

The Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5699



Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS “TOBY” M. TIANGCO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XI, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution states that “Public Office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives.”

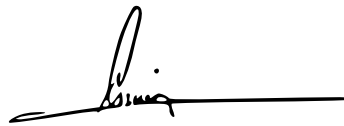
Recently, corruption issues surrounding flood control and other infrastructure projects have been exposed to the public. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Philippines conducted hearings to unearth the anomalies and fraudulent transactions involving these projects. In these hearings, one thing has become apparent, public funds that could reach trillions of pesos have been diverted for personal gain to the prejudice and detriment of the Filipino people. Consequently, people demand accountability and clamor for justice to put behind bars all public officials who robbed the public coffers.

On 11 September 2025, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. issued Executive Order No. 94 which created the Independent Commission for Infrastructure (ICI). The ICI was granted the power to hear, investigate, receive, gather, and evaluate evidence against all officials and employees, and other individuals involved in anomalies, irregularities, and misuse of funds in the planning, financing, and implementation of government flood control and other infrastructure projects nationwide. This initiative of President Marcos, Jr. was indeed laudable. However, people demand for mechanism to ensure accountability and transparency in government infrastructure projects which has been a constant source of corruption.

When the demand for accountability resonates louder in all walks of life, the government should not simply turn a blind eye. The government must proactively work to address the public’s demand and ensure that highest form of accountability and culpability will be imposed. Taking all these into consideration, this bill seeks to create the Independent Commission Against Infrastructure Corruption (ICAIC) that will hear and investigate all anomalies and controversies involving infrastructure projects.

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2 The proposed commission shall not in any way take the functions or duties of the Office
3 of the Ombudsman or Department of Justice. On the other hand, it shall be a means to
4 strengthen these agencies' capacity to effectively and efficiently prosecute cases. The
5 commission's findings and recommendations are intended to assist the Office of the
6 Ombudsman or Department of Justice, as the case may be, in case build-up and
7 prosecution. This is to ensure that cases filed in Court will be successfully prosecuted
8 and that conviction will be obtained. When the public sees that public officials are held
9 accountable, the government can regain the public's trust and confidence.

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11 In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.
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16 **TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO**

17 Representative

18 Lone District, Navotas City
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12
13 **AN ACT CREATING THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST**
14 **INFRASTRUCTURE CORRUPTION (ICAIC)**

15 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines*
16 *in Congress assembled:*
17

18 **SEC. 1.** This Act shall be known as the *Independent Commission Against*
19 *Infrastructure Corruption (ICAIC) of 2025*
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21 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy**—It has been the policy of the State that that Public
22 Office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to
23 the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with
24 patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives.
25

26 **SEC. 3.** Creation of the *Independent Commission Against Infrastructure*
27 *Corruption (ICAIC)* —There is hereby created the Independent Commission Against
28 Infrastructure Corruption (ICAIC), herein referred to as the Commission with the lifetime
29 of two (2) years subject to extension, if necessary.
30

31 **SEC. 4. Independent Commission Against Infrastructure Corruption (ICAIC)**
32 *Composition*—The Commission shall be composed of five (5) members from the
33 following, to be appointed by the President:
34

- 35 1. Chairman- a retired Justice of the Supreme Court or Sandiganbayan;
36 2. A licensed engineer of not less than 20 years of experience either in public or in
37 private service;
38 3. A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) of not less than 20 years of experience
39 either in public or in private service;
40 4. A representative from the Academe; and
41 5. A representative from a reputable NGO (non-government organization).
42

43 **SEC. 5. Powers and Functions**— The Commission shall have the powers and
44 functions:
45

- 46 a. To conduct investigation expeditiously in order to accomplish and carry out the
objectives of this Act;

1 b. To administer oaths and issue subpoena to compel the attendance and
2 testimonies of witnesses and the submission of such papers, books, effects, contracts,
3 records, statement of accounts and other materials in relation the investigation conducted
4 by the Commission;

5 c. To issue direct or indirect contempt against any person who refuse to obey the
6 lawful order of the Commission;

7 d. To issue hold departure order to the persons who are suspected as part of the
8 flood control and other infrastructure anomalies. The said order shall be coordinated to
9 the appropriate governmental authorities for implementation.

10 e. To coordinate and secure the assistance of any other investigative law
11 enforcement agencies, instrumentalities of the Government but shall not be limited to
12 Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), the Philippine National Police (PNP), Criminal
13 Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI),
14 and the Department of Justice (DOJ);

15 f. To recover, sequester and/or attach all monies, shares of stock, bonds, titles,
16 properties accumulated by the persons involved in the flood control and other
17 infrastructure anomalies, including those already transferred to their families, relatives
18 and friends whether in the Philippines or abroad;

19 g. The Commission after due notice and hearing and with the concurrence of the
20 appropriate bodies directly file the administrative, criminal, and/or civil cases against
21 those persons involved in the anomalies without delay; and

22 h. The Commission may adopt the provisions of the Rules of Court in suppletory
23 character.
24

25 **SEC. 5. *Exemption from criminal and civil liability***—No criminal and civil action shall
26 lie against the commission or any member thereof for anything done or omitted in the
27 discharge of the task contemplated in this Act.
28

29 **SEC. 6. *Secretariat***—A secretariat is hereby created to provide administrative,
30 technical and research support to the Commission. The Secretariat shall be headed by
31 an Executive Director to be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the
32 Commission. The Executive Director, under the supervision and control of the Chairman,
33 shall execute and administer the policies and decisions of the Commission and manage
34 the day-to-day operations thereof. The Commission may hire additional support staff by
35 secondment or new hires subject to civil service rules and regulations.
36

37 **SEC.7. *Investigation***— The Commission, in the exercise of its powers to
38 investigate or hear cases within its jurisdiction shall not be strictly bound by the technical
39 rules of evidence. The investigation/hearing shall be open to the public.
40

41 **SEC.8. *Scope and Jurisdiction***—The Commission shall have the jurisdiction to
42 hear and investigate all allegations, complaints, issues involving irregularities and
43 corruption in infrastructure projects.
44

45 **SEC.9. *Temporary Restraining Orders (TRO) and/or Preliminary Injunctions (PI)***—
46 the investigations, hearings, proceedings conducted by the Commission under this Act

1 are *not* subject to court intervention *except* by the Supreme Court.
2

3 **SEC. 10. Appropriations.** — Upon approval of this Act, the Department of Budget
4 and Management (DBM) is hereby directed to immediately identify funding sources for
5 the initial implementation of this Act, subject to pertinent budgeting, accounting, and
6 auditing laws, rules and regulations. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continued
7 operation of this Act shall be included in the following General Appropriations Act (GAA).
8

9 **SEC. 11. Separability Clause.** — If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
10 unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected
11 thereby, shall continue in full force and effect.
12

13 **SEC.12. Repealing Clause.** —All other laws, decrees, orders, rules and
14 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the Act or rules and regulations promulgated
15 pursuant thereto are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
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17 **SEC. 13. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in
18 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
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21 *Approved,*
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