

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2679



Introduced by Rep. Wilfredo Mark M. Enverga

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our Constitution provides that the State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. In the pursuit of these goals, all sectors of the economy and all regions of the country shall be given optimum opportunity to develop. Private enterprises, including corporations, cooperatives, and similar collective organizations, shall be encouraged to broaden the base of their ownership.

This bill provides for the creation of Northern Quezon Development Authority (NQDA) which will pave the way for the gradual development of the long neglected eastern coastal towns of the first congressional district of Quezon. The bill likewise intends to create an institutional machinery to ensure an effective ecologic and economic management of the northern part of the Province of Quezon specifically the municipalities surrounding the upper portion (northern) of Lamon Bay areas.

Northern Lamon Bay is a vast body of water consisting Lamon Bay and part of the Pacific Ocean encompassing the five (5) island-municipalities in the first district of Quezon (northern Quezon), it is a rich fishing ground that supply substantially marine and fish requirements of Southern Tagalog Region and Metro Manila. Apart from having a rich marine life and other aquatic resources, four coastal towns of General Nakar, Infanta, Real and Mauban, Quezon, cover large area of forest lands rich in wild flora and fauna, animals, forest and fruit trees and a watershed area supply supporting existing and proposed hydroelectric power plants, domestic water supply and irrigation works.

The Northern Quezon is also in a strategic location ideal for harbor and port development in the pacific side of the country. This key geographic location underscores its potential to be a major transshipment point and center of trade in the northern Pacific Rim. Furthermore, thru Infanta-Marikina Road, imported and local products can easily reach Metro Manila hence it will play a significant role in trade and economic activities of the country.

Yet despite its strategic location to facilitate economic development, its potential is however, not actualized. There is a lack of industrial progress in the aforementioned coastal towns and island-municipalities. There is no known development plan for the whole of the northern part of Quezon. Development Plans are still in the municipal level. Integrated and sustainable plan needs to be drawn and implemented in the area if real development is to be achieved.

The Northern Quezon Development Authority (NQDA) will promote the socio-economic development of Quezon first district through a holistic and integrative coordination of all active sectors in the area. This agency will oversee the general development of the area and will create a framework that will facilitate economic progress and ecological preservation.

To bring forth serious and comprehensive long-term program for socio- economic development, commensurate to the demands of time, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA

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**AN ACT CREATING NORTHERN QUEZON DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. - Title - This Act shall be known as the
“Northern Quezon Development Authority Act of 2019”.

**SEC. 2 . - Creation of Northern Quezon Development
Authority.** -The Northern Quezon Development Authority (NQDA),
hereinafter referred to as the Authority, is hereby created which shall
promote, coordinate, and facilitate the active and extensive
participation of all sectors to effect the socio-economic development
of the northern area in the first congressional district of Quezon
province.

SEC.3. - Coverage. -The Authority shall cover all the
municipalities of Mauban, Infanta, Real, General Nakar, Polillo,
Burdeos, Panukulan, Patnanungan and Jomalig, Quezon,

SEC. 4. - Principal Office and Term. -The Authority shall have its main office at Real, Quezon. It may establish Area Management Offices (AMOS) as it may deem necessary to achieve the objectives of this Act. The Authority shall have a term of fifty (50) years from the effectivity of this Act and renewable for the same period unless otherwise provided by law.

SEC. 5. Powers and Functions of Authority. The Authority shall have the following powers and functions:

(a) Formulate an integrated development framework for the area;

(b) Integrate, prioritize and program area-wide specific programs, activities and projects with province-wide impact;

(c) Promote and facilitate investments in any field which would enhance the socio-economic development of the area and uplift the living standards of the people and their socio-political activities in close coordination with agencies primarily mandated to undertake such function;

(d) Explore sources for financing priority programs, projects and activities;

(e) Coordinate and facilitate the extension of necessary planning management and technical assistance to prospective and existing investors, complementary and in support of agencies primarily mandated to execute such functions;

(f) Establish comprehensive and integrated databases on necessary for planning and decision-making;

(g) Monitor, evaluate and formulate recommendations on the implementation of area wide and/or specific inter-agency development programs, activities and projects;

(h) Act as the implementing agency, whenever necessary, for the accomplishment of province and region-wide programs and projects, including Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects,

subject to such limitations prescribed by existing laws, rules, and regulations;

(i) Receive and administer donations, contributions, grants, bequest or gifts in cash or in kind from foreign governments, international agencies, private entities, and other sources, including Official Development Assistance (ODA) agencies, for purposes that would contribute to the development of Northern Quezon , subject to existing laws, rules and regulations;

(j) To sue and be sued, enter into contracts, acquire, purchase, hold, lease, transfer, and dispose of property of any kind or nature necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act;

(k) Discharge other functions which may be deemed necessary or as may be provided by law.

(l) Submit to the President and both Houses of Congress annual reports on its accomplishments and activities.

(m) Receive and administer donations, contributions, grants, bequest or gifts in cash or in kind from foreign governments, international agencies, private entities, and other sources, including Official Development Assistance (ODA) agencies, for purposes that would contribute to the development of the area, subject to existing laws, rules and regulations;

(n) To sue and be sued, enter into contracts, acquire, purchase, hold, lease, transfer, and dispose of property of any kind or nature necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act;

(o) Discharge other functions which may be deemed necessary or as may be provided by law.

SEC. 6 . Board of Directors – The affairs and business of the Authority shall be directed and its properties managed and preserved by a Board of Directors to be composed of the Regional Director of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) as the ex-officio Chairman, and the following as Members,

- 1) The Administrator of the Authority;
- 2) Regional Director of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) – *ex-officio* Member;
- 3) Regional Director of the Department of the Public Works and Highways (DPWH) – *ex-officio* Member;
- 4) Regional Director of the Department of Tourism (DOT) – *ex-officio* Member;
- 5) Regional Director of Department of Agriculture (DA) – *ex-officio* Member;
- 6) Regional Director of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – *ex-officio* Member;
- 7) Administrator of National Electrification Administration (NEA) – *ex-officio* Member;
- 8) General Manager of Philippine Port Authority- *ex-officio* Member;
- 9) Representative, First District of Quezon – *ex-officio* Member;
- 10) Provincial Governor, Quezon Province – *ex-officio* Member;
- 11) Municipal Mayors of Municipalities of Mauban, Infanta, Real, General Nakar, Polillo, Burdeos, Panukulan, Patnanungan, and Jomalig, Quezon; – *ex-officio* Members;
- 12) Three (3) other members representing the private sector to be appointed by the President, who shall serve for a term of five (5) years unless sooner removed for cause: Provided, That the person appointed shall be of good moral character, of unquestionable integrity, of known probity and patriotism, and with experience and expertise in management, business, finance and the professions, and preferably coming from the First District of Quezon.

- 13) Three (3) Representatives from Non Government Organizations (NGOs) in the area with proven track record in advocacy and program management in agriculture, fisheries, environmental protection, marine resources, rural development and trade and industries.

The ex-officio members of the Board may designate their representatives to the Authority. The decisions of the Board shall be made by a vote of the majority of all its members. The Chairman of the Board shall preside over meetings of the Board of Directors.

SEC. 7. Board Meetings. – The Board of Directors shall meet preferably at its principal office, at least once a month, and as frequently as necessary to discharge its duties and responsibilities. The Board shall be convened by the Chairman or upon written request signed by majority of the members.

SEC. 8 Powers and Functions of the Board. – The Board of Directors of the Authority shall have the following powers and functions and duties.

- (1) Provide direction and guidance for the Authority's work and thrusts;
- (2) Ensure that the goals and policies of the Authority are consistent with the overall national development goals and objectives;
- (3) Ensure that the programs of the Authority are consistent with regional and local development plans, program and projects, and vice versa for purposes of harmonization;

- (4) Explore sources for financing of priority plans, programs, projects and activities;
- (5) Create committees/task forces as may be deemed necessary in the accomplishments of its duties and functions;
- (6) Determine schedules; establish voting procedures, criteria for the constitution of a quorum, and other rules and regulations in the conduct of Board meetings;
- (7) To prepare and approve a ten (10) year and a five (5) year Development plan, and review and expedite the execution of these plans when necessary;
- (8) To appoint and discipline any employee, after according them due process in accordance with existing laws, together with the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission;
- (9) To elect from among the members of the Board of Directors the following Executive officers:

- 1) President/Chairman of the Board,
- 2) Vice- Pres/Vice- Chairman of the Board ,
- 3) Secretary.

Provided That, the Board shall likewise have the corresponding power to replace any the board or for acts prejudicial to the objectives of the Authority;

- (10) To screen and approve the appointment of the following:
General Manager, Assistant General Manager, and other key officials of the Authority;

- (11) To request a periodic or special audit of all its funds and properties from the Commission on Audits when the need arises;
- (12) To adopt a seal and flag which is judicial noticed, determine the exact location of its office preferably near its area of operation and adopt its own rules and procedure in meetings and general assemblies in accordance with the standards of transparency and democratic parliamentary procedures;
- (13) To recommend to Congress, the NEDA and other government agencies the passage of laws and other rules and regulation in order to carry out the objectives of the Authority;
- (14) To exercise such powers and perform such functions which are proper and necessary to implement the objectives of the Authority and to carry out provisions of this act.

SEC. 9. Terms of Office of the General Manager. – The General Manager of the Authority shall serve for a fixed term of four (4) years, unless removed from office by a vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors.

SEC. 10. Residence and Prohibition. – The General Manager shall, if practicable, establish his residence within the first congressional district of Quezon. He/She shall not, during his/her tenure of office, engage in any business, profession, or calling other than those connected with the performance of his/her official duties as the General Manager of the Authority.

SEC.11. Power and Duties of the General Manager. – The General Manager shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Submit, for the consideration of the Board, the policies and measures which he believes to be necessary to carry out the purposes and provisions of this Act,
- b. Execute and administer the policies, plans, programs and projects approved by the Board,
- c. Direct and supervise the operations and internal administration of the Authority. The General Manager may delegate some of his administration responsibilities to other officers of the Authority subject to the rules and regulations of the Board,
- d. Prepare the annual budget of the Authority for consideration of the Board,
- e. Submit, within thirty (30) days after the close of each fiscal year an annual report to the Board and such other reports as may be required, and
- f. Exercise such other powers as may be vested in him by the Board.

SEC. 12. Appropriations - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriation Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 13. Repealing Clause. -All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. Separability Clause. -If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions thereof, which are not affected, shall continue to remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. Effectivity. -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.