

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4952



Introduced by REP. YSABEL MARIA J. ZAMORA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The recent discovery of irregularities related to the flood control projects have exposed serious lapses in the current system being implemented. Following a nationwide audit, it was made clear that these projects are being implemented without the knowledge, let alone the consent, of the local government units (LGUs) which are directly affected.

This is alarming, considering that the 1987 Constitution itself has enshrined the principle of the autonomy of local government units. In light of this, the League of Cities of the Philippines, under the leadership of Mayor Francis Zamora, strongly supports the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to reinstate the practice of involving LGUs in the planning, approval, and implementation of national government-funded projects.

The bill is filed in full support of this effort. The proposed measure seeks to establish a mechanism for the LGUs to be actively involved at every stage of the process. Specifically, the bill introduces the following key changes:

- a. Allows the LGU to monitor the implementation of the infrastructure project;
- b. Mandates consultation both with the public and the LGU concerned prior to the implementation of the infrastructure project; and
- c. Requires the approval of the Local Chief Executive and the *Sanggunian* prior to the implementation of the project.

The measure ensures that the LGU will serve as a partner in the implementation of the infrastructure projects. It also restores a necessary system of checks and balances to ensure accountability among all parties involved. Most importantly, it creates safeguards to prevent misuse and wastage of public funds.

With these, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


REP. YSABEL MARIA J. ZAMORA
Lone District, City of San Juan

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANNING
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 524 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State to promote genuine local autonomy and ensure meaningful participation of local government units (LGUs) and their constituents in national infrastructure and community projects undertaken within their territorial jurisdiction.

SECTION 2. *Amendment to Section 524 of the Local Government Code.* — Section 524 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 524. Inventory and Approval of Infrastructure and Other Community Facilities. —

(a) Each local government unit shall conduct a periodic inventory of infrastructure and other community facilities and undertake the maintenance, repair, improvement, or reconstruction of these facilities through closer cooperation among the various agencies of the national government operating within the province, city, or municipality concerned.

(b) No infrastructure or community project within the territorial jurisdiction of any local government unit shall be undertaken without:

1. Prior consultation with the local government unit concerned, including at least one (1) public consultation or hearing to ensure community participation;
2. Formal endorsement and approval by the local chief executive and the concerned sanggunian, through a resolution or ordinance, before implementation may proceed.

(c) To avoid undue delay and red tape, the process of consultation, endorsement, and approval shall be time-bound, following clear service standards and processing timelines similar to those mandated under Republic Act No. 11032, or the “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.” The implementing rules and regulations shall prescribe a maximum period within which LGUs shall act on such endorsements. Failure to act within the prescribed period shall be deemed as approval, provided that the required consultation has been duly conducted.

(d) The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this provision shall be jointly promulgated by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Local Government Leagues, the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). These agencies shall ensure that the procedures balance expeditious implementation of infrastructure with genuine LGU and community participation.”

SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Audit (COA), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), DPWH, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DEPDev), Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center of the Philippines, Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Education (DepEd), DILG, Local Government Leagues, ARTA, and DOST shall convene a technical working group to draft and promulgate the IRR.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* — If any part, section, or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not affect the other parts or provisions hereof.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,