

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 4188



Introduced by Representative

BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

**AN ACT MANDATING THE REHABILITATION, REFURBISHMENT, AND
RECOMMISSIONING OF DECOMMISSIONED MILITARY HELICOPTERS AND
AIRCRAFT TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DEFENSE CAPABILITIES AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines faces a complex set of security challenges, including external territorial disputes and internal threats. The nation is also highly vulnerable to natural disasters. To effectively address these issues, a strong and modern military, particularly in its air assets, is essential. However, the current state of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) air fleet is characterized by a significant number of decommissioned or non-operational helicopters and aircraft. Procuring new air assets from foreign suppliers is often a lengthy and costly process, which places a heavy burden on the national budget.

This bill, the "Military Air Asset Rehabilitation and Modernization Act," proposes a pragmatic and innovative solution. Instead of solely relying on expensive new acquisitions, it mandates the rehabilitation, refurbishment, and recommissioning of existing decommissioned military air assets. The bill recognizes that these assets, currently sitting in storage or scrapyards, hold untapped potential. By restoring them to operational status, the AFP can significantly enhance its capabilities for both combat and humanitarian aid operations.

The core objectives of this legislative proposal are multi-faceted:

- **Cost-Effective Modernization:** By using existing inventory, the bill promotes a fiscally responsible approach to defense modernization, freeing up funds for other critical government programs.
- **Strengthening Domestic Industry:** The program will prioritize partnerships with local aerospace contractors and government facilities. This will create jobs, develop local expertise, and reduce the country's dependence on foreign repair and maintenance services.
- **Enhanced Capability:** Recommissioned aircraft will directly increase the AFP's capacity to conduct a wide range of missions, from military operations to disaster relief and medical evacuation.
- **Sustainability and Resourcefulness:** The bill also promotes the recycling of materials from unrepairable aircraft to upgrade or repair existing serviceable ones, showcasing a resource-efficient approach to military logistics.

The bill outlines a clear process, starting with a comprehensive inventory and assessment of all decommissioned aircraft. It then establishes a Military Air Asset Rehabilitation Program (MAARP), which will be managed by the Department of National Defense (DND) in coordination with the AFP and the Philippine Air Force (PAF). To ensure transparency and accountability, the bill includes provisions for a Congressional Oversight Committee and requires the DND to submit an annual report to Congress on the program's progress and budget utilization.

To jumpstart the program, an initial appropriation of ₱5 billion is sought. Subsequent funding will be included in the annual national budget. The DND is also empowered to explore Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) with both local and international aerospace contractors to leverage specialized expertise, ensuring that all collaboration safeguards national security.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought to provide a strategic and sustainable pathway toward a stronger, more capable, and self-reliant national defense force.


HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA
Representative
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Military Air Asset Rehabilitation and Modernization Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to maintain a strong and modern defense force that is capable of responding to both internal and external threats, including natural disasters. In pursuit of this goal, the State shall prioritize the rehabilitation and cost-effective recommissioning of decommissioned helicopters and aircraft in the inventory of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

SEC. 3. Objectives. — The program shall have the following objectives:

- (a) To rehabilitate and restore serviceable decommissioned air assets of the AFP;
- (b) To reduce reliance on foreign procurement by maximizing existing military inventory;
- (c) To support local aviation industries, including parts manufacturing, retrofitting, and repair;

- (d) To enhance the capability of the AFP for both combat and disaster response operations;
- (e) To promote cost-effective modernization of national defense; and
- (f) To recycle materials of decommissioned air assets for purposes of upgrading or repairing existing military air assets.

SEC. 4. Scope of the Program. — The Department of National Defense (DND), in coordination with the AFP, shall exclusively recommission military helicopters and aircraft that have been proven to be decommissioned for purposes of utilizing materials such as aluminum and other metals to be recycled on the military's existing aircraft, and rehabilitate and restore them as operational air assets for purposes of responding to internal and external threats, including times of natural disasters.

SEC. 5. Inventory and Assessment. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DND, in coordination with the AFP and the Philippine Air Force (PAF), shall conduct a full inventory and technical assessment of all decommissioned helicopters and aircraft in military storage or scrapyards nationwide.

SEC. 6. Rehabilitation Program. — The DND shall initiate a Military Air Asset Rehabilitation Program (MAARP) with the following components:

- (a) Technical inspection and feasibility analysis of aircraft for recommissioning;
- (b) Prioritization of assets based on strategic value and cost-effectiveness of repair;
- (c) Partnership with local aerospace contractors and government arsenal facilities for repair, testing, and certification;
- (d) Training and deployment of skilled personnel to support refurbishment operations; and
- (e) Use of indigenous parts and technologies where possible.

SEC. 7. Public-Private Partnerships and International Collaboration. — To support the program, the DND may enter into Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) with certified local and international aerospace contractors for specialized rehabilitation needs, provided that national security is not compromised.

SEC. 8. Congressional Oversight and Reporting. — A Congressional Oversight Committee on Military Asset Modernization (COCMAM) shall be created to monitor implementation. The DND shall submit an annual report to Congress detailing the following:

- (a) Number and type of assets rehabilitated;

- (b) Cost per aircraft;
- (c) Deployment assignments; and
- (d) Budget utilization.

SEC. 9. Appropriations. — The initial amount of Five Billion Pesos (₱5,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the implementation of this Act, to be sourced from the unprogrammed funds of the national budget or other available funding sources. Subsequent funding shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The DND, in coordination with relevant agencies, shall issue the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. — All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,


HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA
Representative
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List