



23 JAN 24 P1:17

SENATE
S.B. No. 1751

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RAILWAY SYSTEM IN THE
EASTERN VISAYAS REGION, FROM ORMOC CITY,
TO BAYBAY CITY, MAASIN CITY AND TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN
RICARDO IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine government recognizes the need to interconnect our regions through good transport and communication networks. It gives higher priority to asset preservation or maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing transport infrastructure network rather than new construction or development particularly on the quality of the existing railroad tracks and services. This will open up new economic opportunities, reduce transportation and transaction costs of business and increase access to social services particularly the marginalized sectors.

In the previous administration, President Duterte already expressed support for the establishment of a Mindanao Railway System. To complement this, the Eastern Visayas Region is well positioned as the railway bridge that would connect the entire archipelago from Luzon to Mindanao via rail. Such a vision would, of course, be a decades long undertaking; so therefore, it is only sensible to begin the construction of the inter-regional railway systems along the same timeline, so the next stage of connecting the three regional railways systems would coincide, as well.

This bill seeks the immediate approval of the Ormoc-Southern Leyte Railway Act, that would plan, construct and operate the Eastern Visayas Railway System. This system would commence at Ormoc City, travelling southward along the west coast of the island of Leyte via Baybay City and Maasin City. This route would not only interconnect the major cities of the island of Leyte, but also provide a freight transport infrastructure for the economic and industrial zones located along the same major cities.

The creation and establishment of the Ormoc-Southern Leyte Railway System would provide a transport backbone that would support tourism and trade across Leyte and Southern Leyte and eventually bridge Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao via rail.

In view of the foregoing, this representation earnestly seeks your support for the approval of this bill.


IMEE R. MARCOS

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FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Ormoc-Southern
2 *Leyte Railway Act of 2023*”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Establishment of the Ormoc-Southern Leyte Railway System.** – There
5 shall be established a railway system in the Eastern Visayas Region under the
6 administration of the Philippine National Railways, from Ormoc City, to Baybay City, to
7 Maasin City, and to the Municipality of San Ricardo in the Province of Southern Leyte.
8 The Central Station of said railway system shall be located in Ormoc City.

9
10 **SEC. 3. Route, Alignment, Safety and Efficiency of the Ormoc-Southern Leyte**
11 *Railway System.* – The Department of Transportation (DoTr), in coordination with the
12 Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Philippine National Railways
13 (PNR), shall undertake the following:

14
15 (A) A comprehensive study of the Ormoc-Southern Leyte Railway System to
16 determine the most feasible and optimal route, taking into consideration the
17 agro-industrial, tourism and ecozone transportation and freight infrastructure
18 needs of Ormoc City, Isabel and Baybay City.

1 (B) Conduct a study on various modern locomotive technology, including those
2 utilizing either electricity or diesel, to offer options that produce negative carbon
3 transportation, as well as high efficiency;
4

5 (C) Conduct an immediate technical study on the safety, efficiency, resiliency
6 and disaster preparedness of the railway system; and
7

8 (D) Prepare a sound land expropriation plan, including but not limited to land
9 surveys that provides for fair acquisition prices as well as proper relocation
10 of displaced families
11

12 **SEC. 4. *Establishment of Ormoc-Southern Leyte Railway Working Group.*** – The
13 Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the DPWH and the PNR, shall establish
14 a working group which shall include, but not limited to, local chief executives of affected
15 local government units, and lawmakers of affected districts. This working group shall
16 be consulted on all matters concerning the Ormoc-Southern Leyte Railway System.
17

18 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of Transportation,
19 in consultation with the Ormoc-Southern Leyte Railway Working Group shall promulgate
20 the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
21

22 **SEC. 6. *Funding.*** – The amount necessary for the conduct of the necessary
23 technical studies, shall be sourced from the current budget of the DOTr and the PNR.
24 Other funding mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, maybe be explored as
25 per recommendation of technical studies and Ormoc-Southern Leyte Railway Working
26 Group.
27

28 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
29 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
30

Approved,