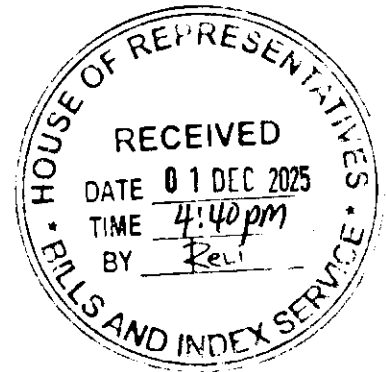


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **6526**

**Introduced by Representative JB BERNOS
and Representative CHING BERNOS**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK TO ACCELERATE
THE IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLETION OF THE NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT'S INFRASTRUCTURE FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Infrastructure remains one of the most powerful drivers of national progress. The Philippines' continued pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development hinges on the strength of its infrastructure systems that connect people, markets, and industries across regions. However, despite decades of reform, the country still faces persistent bottlenecks in infrastructure delivery due to bureaucratic delays, fragmented planning, inadequate funding mechanisms, and weak inter-agency coordination. The Asian Development Bank's 2024 report on the Philippines underscores that public infrastructure spending remains below the level needed to sustain high economic growth and competitiveness, with implementation delays costing billions in lost productivity each year.

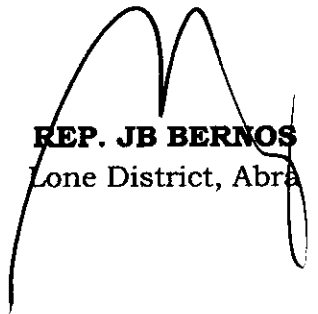
This bill seeks to address these gaps by establishing a Comprehensive Framework to Accelerate the Implementation and Completion of the National Government's Infrastructure Flagship Programs and Projects. Anchored on the constitutional mandate under Article XII, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution for the State to promote industrialization and full employment through sound economic policies, this measure institutionalizes an integrated and long-term approach to infrastructure development. It strengthens the coordination between national agencies, local government units, and the private sector in executing high-impact infrastructure projects under a unified roadmap aligned with national and regional development priorities.

Specifically, the proposed measure provides for the creation of the Comprehensive Infrastructure Flagship Programs Development Plan (CIFPDP) to be formulated by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), in collaboration with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the

Department of Finance (DOF), and other implementing agencies. It outlines four strategic six-year phases that progressively mobilize critical sectors such as power, water, agriculture, transport, and digital connectivity. The bill also institutionalizes the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Flagship Programs and Projects to oversee, coordinate, and monitor the timely implementation of major infrastructure projects, while designating a special court to resolve right-of-way and expropriation cases swiftly.

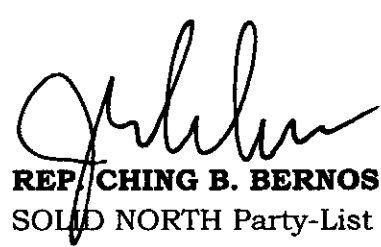
Ultimately, this legislative measure seeks to sustain the momentum of past infrastructure programs such as *Build, Build, Build* and *Build Better More*, and to position the Philippines as an emerging agro-industrial and investment hub in Southeast Asia. By ensuring efficiency, transparency, and accountability in infrastructure development, the measure aims to accelerate economic growth, create employment opportunities, reduce regional inequality, and build resilient communities across the nation.

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



REP. JB BERNOS

Lone District, Abra



REP. CHING B. BERNOS

SOLID NORTH Party-List

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Next Nation Build Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote inclusive and sustainable infrastructure development as a key strategy for national growth and transformation. The State shall adopt and implement policies that provide investment opportunities, stimulate economic activity, create jobs, improve the flow of goods and services, enhance tourism, reduce traffic congestion, and decongest urban areas through high-impact infrastructure projects such as roads and bridges, mass urban transport systems, and green city solutions. The State shall also promote extensive rural development by ensuring equitable access to infrastructure that supports the exchange of goods and services, and by establishing regional agro-industrial hubs to maximize local assets and foster social, economic, cultural, and industrial progress in the countryside. Recognizing that strong leadership, efficient coordination, and clearly defined targets are vital to attracting both domestic and foreign investments, the State shall establish a comprehensive framework to accelerate infrastructure flagship programs as an essential strategy for nation-building and for positioning the Philippines as an emerging agro-industrial power in Southeast Asia.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms are defined:

- (a) Flagship programs and projects - refer to the major infrastructure programs and projects whose socio-economic impacts significantly affect the entire country, identified and approved by the National Economic Development Authority in coordination and consultation with the office of the Presidential Adviser on Flagship Programs and Projects and the implementing agencies, amounting to Two Billion Pesos (₱2,000,000,000) and up; and
- (b) Implementing agencies - refer to the National Government Agencies responsible for the actual implementation of specific infrastructure flagship programs and projects, which shall include the design, planning, programming, budgeting, procurement, and the implementation of the projects, which may include the participation of and partnership with the private sector.

SEC. 4. Infrastructure Planning Policies. – The Comprehensive Infrastructure Framework Plan shall be guided, but not limited to the following policies:

- (a) Applicability of Infrastructure to Boost National and Local Economic Growth and Development. - The plan shall provide an integrated and inclusive game-changing infrastructure to invigorate national and local economies by stimulating agriculture, trade, tourism through efficient public transportation systems, airports, maritime, information and communications technology, health and waterways;
- (b) Program and Project Prioritization and Identification. - The National Economic Development Authority, in coordination with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Flagship Programs and Projects, the implementing agencies, LGUs and the regional authorities shall on the first year of the implementation of every Flagship Development Phase shall assess the current infrastructure needs in every region and prepare periodic plans and targets, programs and projects in support of the Comprehensive Infrastructure Development Plan. Planning and project selection shall be based on, but not limited to, the following considerations:
 - (i) National significance;
 - (ii) Alignment with regional and national plans;
 - (iii) Compliance with international commitments;
 - (iv) Technical and operational Feasibility and viability;
 - (v) Demands for emerging trends and technologies;
 - (vi) Economic feasibility and impact;
 - (vii) Job generation and social inclusion;
 - (viii) Environmental sustainability and climate resiliency; and
 - (ix) Safety and security;

- (c) Collaboration among key players. - The plan shall guarantee effective and efficient coordination, collaboration and cooperation among national government agencies, local government units and stakeholders in harmonizing policies and plans across all sectors transportation, information and communications technology, health, power, water and human settlements;
- (d) Application of Research and Technology. - The plan shall undertake intensive scientific research on infrastructure and public works-related concerns and trends. Develop, disseminate and adopt modern technology for greater efficiency, safety and security of infrastructure.
- (e) Capacity-Building and Training for Infrastructure-Related Administrators and Operators. - The plan shall establish and increase capacity-building programs geared towards compliance with international standards. Local or State universities including vocational schools shall provide higher education, appropriate training and accreditations, to effectively provide continuous education and transfer of modern technology in response to fast changing technology.

SEC. 5. Creation of the Comprehensive Infrastructure Flagship Programs Development Plan. – he National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in collaboration with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Finance (DOF), Office of the Presidential Adviser on Flagship Programs and Projects, implementing agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Energy (DOE), National power corporation (NPC), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Health, Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), local government units (LGUs), regional authorities, private sector representatives, and other stakeholders shall establish and develop a Comprehensive Infrastructure Flagship Programs Development Plan that will provide the road map to facilitate the implementation of the Flagship Programs and projects. The Flagship programs Development plan shall be implemented in four phases of six years each, with each phase focusing on mobilizing vital sectors of the economy.

- (a) . First Six-Year Infra Flagship Development Phase 1: The Infrastructure flagship program shall promote the acceleration of infrastructure on sufficient and sustainable power and energy, reliable information and communications technology, adequate water system, and efficient transportation system;
- (b) Second Six-Year Infrastructure Flagship Development Phase 2: Development shall focus on developing food sustainability and improving the capacity of domestic delivery and transportation of produce/goods and services. Infrastructure to support these activities shall include construction of farm-to-market, farm-to-mill roads, modern and automated irrigations and

water systems, road networks, bridges, agricultural equipment, and post-harvest facilities;

- (c) Third Six-Year Infrastructure Flagship Development Phase 3: The plan shall establish comprehensive programs to prioritize and modernize the country's agriculture and aquaculture industry, ensuring high quality consumer goods. It shall support the development of agro-industrial hubs in every region including modernizing irrigation system, post-harvest facilities including warehouses, production facilities, major seaport projects equipped with cold storage facilities, road network system, railways, and telecommunications systems to provide livelihood and generate employment and investment opportunities to local businesses; and
- (d) Fourth Six-Year Infrastructure Flagship Development Phase 4: This shall develop infrastructure that will help accelerate exportation of local goods such as additional domestic and international airports. It shall mobilize private sector participation to speed up the construction of road systems and major highways that will connect urban centers and major islands, and facilitate access even in the remotest areas in the provinces.

SEC. 6. Comprehensive Infrastructure Flagship Programs Development Strategies. – The CFPDS shall contain and set forth the following:

- (a) Strategies towards an integrated and inclusive infrastructure system and planning and management on the implementation of the flagship programs and projects, which shall include:
 - (i) Setting the standards and policies in the identification of Flagship Programs System Management;
 - (ii) Projecting the investments on vital and critical infrastructure based on continuing trends and future demands of the LGUs, region and the national;
 - (iii) Instituting National and Local Land Use, Maritime and Waterways policy to support the CFPDS;
 - (iv) Ensuring effective and efficient coordination, collaboration and cooperation among national government agencies, local government units and stakeholders in developing harmonization of policies and plans across all sectors transportation, information and communications technology, health, power, water and human settlements;
 - (v) Formulating strategies in developing self-supporting economies, focused on specific industries such as cement, fertilizer, development of modern agricultural equipment and machineries, and set specific production targets for each; and
 - (vi) Initiating massive expansion of vocational education to provide technological trainings and mastery to skilled workers;
- (b) Guidelines to choose specific industrial sites for each type of industry and provide necessary facilities such as roads, ports, electricity and water;
- (c) Policies to provide financial and tax incentives for industrial sites; and
- (d) Periodic review and updating of the Development Strategies.

SEC. 7. Duties and Functions of the Implementing Agencies. – The implementing agencies shall engage in the following national development policies and principles pertaining to infrastructure flagship programs and projects:

- (a) Establish flagship development strategies to help develop the full potential of the Philippines as a middle-income country and an agroindustrial power in the Southeast Asian region;
- (b) Prioritize and identify game-changing and urgently needed infrastructure flagship programs of national significance focused on the security of energy supply including electricity, water resources, health, industrial sites, information and communications technology, urban development and mass transport capacity;
- (c) Establish appropriate systems and procedures for classifying high impact flagship programs by defining the parameters or categories;
- (d) Develop Medium-Term Road Map for Infrastructure Flagship Development based on territory or land use plan;
- (e) Project the investments on vital and critical infrastructure based on continuing trends and future demands of the LGUs and the region;
- (f) Accelerate and facilitate the preparation of pre-feasibility/feasibility studies, design, processing, approval of environmental clearance, necessary permits and clearance, procurement, documentations and appropriation for approved flagship programs and projects;
- (g) Construct integrated and seamless transport infrastructure that connect, and interlink major corridors, airports, ports and railways and road system, to facilitate efficiency in transportation, connectivity of information, produce/goods, and services, to promote sustainability of supply of products and intensify production;
- (h) Implement traffic decongestion program, convergence and rural road development program and livable, sustainable and resilient communities;
- (i) Develop and create agro-industrial complexes or hubs in every region, including pre and post-harvest facilities, and processing plants for agricultural products to strengthen trade links domestically and internationally;
- (j) Engage private sector participation in the planning, development, design, financing, construction, operation and maintenance of high impact infrastructure;
- (k) Grant fiscal and non-fiscal incentives for the investors;
- (l) Submit annual monitoring and reportorial requirement on project status and implementation;
- (m) Address major infrastructure bottlenecks; and
- (n) Implement appropriate capacity-building programs in project analysis for government officials and other stakeholders.

Consistent with the principle of local autonomy under the Local Government code, LGUs shall exercise primary responsibility for the financing, construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of provincial, city, municipal, and barangay

infrastructure. LGUs shall be assisted by the DPWH in formulating their local infrastructure development plan and must strictly adhere to their existing Land Use Plans consistent with provincial and regional plans, and the national land use policy/framework. Private sectors and local stakeholders shall be consulted by the LGUs. The Local Development Council shall synchronize plans with respect to any and all local infrastructure plans.

SEC. 8. Scope and Categories of the Flagship Programs and Projects. – National implementing agencies, local government units, and regional authorities, as coordinated by the NEDA, shall identify and determine high impact and game-changing specific infrastructure flagship projects that shall promote and highlight the domestic products in abundance in the region or has significant potential for development and economic viability, increase the productive capacity of the region, create employment, and strengthen the investment climate leading to sustainable inclusive growth.

They shall identify specific areas for development where flagship programs shall be implemented. They shall establish and develop projects in accordance with the following categories:

- (a) Transport and Mobility: Roads and bridges, Bus Rapid Transit, railways, new airports and seaports, and upgrading and modernization of existing infrastructure facilities to accommodate tourist arrivals;
- (b) Urban development: New green cities, rehabilitation and recovery of conflicted areas in Mindanao, flood control structures, risk reduction and earthquake proofing;
- (c) Power and Energy: Hydroelectric power plants, renewable, other energy sources;
- (d) Water resources: Dams, irrigation, and water supply;
- (e) Information and Communications Technology: IT systems and centers; and
- (f) Health: Health care facilities, Specialty hospitals, equipment and supplies

SEC. 9. Parameters and Criteria for Inclusion in the Flagship Programs and Projects. – All infrastructure flagship programs and projects shall be subject to the approval process of the NEDA Board and the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC). The NEDA/ICC, after the receipt of the complete Pre-ICC and Post-ICC documents, shall deliberate and evaluate program proposals and shall within four (4) to six (6) weeks submit the project appraisal reports. Feasibility studies of all identified and approved flagship programs and projects shall be concluded and finalized within a given timeline.

The projects shall conform with the following parameters:

- (a) Urgency which addresses a current problem or concern;
- (b) National or regional significance which relates to the impact or benefits of the project that can be felt by more people in a wider area; and
- (c) Game changing nature of the project which relates to the significant impact on people's lives and on the conduct of business in the country.

Flagship programs and projects shall be funded through any of the following financing Modalities:

- a. Official Development Assistance (ODA);
- b. Public-Private partnership (PPP) Scheme; and/or
- c. General Appropriations Act, as approved by the NEDA ICC

SEC. 10. Special Court for Infrastructure Issues. – A special court shall be designated to facilitate and handle legal cases specifically related to negotiated sale, expropriation, or road-right-of-way issues and other related cases.

SEC. 11. Creation of the Office of the Presidential Advisor on Flagship Programs and Projects. – There is hereby created the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Flagship Programs and Projects. It shall be headed by the Flagship Presidential Adviser, who shall have the authority to exercise overall management, supervision, and control, as well as oversee the implementation of the big-ticket infrastructure flagship programs and projects. The Flagship Presidential Adviser shall efficiently and purposely exercise powers and authority delegated by the president to expeditiously implement the program. The Flagship Presidential Adviser shall coordinate and initiate meetings with other relevant national government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, local government units, government financial institutions, and private stakeholders.

SEC. 12. Powers and Functions of the Flagship Presidential Adviser. – -The Flagship presidential Adviser shall:

- (a) Establish, promulgate, and implement regulations, rules and orders on flagship programs and projects, consistent with relevant laws, international standards and best practices;
- (b) Identify, define, and develop the list of high-impact flagship projects;
- (c) Participate in relevant regional and international conference meetings, workshops and seminars and trainings related to mega-infrastructure;
- (d) Coordinate and conduct regular meetings with the implementing agencies to monitor progress of the flagship projects, discuss challenges and ways to address issues and concerns;
- (e) Issue, amend, and revoke rules and regulations and orders pertaining to the operations, including procurement, necessary for the implementation of this Act;
- (f) Review and assess flagship program proposals and ensure the immediate facilitation of necessary permits and clearances, licenses and documentations from the local government units and other government agencies;
- (g) Inspect, monitor and assess activities, facilities and practices on flagship projects to ensure compliance of the implementing agencies with applicable regulations;
- (h) Collaborate with relevant agencies to provide technical advice, opinions and expertise necessary to enhance flagship program structure and design, and ensure capacity building of the different stakeholders; and

- (i) Establish appropriate mechanisms in the identification, prioritization, information dissemination and consultation about financing agreements for flagship projects.

SEC. 13. Implementation and Status Report. – Each concerned national, regional, and local implementing agency shall compile and submit an annual report on a) the status of the implementation of its respective Flagship programs and projects; and (b) compliance by the agency with this Act.

All implementing agencies are required to submit to the NEDA, and to both Houses of Congress an annual report on the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 14. Appropriations. – Subject to the budgetary ceilings set by the Development Budget Coordinating Committee, the National Government shall annually earmark at least three percent (3.00%) of the Philippine Gross Domestic Product to fund the flagship programs and projects.

SEC. 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Director-General of NEDA, in coordination with the Presidential Adviser on Flagship Programs and Projects, DBM, DOF, DPWH, DOTr, DICT, DOE, NPC, DILG, DOST, DOH, DA, DTI, NIA, TRB, MWSS, as well as LGUs, regional authorities and representatives from the private sector, and other concerned agencies shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 16. Separability Clause. – If any portions or provisions of this Act are declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining portions or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 17. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 18. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,