

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'13 JUL -8 P5:21

SENATE

REGISTERED BY: *ji*

S. No. 655

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Introduced by Sen. Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The relocation of a nation's capital and government center is a monumental task. National capitals occupy a commanding position in the stature and development of nations. They are the visible symbols of national pride and a defining vehicle for national progress. A well-planned capital and government center is one which combines functionality and aesthetics. It promotes a more efficient government operation, encourages economic buoyancy in a seemingly underdeveloped region, and stands as a testament to the unique heritage of a nation.

The city of Canberra has been an example used by many emerging nations in the post- World War II period. The Australian Capital Territory was declared on 1 January 1911 and an international competition was held to design the new capital city of Australia.<sup>1</sup> Another premier example of capital relocation is Brasilia which experienced rapid growth after its establishment as Brazil's capital in 1961. The newer national capitals, on the other hand, are coming to be examples in urban development -- vehicles for experiment from which other municipalities in each nation can learn.<sup>2</sup>

Since 1976, the city of Manila and the National Capital Region have been the seat of national government. Unfortunately, decades henceforth, lack of urban planning as manifested by antiquated drainage system, degraded air quality, faulty traffic management, and proliferation of illegal settlers make Metro Manila a place with only little space for development. According to the National Economic Development Authority, the country, particularly Metro Manila, is losing Php2.4 billion per day in potential income as a result of traffic congestion problems alone, leading to lost productivity. Lamentably, Metro Manila is a capital which could hardly stand proud in the ranks of national capitals throughout the world.

It is therefore imperative for Congress to create a National Capital Commission to comprehensively study the potential of relocating and transferring of the national capital and permanent seat of the national government of the country from the City of Manila and the National Capital Region (NCR).

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

ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV

Senator

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<sup>1</sup> Canberra - Australia's capital city. Information retrieved from <http://australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/canberra-australias-capital-city> on 7/8/2013.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

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AN ACT  
CONSTITUTING A NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION FOR CAPITAL  
RELOCATION

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

1           **SECTION 1. Organization.-** The National Capital Commission, hereinafter referred to  
2 as the "Commission" is hereby constituted in order to study possibility and feasibility of capital  
3 relocation and transfer of the permanent seat of the government of the Philippines.

4  
5           **SEC. 2. Composition.-** The Commission shall be composed of three (3) Commissioners  
6 appointed by the President of the Republic.

7  
8           **SEC. 3. Mandate.** It shall be the mandate of the Commission to study and recommend  
9 thenceforth the transfer or non-transfer of the capital and permanent seat of the government of  
10 the Philippines.

11  
12           **SEC. 4. Secretariat and Technical Committee.-** The Commission shall organize its  
13 Secretariat which shall provide administrative and technical support to the Commission. The  
14 Commission and its Secretariat shall hold office in such venue as the Commission may deem  
15 appropriate.

1           The Commission is hereby authorized to create technical committees and designate  
2 members thereof, and may engage the assistance of experts and professional advisors, subject to  
3 government rules and regulations.

4  
5           **SEC. 5. *Term of Office.***- The Commission shall complete its work not later than two (2)  
6 years from the date of approval of this Act, and shall submit to the President of the Philippines a  
7 report of the work undertaken by it together with its corresponding recommendations.

8  
9           In case of a recommendation not to transfer the capital and seat of government of the  
10 Republic, the Commission shall also submit its recommendations on how to improve the  
11 existing state of affairs in the City of Manila and the National Capital Region (NCR), with the  
12 end in view of promoting more effective and efficient government service and enable the City of  
13 Manila and the NCR to meet the challenge of serving as national capital and seat of government  
14 in the decades to come.

15  
16           **SEC. 6. *Termination.*** - Upon completion of its work and the submission of its report not  
17 later than two (2) years from the date of the approval of this Act, the Commission shall cease to  
18 exist and the services of the Commissioners and members of the Secretariat and Technical  
19 Committee shall terminate.

20  
21           **SEC. 7. *Appropriation.***- The Commission shall be funded with an initial allocation of  
22 One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) from the General Appropriations Act.

23  
24           **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** All previous issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this  
25 order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

26  
27           **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** This order shall take effect upon its publication in the Official  
28 Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,