and facilities necessary thereof, as well as launch, track and operate the satellites on behalf of the Philippine government;
- c. Promote the growth of space science and technology through research and development;

IV. Education and Capacity Building

- a. Establish programs that would develop space education and promote public awareness;
- b. Provide grants and contributions in support programs or projects relating to scientific or industrial space research and development, and application of space technology;
- c. Provide services and facilities for the use by entities conducting academic research and development relating to SSTA

V. Industry Development

- a. Promote the development of robust and vibrant local space industry and economy;
- b. Promote the transfer and diffusion of space technology throughout Philippine industries;
- c. Encourage the commercial use of space capabilities, technology, information, facilities and systems;
- d. Disseminate the results of research and development activities and promote the utilization thereof, except when information is deemed

confidential for national welfare and security and for the protection of intellectual property rights;

VI. International Cooperation

- a. Cooperate with space-related agencies of other countries in the peaceful use and development of space;
- b. Enter into contracts, memoranda of understanding/agreement or other arrangements in behalf of the State;
- c. Establish and maintain linkages with other national space agencies and organizations.

SECTION 7. The PhilSA shall be an attached agency of the Office of the President for purposes of policy and program coordination, to ensure alignment in national policies and priorities. It shall be headed by a Director General. The PhilSA proper shall be composed of the Office of the Director General, the Offices of the Deputy Directors and various Divisions to be created as deemed necessary.

SECTION 8. The astronomical and space-related functions of the following offices and units shall be transferred and consolidated to PhilSA, from its parent agency:

- a) Philippines Aerospace Development Corporation from the Department of Transportation
- b) Manila Planetarium from the National Museum
- c) Philippines Space Education Institute from the Department of Science and Technology

Non-Diminution of Mandates – Nothing in this Act shall diminish the functions and responsibilities of the foregoing support agencies.

SECTION 9. The PhilSA, Department of Budget and Management, Civil Service Commission, and other government agencies concerned shall formulate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 10. The Philippine Space Development Fund to be used exclusively for the PhilSA shall be administered by the Director General of PhilSA in accordance with existing government budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations. The fund shall be sourced from the following:

- a) The amount of ten billion pesos (P10,000,000,000.00) to be taken from the share of the National Government in the gross income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA). For five (5) years after the effectivity of this Act, an amount of two billion pesos (P2,000,000,000.00) per year shall be released to the PhilSA. The entire amount of ten billion pesos (P10,000,000,000.00), including any interest income thereon, shall be used exclusively for capital outlay;
- b) Income from specialized products, services and royalties produced by the PhilSA;
- c) Loans, contributions, grants, bequests, gifts, and donations whether from local or foreign sources. Provided, that acceptance of grants, bequests, contributions and donations from foreign governments shall be subject to the approval of the President upon the recommendation of the Director General of the PhilSA and Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Director General with the approval of the NEDA and subsequently the Department of Finance is hereby granted the authority to enter into loan agreements with foreign financial institutions.

SECTION 11. The sum of one billion pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated as initial operating fund of the PhilSA, taken from the current fiscal year's appropriation of the Office of the President, Department of Science and Technology, and Department of National Defense. Thereafter, the amount needed for the operation and maintenance of the PhilSA shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 12. If any provision hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 13. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. This act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved.