

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6967**



Introduced by **REP. NATHANIEL “Atty. Nat” M. ODUCAO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Independent Commission for Infrastructure Integrity Act of 2025 proposes the creation of a permanent, independent body mandated to develop and oversee a National Infrastructure Plan, while ensuring transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the planning, implementation, and oversight of public infrastructure projects.

Recurrent flooding and other disaster-related impacts continue to expose systemic weaknesses in the Philippines’ infrastructure systems, resulting in significant social and economic losses. According to the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), disasters cause annual damages estimated at ₱85 billion to ₱422 billion, equivalent to 1 to 3 percent of the national gross domestic product and affect approximately 12.1 million Filipinos each year. These losses are not solely the result of natural hazards but reflect persistent deficiencies in infrastructure planning, design standards, maintenance, and institutional oversight, which allow vulnerabilities to accumulate and recur over time.

Comparative studies on infrastructure governance, including recent research examining large-scale infrastructure systems in China, demonstrate that countries with centralized infrastructure planning, integrated data systems, and strong institutional oversight are better able to reduce infrastructure failures and limit disaster-related economic losses. The China experience underscores the importance of treating infrastructure integrity as a lifecycle responsibility, encompassing planning, construction, monitoring, and enforcement, rather than as isolated project-based interventions. Such findings highlight the role of permanent institutions with technical authority and investigative capacity in ensuring infrastructure resilience and performance.

In contrast, the Philippines’ current infrastructure governance framework remains fragmented, with overlapping mandates and limited mechanisms for independent monitoring and investigation. As a result, infrastructure projects are often implemented without sufficient coordination, long-term risk assessment, or accountability, leading to repeated damage, inefficient use of public funds, and diminished public confidence.

To address these challenges, the proposed Commission is vested with a dual mandate. The Overall Planning Board shall formulate and periodically review the National Infrastructure Plan every three years, ensuring that infrastructure priorities are aligned with risk assessments, resilience objectives, and national development goals. Complementing this function, the Monitoring and Investigation Body shall oversee the planning, implementation, and execution of infrastructure projects, in accordance with the recognized best practices, ensuring compliance with technical standards, transparency requirements, and principles of good governance. It shall possess broad

¹ Philippine Institute For Development Studies. Fact Friday on disaster risk and management. Available at <https://pids.gov.ph/details/fact-friday-on-disaster-risk-reduction-and-management/> (last accessed December 10, 2025)

investigative powers, including access to records, subpoena authority, and the ability to recommend administrative or legal action where warranted.

By integrating strategic infrastructure planning with rigorous oversight, the proposed Commission adopts an institutional model consistent with international best practices, as evidenced by comparative experiences such as China's. This approach ensures that infrastructure investments are not only resilient and well-designed but also effectively monitored and held accountable throughout their lifecycle.

Given the increasing frequency of climate-related risks and the recurring challenges in infrastructure project implementation, the enactment of this measure is timely and necessary. It seeks to safeguard lives, protect public funds, and institutionalize a culture of integrity, efficiency, and accountability in the development and management of national infrastructure.

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


REP. NATHANIEL "ATTY. NAT" M. ODOCADO
1Tahanan Party List

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HOUSE BILL NO. **6967**

Introduced by **REP. NATHANIEL “ATTY. NAT” M. ODUCAO**

**AN ACT CREATING AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE INTEGRITY, ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN, GRANTING IT BROAD INVESTIGATIVE AND
SUBPOENA POWERS, PROVIDING FOR A SECRETARIAT, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Independent Commission for*
2 *Infrastructure Integrity Act of 2025.*”

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to safeguard
4 lives and property, ensure transparency and accountability in infrastructure projects, and preserve
5 public trust. To this end, an independent, credible, and broad-based commission shall be created to
6 develop a National Infrastructure Plan, regularly review it, and monitor implementation while
7 investigating allegations of graft, misuse of funds, or inefficiency in infrastructure projects.

8 **SEC. 3. *Creation of the Commission.*** – There is hereby created an Independent
9 Commission for Infrastructure Integrity (ICII), hereinafter referred to as the Commission, which
10 shall exist as a permanent, continuing, and independent body, unless otherwise abolished or
11 modified by law.

12 The Commission shall have two internal bodies:

- 13 1. Planning Board – responsible for developing, implementing, and reviewing the
14 National Infrastructure Plan, including strategic planning, flood risk mapping,
15 resilient infrastructure design, and emergency preparedness. The Plan shall be
16 updated every three (3) years.
17
18 2. Monitoring & Investigation Body – responsible for overseeing the implementation
19 of the Plan, ensuring transparency, and investigating corruption, fraud, or misuse
20 of funds in flood control and related infrastructure projects.

1 **SEC. 4. *Composition.*** – The Commission shall be composed of five (5) members, none of
2 whom shall be incumbent government officials, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines.
3 The members shall be:

- 4 1. One retired Justice of the Supreme Court (Chairperson of the Commission);
- 5 2. One Certified Public Accountant with expertise in forensic accounting or auditing;
- 6 3. One industry leader, preferably an engineer;
- 7 4. One respected academician with background on either public finance, economics
- 8 or urban and regional development planning; and
- 9 5. One prominent representative from the business sector of civil society that is
- 10 experienced in disaster risk reduction or environmental management.

11 The Retired Supreme Court Justice shall be the Chairperson of the Commission.

12 The Commission, sitting en banc, shall determine and approve its internal staffing pattern,
13 including the number and qualifications of lawyers, investigators, technical experts, and
14 other personnel it deems necessary. The Commission shall exercise full authority to
15 appoint, assign, discipline, and remove such personnel, subject to existing civil service laws
16 where applicable.

17 **SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions.*** – The Commission shall have the following powers:

18 **A. *Planning Board Functions.*** – The Planning Board shall, among others, have the
19 following powers:

- 20 1. Develop, implement, and oversee a National Infrastructure Plan, in
- 21 coordination with national and local government agencies, and civil society
- 22 organizations;
- 23 2. Conduct studies, technical assessments, and risk analyses to inform flood
- 24 mitigation and infrastructure strategies;
- 25 3. Review and update the National Infrastructure Plan every three (3) years;
- 26 4. Recommend policies, regulatory adjustments, and budget allocations to achieve
- 27 the Plan’s objectives;
- 28 5. Promote the use of resilient, climate-adaptive, and sustainable infrastructure
- 29 technologies in flood-prone areas.
- 30
- 31

32 **B. *Monitoring & Investigation Body Functions.*** – The Monitoring and Investigation
33 Body shall, among others, have the following powers:

- 34 1. Investigate allegations, complaints, and active cases of corruption, fraud, or
- 35 misuse of funds in infrastructure projects;
- 36 2. Obtain full access to government records, contracts, bids, financial reports, and
- 37 correspondence relevant to flood control projects;
- 38 3. Administer oaths, take testimonies, and allow perpetuity of testimonies, subject
- 39 to cross-examination rights;
- 40

4. Issue subpoenas *duces tecum* and *ad testificandum*, the enforcement of which shall be subject to judicial confirmation, in accordance with the law, to compel witnesses and documents;
5. Recommend the initiation of contempt proceedings before the proper court;
6. Recommend to the DOJ or OMB the prosecution of public officials, government employees, contractors, or private entities involved in corruption or mismanagement;
7. Institute administrative cases and refer verified complaints to appropriate agencies;
8. Recommend reforms in project planning, procurement, auditing, and monitoring to prevent recurrence of corruption or inefficiency;
9. Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to efficiently carry out the Commission's objectives, consistent with law.

SEC. 6. Coverage. – The Commission shall have jurisdiction over all matters related to the planning, implementation, and oversight of infrastructure projects, without prejudice to the constitutional and statutory mandates of existing agencies. Through its Planning Board, the Commission shall develop, implement, and periodically review the National Infrastructure Plan every three (3) years to ensure responsiveness to emerging risks, population growth, and climate change. Through its Monitoring and Investigation Body, the Commission shall oversee the execution of infrastructure projects, ensuring compliance with the Plan, transparency, and accountability in the use of public funds. It shall also investigate allegations of corruption, fraud, misuse of funds, or other irregularities in such projects and recommend administrative or criminal actions where warranted. In exercising its mandate, the Commission shall coordinate with relevant government agencies, local government units, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure that flood mitigation strategies and infrastructure initiatives are effectively implemented and continuously improved.

SEC. 7. Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism. - To ensure unified, efficient, and evidence-based implementation of the National Infrastructure Plan, a formal Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism is hereby established to harmonize programs, projects, data systems, and operational standards among key government bodies.

- a) Creation of an Inter-Agency Infrastructure Integrity Council. - An Inter-Agency Infrastructure Integrity Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, is hereby constituted and shall be chaired by the Commission. The Council shall be composed of duly designated senior representatives from the following agencies:

1. Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
2. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
3. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
4. Department of Science and Technology (DOST), through PAGASA and PHIVOLCS;
5. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC);
6. National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);
7. Department of Budget and Management (DBM); and

8. National Prosecution Service (NPS), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and Philippine National Police (PNP);
9. Office of the Ombudsman (OMB);
10. Commission on Audit (COA), Civil Service Commission (CSC), and Commission on Elections (COMELEC);
11. Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB);
12. Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC);
13. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC);
14. Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB); and
15. Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

The Council shall meet at least once every quarter or as often as necessary at the call of the Commission.

- b) Harmonization of Plans and Budgets. – All member agencies shall align their annual plans, programs, and budget proposals that relate to flood mitigation, drainage systems, watershed management, disaster resilience, and infrastructure development with the National Infrastructure Plan. Each agency shall submit an annual certification of alignment to the Commission and the DBM.
- c) Authority to Invite Resource Persons. – The Commission and the Council shall have the authority to invite, summon, or call upon resource persons to appear in meetings, hearings, or technical conferences for the purpose of providing expert advice, technical input, data, or testimony relevant to infrastructure integrity, project evaluation, disaster resilience, and inter-agency coordination. Such resource persons may include, but are not limited to, representatives from the private sector, academic and research institutions, professional organizations, civil society, affected communities, and international or development partners.
- d) Mandatory Data Integration and Sharing. - All concerned agencies, GOCCs, and LGUs shall transmit regularly updated data, technical reports, and project information relevant to flood control and infrastructure integrity. The Commission may establish a centralized data and analytics platform to consolidate, process, and monitor such information.
- e) Joint Project Evaluation. - The Commission and the Council shall jointly evaluate proposed flood control and infrastructure projects to ensure prioritization of high-risk areas, elimination of overlapping or redundant projects, and full consistency with engineering standards and long-term resilience objectives.
- f) Local Government Compliance. - Provinces, cities, and municipalities shall integrate the National Infrastructure Plan into their local development and land use plans. The DILG shall monitor LGU compliance and provide technical assistance.
- g) Annual Coordination Review. - The Council shall conduct an annual review of inter-agency performance, coordination challenges, and emerging risks in infrastructure. The results of such review shall be submitted to Congress and the Office of the President as part of the Commission’s annual report.

SEC. 8. Public Hearings. – Hearings conducted by the Monitoring and Investigation Body shall be public and open to the media, subject to the exclusion of matters deemed confidential in

1 accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations. A suitable venue shall be available, with
2 facilities for livestreaming of the hearings or proceedings, in order to promote transparency and
3 public accessibility.

4 **SEC. 9. *Prohibition on the Issuance of Temporary Restraining Orders, Preliminary***
5 ***Injunction, and Preliminary Mandatory Injunctions.*** – No court, except the Supreme Court, shall
6 issue any temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or preliminary mandatory injunction
7 to restrain the conduct of hearings or investigations by the Commission, its members, or the
8 Secretariat, unless there is a clear showing of grave abuse of discretion, with respect to any matter
9 or act within the Commission’s mandate, including the conduct of any hearing or proceeding, the
10 pursuit of investigations, and the filing and handling of criminal and administrative cases.

11 **SEC. 10. *Secretariat.*** – A permanent, independent Secretariat shall provide administrative,
12 technical, investigative, and research support to both the Planning Board and Monitoring &
13 Investigation Body.

14 The Secretariat shall be headed by an Executive Director appointed by the Commission and
15 shall include personnel such as lawyers, engineers, auditors, investigators, analysts, and other
16 technical and administrative staff.

17 The Commission shall establish its own organizational structure, staffing pattern,
18 qualifications, compensation system, and human resource policies, subject only to general civil
19 service rules.

20 **SEC. 11. *Designation of Agency Officials and Hiring of Personnel.*** – The National
21 Prosecution Service (NPS), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine National Police
22 (PNP), Office of the Ombudsman (OMB), Commission on Audit (COA), Anti-Money Laundering
23 Council (AMLC), and Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall designate officials, lawyers,
24 investigators, and auditors to render full-time or part-time service to the Commission. The
25 Commission may also hire confidential personnel and technical consultants on contractual or co-
26 terminus arrangements.

27 **SEC. 12. *Support Agencies.*** – The Commission may require all concerned government
28 agencies, constitutional bodies, and other relevant entities to extend assistance as necessary to
29 support its planning, monitoring, and investigative functions.

30 **SEC. 13. *Assistance from the Academe, Industry, and Civil Society.*** - The Commission
31 may seek technical, scientific, and advisory assistance from universities, research institutions,
32 professional associations, and civil society organizations to support planning, monitoring, and
33 investigations.

34 **SEC. 14. *Funding.*** - The amount necessary for the initial operations of the Commission
35 shall be charged against the Contingent Fund of the Office of the President. Thereafter, such sums
36 as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

1 **SEC. 15. *Reporting.*** – The Commission shall submit periodic reports of its findings and
2 recommendations to Congress and the President, and make these reports available to the public,
3 subject to due process and confidentiality requirement.

4 **SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the
5 remaining provisions shall remain valid.

6 **SEC. 17. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
7 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

8 *Approved,*