



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7470



Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**
1st District, Zamboanga City

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine education system continues to face a persistent shortage of safe, adequate, and functional classrooms. Despite ongoing government efforts, the backlog remains high. The Department of Education (DepEd) reports a nationwide classroom deficiency of about 165,000 classrooms as of 2025, highlighting the magnitude of the problem amid rising enrollment and rapid urbanization. This shortage results in overcrowded classrooms, the adoption of shifting class schedules, and learning environments that undermine the delivery of quality education. Millions of Filipino learners, particularly those in public schools and rapidly growing communities, continue to experience the direct consequences of this infrastructure gap.

The shortage of classrooms directly undermines the delivery of quality basic education and places added pressure on teachers, school administrators, and learners. Overcrowded classrooms restrict effective instruction, limit student engagement, and compromise safety, especially during extreme weather events and emergencies. Although the government has made progress, construction has not kept pace with demand. From July 2022 to July 2025, the DepEd and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) completed 22,092 new classrooms, reducing the backlog from approximately 165,443 to an estimated 146,708 classrooms nationwide. This level of progress, however, remains insufficient relative to annual targets and population growth.

Construction delays and funding constraints continue to hinder timely infrastructure delivery. In 2025, agencies completed only 22 classrooms out of a target of 1,700, leaving many projects ongoing or yet to begin. DepEd has warned that, at the current pace of construction and existing funding levels, resolving the classroom shortage could take decades. Without faster and more innovative solutions, the deficit may continue to grow, widen disparities among communities, and undermine long-term educational outcomes.

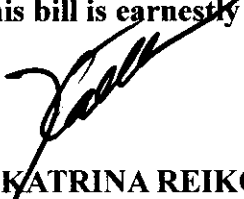
To address this urgent challenge, the proposed Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP) serves as a complementary and responsive mechanism to existing national initiatives. The

program seeks to expand classroom construction by enabling qualified local government units (LGUs) and private-sector entities to participate directly in the construction of classrooms that meet the Department of Education's standards. While DepEd and DPWH retain their roles as the primary agencies for educational infrastructure, the scale of the classroom deficit clearly demands broader collaboration and shared responsibility.

CAP empowers both the LGUs and private partners to contribute resources, technical expertise, and localized solutions to classroom construction, particularly in areas where national projects encounter logistical, geographic, or funding constraints. By leveraging local capacity and encouraging private sector participation, the program accelerates classroom delivery, improves responsiveness to community needs, and ensures cost-effective, timely, and high-quality implementation.

This measure reinforces the State's constitutional mandate to provide accessible, high-quality education for all. By prioritizing the creation of safe and conducive learning environments, CAP directly supports improved learning outcomes, student well-being, and teacher effectiveness. It also strengthens intergovernmental cooperation and public-private partnerships, promotes inclusive development, and fosters shared accountability in addressing long-standing infrastructure challenges. Ultimately, CAP offers a practical, collaborative, and forward-looking solution to close the classroom gap, uplift public education, and invest meaningfully in the future of Filipino children and the nation as a whole.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7470

Introduced by Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI
1st District, Zamboanga City

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.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the provision of adequate, safe, and accessible learning spaces for all Filipino students. Recognizing that classroom shortages impede the delivery of quality education, it is the policy of the State to accelerate the construction of classrooms through collaborative efforts involving national government agencies, local government units, and the private sector. Further, the State shall encourage and support programs that promote public-private partnerships in education infrastructure development, optimize the use of resources, and ensure the timely completion of classroom-building projects. In doing so, the State affirms its commitment to providing every learner with a conducive and secure environment for effective teaching and learning.

SECTION 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 and DPWH.

SECTION 4. *Eligibility of Government Units and Private Sector Entities.* - LGUs and two (2) private sector entities may participate in the CAP if they meet the following criteria:

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

6 LGUs and the private sector entities shall submit proposals, including cost estimates, site
7 plans, implement timelines, and compliance with the DepEd classroom design standards.

8 **SECTION 5. *Program Management.*** - The Department of Education shall serve as the
9 lead implementing agency of the CAP. A CAP Secretariat shall be established within the
10 DepEd Central Office to coordinate with stakeholders and to evaluate proposals, recommend
11 funding allocations, and monitor implementation.

12 **SECTION 6. *Funding Sources.*** - Funds for the implementation of classroom projects
13 under the CAP shall be drawn from:

- 14 a) The annual appropriations of DepEd for Basic Education Facilities;
- 15 b) Other national government sources, subject to budgetary rules;
- 16 c) Contributions from the private sector through corporate donations, foundations,
- 17 or Public-Private Partnership (PPP) modalities.

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

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

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

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

- 32 a) Ensure compliance with DepEd's classroom design standards;
- 33 b) Strengthen planning, procurement, and project management capabilities; and
- 34 c) Enable LGUs and private sector entities to pursue PPPs for classroom-building
- 35 projects.

36 **SECTION 10. *Monitoring and Reporting.*** - All LGU-implemented projects under the
37 CAP shall be subject to regular monitoring and evaluation. LGUs shall submit quarterly
38 progress reports to DepEd. A consolidated national report shall be submitted annually by
39 DepEd to Congress to be published in the Department's official website.

1 **SECTION 11. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to implement the initial phase of
2 the CAP shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, such sums
3 as may be necessary for the continued implementation of the program shall be included in the
4 annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

5 **SECTION 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within ninety (90) days from the
6 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, in coordination with DILG, DBM, and
7 DPWH, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this
8 Act.

9 **SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared
10 unconstitutional, the remainder shall continue to be in full force and effect.

11 **SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws inconsistent with this Act are hereby
12 amended or repealed accordingly.

13 **SECTION 15. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

15 **Approved,**