

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P.S. Res 409

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO EVALUATE THE GOVERNMENT'S INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM IN THE LIGHT OF THE DISMAL RANKING OF THE PHILIPPINES IN TERMS OF QUALITY OF OVERALL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS REPORT 2013-2014 AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO REVAMP THE COUNTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES

Whereas, infrastructure plays a critical role in economic development, with global rating agencies and analysts citing conducive monetary environment, political stability and robust government spending which are ideal for construction activity;

Whereas, according to the World Economic Forum, (WEF) Global Competitiveness Report 2013-2014, the Philippines ranked 96th among 148 countries in terms of overall infrastructure quality;

Whereas, although the country's global infrastructure ranking improved from 98th place in the same WEF report for 2012-2013, the quality of overall infrastructure in the Philippines remains in dire state and is the third to last in the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, just past Cambodia and Myanmar;

Whereas, the WEF 2013-2014 report also noted that the Philippines got the lowest rank in quality of air transport infrastructure (113th); quality of port infrastructure (116th), quality of railroad infrastructure (89th) and quality of roads (87th);

Whereas, the same report has cited that inadequate supply of infrastructure is one of the most problematic factors for doing business in the Philippines, and insufficient infrastructure and poor connectivity are major obstacles to development;

Whereas, economists said the Philippines needs to carry out new and speed up planned infrastructure development projects in order to sustain a robust economic growth;

Whereas, infrastructure challenges are holding back developing countries like the Philippines from fully benefiting from the tourism industry;

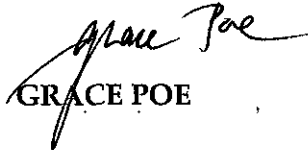
Whereas, while the government has hiked its budget for infrastructure projects next year to P400 billion or 3% of the gross domestic product (GDP), the outlay was well below the 5% of GDP recommended by economists to spur the domestic economy, ensure more jobs, tackle poverty and revive ailing sectors;

Whereas, after super Typhoon "Yolanda" (international name: "Haiyan") lashed several provinces in the Visayas on November 8, destroyed roads, bridges and other transportation networks hobbled rescue and relief efforts, a grim scenario of the country's flagging infrastructure holding back the Philippine economy;

Whereas, the government should consider all-season transportation networks that include roads, railways and air and sea ports;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to urge the proper Senate committee/s to evaluate the government infrastructure program in the light of the dismal ranking of the Philippines in terms of quality of overall infrastructure in the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report 2013-2014 and to recommend measures to revamp the country's infrastructure facilities,

Adopted,


GRACE POE