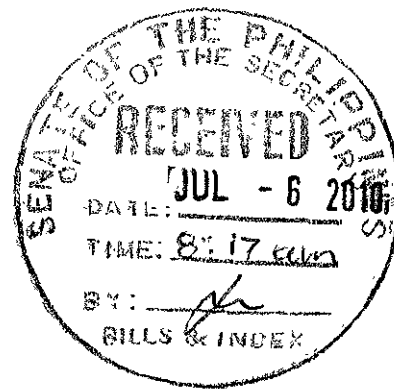


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

Senate Bill No. 165

Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

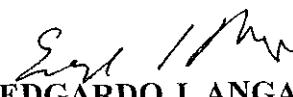
Mainland Mindanao is the second biggest island in the country, next only to mainland Luzon. It is also very rich in natural, mineral and aquatic resources, making it the land of hope or the land of promise.

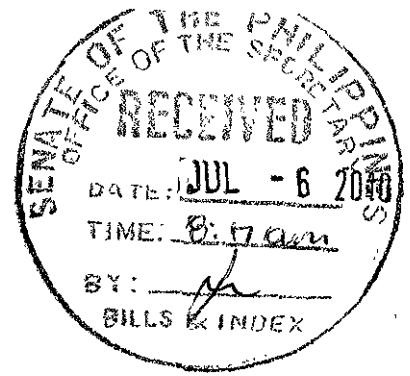
This bill seeks to establish the Mindanao Railways Corporation. This corporation will provide the railroad and the transportation system sorely needed by the island. The railroad, which will crisscross Mindanao, will benefit the whole island's populace. It will accelerate economic activity, immensely benefiting the traders and businessmen.

The railroad will also hopefully connect the major urban centers and provincial capitals such as Davao City, Iligan, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga City, Cotabato City, Marawi, Pagadian, Dipolog, etc. Many of these urban centers are booming. The railway will certainly increase considerably the mobility of the population.

Mindanao has long been a neglected area, and this had caused unrest, resentment, even rebellion from some native groups. Its distance from Metro Manila has made it the frontier of the Philippines. The creation of the Mindanao Railways Corporation will be a long way in convincing the Mindanaonons that the national government sincerely cares for them and is willing to exert efforts in bringing projects which will bolster the region's economy.

In view of the foregoing reasons, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Senator



SENATE

Senate Bill No. 165

Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

AN ACT
CREATING THE MINDANAO RAILWAYS CORPORATION,
PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, AND
PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Name, Duration and Domicile.*** - A corporation to serve as the
2 instrumentality of the Government of the Philippines in providing a railroad and the
3 transportation system for the whole island of Mindanao is hereby created, to be known as
4 the Mindanao Railways Corporation, and hereafter referred to as the Corporation. The
5 Corporation shall exist for a term of fifty (50) years from the date of the approval of this
6 Act. It shall have its main office in Davao City and shall have such branches and agencies
7 within or outside Mindanao as may be necessary for the proper conduct of its business.

8
9 **SEC. 2. *Purposes and Specific Powers.*** - The Corporation shall have the
10 following purposes and specific Powers:

- 11 (a) To own or operate railroads, tramways, and other kinds of land transportation,
12 vessels and pipelines, for the purpose of transporting for consideration,
13 passengers, mails and property between any point in Mindanao.
14 (b) As an auxiliary to its main purpose, to own and/or operate powerhouses,
15 hotels, restaurants, terminals, warehouses, timber concessions, coal mines,
16 iron and other mineral properties and to manufacture rolling stocks,
17 equipment, tools and other appliances, to construct and operate in connection
18 with its railroad lines, toll viaducts, toll tunnels and the like.

19
20 **SEC. 3. *Authorized Capital Stock of the Mindanao Railways Corporation.*** - The
21 Authorized Capital Stock of the Mindanao Railways Corporation shall be One Billion
22 Pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) divided into Ten Million (P10,000,000.00) shares at par value
23 shares of one hundred pesos each (P100.00) which shall be fully subscribed by the
24 Philippine Government, twenty percent (20%) of which or Two Hundred million pesos

1 (P200,000,000.00) shall be initially paid-up and the balance shall be paid from a
2 continuing annual appropriation of not less than two hundred million pesos
3 (P200,000,000.00) which is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the
4 National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. The said amount shall be programmed and
5 released by the Budget Commission in accordance with the schedule of cash
6 requirements to be prepared and submitted by the Mindanao Railways Corporation.
7 Provided, That this continuing annual appropriation of Two Hundred million pesos
8 (P200,000,000.00) and the programming and release thereof shall remain in force until
9 the authorized capital subscribed by the Government shall have been paid in full.

10
11 **SEC. 4. General Powers.** - The Corporation shall have the following general
12 powers:

- 13 (a) to do all such other things and to transact all such business directly or
14 indirectly necessary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of the purpose
15 of the corporation; and
16 (b) Generally, to exercise all powers of a railroad corporation under the
17 Corporation Law

18
19 **SEC. 5. Board of Directors, Composition and Appointment.** . The corporate
20 powers of the corporation shall be vested in and exercised by a Board of Directors of not
21 more than eleven and not less than five members as may be fixed by the President of the
22 Philippines, consisting of chairman, vice-chairman, and other members appointed by the
23 President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on Appointments. The
24 members of the Board need not be stockholders of the Corporation, The first members of
25 the Board shall serve as designated by the President in their appointments for terms of
26 one, two, and three years, respectively, from the date they qualify an assume office; but
27 their successors shall be appointed for terms of three, except that any person chosen to fill
28 a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term of the member whom he succeeds. For
29 actual attendance of the meetings, each such members shall receive a per diem of eight
30 hundred pesos (P800.00).

31 The Chairman and all the members of the Board must be residents of Mindanao
32 for at least seven (7) years prior to the appointments.

33
34 **SEC. 6. Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors.** - The Board of Directors
35 shall have the following powers and duties:

- 36 (a) To prescribe, amend and repeal, the by-laws, rules and regulations governing
37 the manner in which the general business of corporation may be exercised,

1 including provisions for the formation of such committee or committees as the
2 Board of the Directors may deem necessary to facilitate its business.

3 (b) To appoint and fix the compensation of the General manager, subject to the
4 approval of the President of the Philippines, and to appoint and fix the
5 compensation of the other officers of the Corporation. The Board by a
6 majority vote of all the members may, for cause, suspend and/or remove the
7 General Manager.

8 (c) To approve the annual and/or such supplemental budgets of the Corporation
9 which may be submitted to it by the General Manager from time to time.

10
11 **SEC. 7. *Suspension and Removal of Directors.*** - Any member of the Board of
12 Directors may, for cause, be suspended or removed by the President of the Philippines.

13
14 **SEC. 8. *Prohibition for Board Members.*** - No Chairman or member of the Board
15 of Directors of the Corporation shall at the same time serve in the Corporation in any
16 capacity whatsoever other than as Chairman or member thereof, unless otherwise
17 authorized by the President of the Philippines or existing law.

18
19 **SEC. 9. *Managing Head.*** - The management of the Corporation shall be vested in
20 the General Manager.

21
22 **SEC. 10. *Powers and Duties of the General Manager.*** - The General Manager
23 shall have the following powers and duties:

24 (a) To direct and manage the affairs and business of the Corporation on behalf of
25 the Board of Directors, and subject to its control and supervision;

26 (b) To sit in all meetings of the Board of Directors, as Vice-chairman, and
27 participates in its deliberations, with the right to vote, and to preside any
28 meetings for or in the absence of the Chairman;

29 (c) To submit within sixty (60) days after the close of each fiscal year an annual
30 report, through the Board of Directors, to the office of the President of the
31 Philippines;

32 (d) To appoint and fix the number and salaries, with the approval of the Board of
33 Directors, to remove, suspend, or otherwise discipline, for cause, any
34 subordinate employee of the Corporation; and

35 (e) To perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of
36 Directors from time to time.

1 **SEC. 11. *Appointment and Promotion.*** - In the appointment and promotion of
2 officers and employees, merit and efficiency shall serve as basis, and no political test or
3 qualification shall be prescribed and considered for such appointments or promotions.
4 Said officers and employees shall be subject to the Civil Service Law, rules and
5 regulations.

6
7 **SEC. 12. *Exemption from Taxes, Duties and Port Charges.*** - The Corporation is
8 hereby exempt from payment of all taxes of every name and nature - municipal, city,
9 provincial or national- upon its capital stock, franchises, right of way, earnings, and all
10 other property owned or operated by it and all duties on all railways materials, supplies
11 and equipment imported in the Philippines for and/or by the said Corporation and this
12 exemption shall extend to port charges upon vessels whose entire cargo consist of
13 materials for the construction or equipment of the Corporation and to such proportion of
14 the prescribed port charges on other vessels as the tonnage of materials for such
15 constructions or equipment may bear to the tonnage of the cargo of the vessel.

16
17 **SEC. 13. *Audit Personnel and Report.*** -

18 (a) Personnel - The Commission on Audit shall appoint a representative who shall
19 be the Auditor of the Corporation, and the necessary personnel to assist said
20 representative in the performance of his/her duties. The number and salaries of
21 the Auditor and said personnel shall be determined by the Commission on
22 Audit, subject to appropriation by the Board of Directors. In case of
23 disagreement, the matter shall be submitted to the President of the Philippines
24 whose decision shall be final. Said salaries and all other expenses of
25 maintaining the Auditor's office shall be paid by the Corporation.

26 (b) Report - The financial transaction of the Corporation shall be audited in
27 accordance with law, administrative regulations and the principles and
28 procedures applicable to commercial corporate transactions. A report of audit
29 for each fiscal year, by the representative of the Commission on Audit,
30 through the latter, to the Board of directors of the Corporation, and copies
31 thereof shall be furnished the President of the Philippines, and the Presiding
32 Officers of the two Houses of Congress. The report shall set forth the scope of
33 the audit and shall include a statement of assets and liabilities, capital and
34 surplus or deficit; a statement and surplus or deficit analysis; statement of
35 income and expenses; a statement of sources and application of funds; and
36 such comments and information as may be necessary, together with such
37 recommendations with respect thereto as may be advisable, including a report
38 of any impairment of capital noted in the audit. The report also shows

1 specifically any program, expenditures or other financial transaction or
2 undertaking observed in the course of audit, which in the opinion of the
3 Auditor, has been carried on or made without authority of law.
4

5 **SEC. 14. *Legal Counsel.*** - The Corporation shall have its own Legal department,
6 the chief and members of which shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.
7

8 **SEC. 15. *Exemption from the Land Transportation Commission Act.*** - The
9 Corporation shall not be subject to the authority and supervision of the Land
10 Transportation Commission.
11

12 **SEC. 16. *Liquidation.*** - When its term or period of existence has expired in
13 accordance with the provision of this Act, the Corporation shall nevertheless continue as
14 a body corporate for three (3) years after the time of its dissolution for the purpose of
15 prosecuting and defending suits by or against it and of enabling it gradually to settle and
16 close its affairs, to dispose of and convey its properties, but not for the purpose of
17 continuing the business for which it was established. In order to carry out its liquidation,
18 upon the dissolution of the Corporation, a Board of Liquidators shall be appointed by the
19 President to take charge of winding up its corporate affairs and effecting its liquidation.
20

21 **SEC. 17. *Strikes During National Emergency.*** - The provisions of law to the
22 contrary notwithstanding, in cases of national emergency, or when in the opinion of the
23 President of the of the Philippines, the national security or interest is in imminent danger,
24 employees and laborers of the Corporation shall not strike for the purpose of securing
25 changes or modification in their terms and conditions of employment during said period
26 of emergency.

27 **SEC. 18. *Reversion of General Funds.*** - All funds resulting from dissolution and
28 liquidation of the Corporation as herein provided shall revert to the general funds of the
29 Government.
30

31 **SEC. 19. *Applicability of the Corporation Law.*** - The provisions of the
32 Corporation Law which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, shall be
33 applicable to the corporation created hereby.
34

35 **SEC. 20. *Repealing Clause.*** - The provisions of Republic Act No. 4156, as
36 amended, creating the Philippine National Railways and all acts, executive orders,
37 administrative orders, and proclamations or parts thereof inconsistent with any of the
38 provision of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

SEC. 21. *Separability Clause.* - If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby, shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 22. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,