

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6467

Introduced by Representative **JESUS R. MARQUEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a program in the Department of Education (DepEd) that addresses the nationwide shortage of classrooms, a huge gap that hinders access to quality education among children.

The core policy of this proposed measure is to adopt a *whole-of-nation approach* by decentralizing and expediting classroom construction. Instead of relying solely on the traditional and often protracted procurement processes of DepEd and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the bill empowers Local Government Units (LGUs) and qualified private-sector entities to directly propose, plan, and implement school-building projects.

EDCOM II has repeatedly underscored the need for decentralized and coordinated action to improve foundational learning, emphasizing that addressing the infrastructure backlog is an essential first step. It has warned that only a decisive departure from the current “business-as-usual” model will allow the country to meet its long-term education targets.

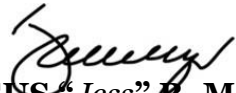
Current estimates show that approximately 165,443 classrooms remain unbuilt, in consideration of population growth, structural deterioration, and damage caused by disasters. At the present pace, it may take decades to eliminate this backlog. Systemic challenges including slow national procurement cycles, fragmented responsibilities, and chronic delays in project completion despite available funds, demand an urgent, pragmatic, and structural response.

To ensure success, the proposed CAP framework is designed to be transparent, results-driven, and collaborative. Under the Act, funding will be streamlined and harmonized, approval standards will be unified, and quality assurance systems will be rigorously institutionalized without compromising integrity or oversight.

CAP seeks to convert commitment into concrete outcomes which shall turn appropriations into classrooms that serve communities efficiently and without delay.

The costs of inaction—lost learning hours, overcrowded facilities, and a worsening infrastructure deficit—far outweigh the investments and reforms proposed herein.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JESUS “Jess” R. MARQUEZ

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HOUSE BILL NO. 6467

Introduced by Representative **JESUS R. MARQUEZ**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE CLASSROOM-BUILDING ACCELERATION
PROGRAM (CAP), AUTHORIZING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND
PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITIES TO UNDERTAKE CLASSROOM
CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Classroom Building Acceleration Program (CAP) Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to promote quality education through adequate and accessible public school facilities. In recognition of the persistent classroom backlog across the country, the State shall adopt a whole-of-nation approach by enabling local government units (LGUs) and the private sector to actively participate in the construction of school buildings, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), and supported by national government funding, private sector participation, and technical assistance.

SEC. 3. Creation of the Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP)
- There is hereby established a Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP), which shall enable and authorize qualified LGUs and private sector entities to propose, plan, and access corresponding government funds for the implementation of classroom construction projects in public schools within their respective jurisdictions, in accordance with national standards and in coordination with DepEd.

SEC. 4. Eligibility of Local Government Units and Private Sector Entities.
- LGUs and private sector entities may participate in the CAP if they meet at least one of the 3 following criteria:

1. Demonstrated technical capacity to implement infrastructure projects;
2. Willingness to undergo technical assistance and capacity-building support;
- or
3. Proven track record in the successful implementation of infrastructure or education- related projects, as may be determined by the Department of Education and relevant oversight agencies.

LGUs and private sector entities shall submit project proposals, including cost estimates, site plans, implementation timelines, and compliance with DepEd classroom design standards.

1
2 **SEC. 5. Program Management.** -The Department of Education shall serve as
3 the lead implementing agency of the CAP. A CAP Secretariat shall be established within
4 the DepEd Central Office to coordinate with stakeholders and to evaluate proposals,
5 recommend funding allocations, and monitor implementation.
6

7 **SEC. 6. Funding Sources.** - Funds for the implementation of classroom projects
8 under the CAP shall be drawn from:
9

- 10 1. The annual appropriations of DepEd for Basic Education Facilities;
- 11 2. Other national government sources, subject to budgetary rules;
- 12 3. Contributions from the private sector through corporate donations,
13 foundations, or Public-Private Partnership (PPP) modalities.
14

15 Provided, That the CAP may also accept official development assistance (ODA) and
16 other international grants and donations, subject to existing laws.
17

18 **SEC. 7. Downloading of Funds.** - Funds approved under the CAP may be
19 released directly to LGUs and private entities upon compliance with documentary
20 requirements and submission of approved project proposals. The use of funds shall be
21 subject to auditing rules of the Commission on Audit (COA) and guidelines to be issued
22 by DepEd and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).
23

24 **SEC. 8. Public-Private Partnerships.** - LGUs may implement classroom
25 construction projects under the CAP through PPP arrangements in accordance with the
26 PPP Code of the Philippines or other applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Technical
27 assistance may be provided to LGUs to develop and manage PPPs for education
28 infrastructure.
29

30 **SEC. 9. Capacity Building and Technical Assistance.** - DepEd, in
31 coordination with DILG, shall design and implement a capacity-building program for
32 LGUs and private sector entities to:

- 33 1. Ensure compliance with DepEd's classroom design standards;
- 34 2. Strengthen planning, procurement, and project management capabilities;
- 35 3. Enable LGUs and private sector entities to pursue PPPs for classroom
36 building projects.
37

38
39 **SEC. 10. Monitoring and Reporting.** - All LGU-implemented projects under
40 the CAP shall be subject to regular monitoring and evaluation. LGUs shall submit
41 quarterly progress reports to DepEd. A consolidated national report shall be submitted
42 annually by DepEd to Congress.
43

44 **SEC. 11. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary to implement the initial phase
45 of the CAP shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter,
46 such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of the program shall be
47 included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).
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49 **SEC. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within ninety (90) days from
50 the effectivity of this Act, DepEd, in coordination with DILG, DBM, and DPWH, shall
51 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this
52 Act.
53

54 **SEC. 13. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared
55 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the Act shall not be affected and shall
56 continue to be in full force and effect.
57

1 **SEC. 14. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
2 rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
3 amended, or modified accordingly.

4
5 **SEC. 15. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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8 *Approved,*