

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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6538**



Introduced by REP. RAYMOND ADRIAN E. SALCEDA

AN ACT
EXPANDING AND MODERNIZING THE PIO DURAN PORT IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF PIO DURAN, PROVINCE OF ALBAY AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Super Typhoon Uwan caused substantial damage to transport infrastructure in the Province of Albay, including the pier at Pio Duran Port. The collapse of this facility has disrupted the daily movement of cargo trucks to and from Masbate, affecting livelihoods, supply chains, and access to basic goods. According to the Philippine Ports Authority, the port normally accommodates around thirty cargo trucks bound for Masbate each day. This makes Pio Duran one of the most critical inter island logistical junctions in the Bicol Region.

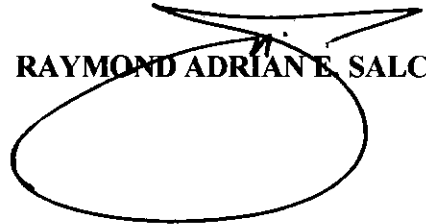
Following the directive of the President of the Philippines to fast track the repair of transport infrastructure affected by the typhoon, the Acting Secretary of Transportation ordered the immediate construction of a new pier, a wider berthing area, and an access road to replace the structure rendered unusable by the storm. The Philippine Coast Guard also requires a dedicated Law Enforcement Building in the port premises to strengthen emergency readiness and maritime security, particularly in times of typhoons and high wave events.

Investments in port resilience are aligned with national priorities for disaster risk reduction and economic continuity. The Philippine Statistics Authority reports that inter island cargo movement is a major driver of regional economic activity, with ports serving as the backbone of supply chains in island provinces. For Albay and Masbate, Pio Duran Port is indispensable for local commerce, food distribution, and the steady flow of essential goods. Ensuring that the port is operational, climate resilient, and capable of handling increased cargo volume is essential for regional recovery and long term economic stability.

To implement this measure effectively, the bill empowers the Philippine Ports Authority to undertake the necessary engineering and construction works, including the rehabilitation of damaged facilities, the construction of a new pier and connecting road, and the establishment of a Philippine Coast Guard Law Enforcement Building. Funding shall be sourced from

existing budgets and incorporated in future appropriations, allowing the Authority to immediately begin work while maintaining flexibility in project delivery.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is urgently sought.


RAYMOND ADRIAN E. SALCEDA

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

SECTION 1. Pio Duran Port Expansion and Modernization Program. – There is hereby established a Pio Duran Port Expansion and Modernization Program to restore, expand, and climate proof port operations in the Municipality of Pio Duran in the Province of Albay. The Program shall address the heavy structural damage caused by Super Typhoon Uwan and implement the directive of the President of the Philippines to fast track the repair and upgrading of transport infrastructure affected by the typhoon.

SEC. 2. Scope of Expansion and Modernization. – The Philippine Ports Authority, hereinafter referred to as the Authority, shall undertake the following works within the Pio Duran Port:

- (a) Construction of a new and wider pier designed to accommodate increased cargo volume and ensure structural resilience;
- (b) Construction of an access road connecting the pier to the national and municipal road network;
- (c) Rehabilitation, retrofitting, or removal of damaged portions of the existing pier that are no longer usable;
- (d) Construction of a Philippine Coast Guard Law Enforcement Building to enhance emergency readiness, maritime safety, and security operations; and
- (e) Implementation of engineering, dredging, design, environmental mitigation, and climate resilience measures needed to ensure continuity and reliability of port services.

SEC. 3. Priority of Implementation. – The Authority shall prioritize the immediate commencement of the expansion and modernization works described in this Act, consistent with the directive issued by the Acting Secretary of Transportation and the directive of the President of the Philippines.

SEC. 4. Coordination with National and Local Governments. – The Authority shall coordinate with the Department of Transportation, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Provincial Government of Albay, the Municipal Government of Pio Duran, and other relevant agencies to ensure timely implementation. The coordination shall include the preparation of a port development plan aligned with climate resilience standards and the projected cargo demand of Pio Duran and adjacent island provinces, including the daily movement of cargo trucks bound for Masbate.

SEC. 5. Funding. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the existing budget of the Authority and the Department of Transportation. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for continued implementation shall be included in the annual budget of the Authority under the General Appropriations Act. The Authority may also enter into appropriate financing arrangements or public private partnerships to accelerate project delivery, consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

SEC. 6. Annual Report to Congress. – The Authority shall submit to Congress, through the Committees on Transportation of both Houses, an annual report on the status of implementation of the Program. The report shall include physical accomplishment, financial utilization, engineering milestones, and the projected date of full restoration of port operations.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty days from the effectivity of this Act, the Authority shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,