

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

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24 JUL -1 A7:27

SENATE
S. No. 2716

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

AN ACT
STREAMLINING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS THROUGH ROUND-THE-CLOCK OPERATIONS
TO PROMOTE EFFICIENCY AND ITS EFFECTIVE EXECUTION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The delays in the construction of our country's infrastructure projects do not only stunt the growth of our economy but also cost our taxpayers millions of pesos. In 2017 alone, the Philippine government was required to pay a total of P230.17 million in penalties and commitment fees because some of our national agencies were not able to follow the construction timeline of our infrastructure projects. Moreover, studies have shown that delays in infrastructure construction entails higher costs as a result of the increase in the prices and scarcity of the required materials. It is therefore high time for policymakers to step in and prevent these undue and unwarranted delays from occurring.

It is precisely because of this reason that I am filing this measure to modify the country's approach to infrastructure development, ensuring that our country is prepared to meet the demands of the 21st century.

The Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery Act proposes round-the-clock operations for priority infrastructure projects as a testament to our commitment to improving the state of infrastructure in our country at the soonest possible time. By working tirelessly, day and night, we will expedite the completion of critical infrastructure

projects, reducing delays and as a result, accelerating benefits to our communities, most especially the commuting public who needs it the most.

The measure will also ensure that our country will not incur any more penalties and purchase construction materials at terribly inflated prices due to such delays. The millions of pesos that we will save through this policy can instead be reallocated to the government's public services programs where they can make the most difference.

Once signed into law, this bill will enhance our nation's competitiveness on the global stage. In a rapidly changing world where competition is the name of the game, the ability to deliver infrastructure projects swiftly and efficiently is a critical advantage. The Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery Act turns the Philippines into a leader in infrastructure development, showcasing our country's ability to innovate, adapt, and adjust with the shifting tides.

Finally, it sends a clear message to the world: our country is open for business, and we have the infrastructure to prove it.

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



GRACE POE

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

1 Section 1. This Act shall be known as the "Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery Act."

2 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
3 enhance the efficiency of all government infrastructure projects which entails their
4 completion according to schedule. To achieve this, the State mandates a
5 comprehensive approach on round-the-clock operations of such projects to optimize
6 public resources and expedite project timelines.

7 Sec. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all government infrastructure projects
8 funded by the national government, local government units, and government-owned
9 and controlled corporations, particularly those involving hard infrastructure projects
10 like the construction, repair, and maintenance of roads and bridges.

11 Sec. 4. *Round-the-Clock Operations.* –

12 (a) All government infrastructure projects covered by this Act shall implement
13 round-the-clock operations to ensure their efficiency and timeline compliance.

14 (b) The implementing agency shall develop an appropriate shift schedule among
15 the workers, taking into consideration the nature and scope of the project and relevant
16 labor laws and regulations, to maximize workforce and equipment utilization.

17 (c) The minimum number of shifts in a single day for projects that will implement
18 round-the-clock operations shall be no less than three (3).

1 (d) Adequate provisions shall be made for the welfare, safety, and fair
2 compensation of all workers engaged in round-the-clock operations.

3 Sec. 5. *Budgetary Allocation.* – Funding for the implementation of this Act shall be
4 sourced from the annual budget of the concerned government agencies.

5 Appropriations shall include provisions to cover additional expenses related to
6 round-the-clock operations, such as overtime pay, safety measures, and logistical
7 requirements.

8 Sec. 6. *Incentives.* - To motivate compliance and ensure the efficiency of round-
9 the-clock operations, contractors and workers engaged in government infrastructure
10 projects under this Act may be eligible for incentives based on the criteria and
11 guidelines established by the appropriate implementing agency.

12 Sec. 7. *Workforce Management.* – The implementing agency:

13 (a) Shall coordinate with the relevant labor agencies to ensure the availability of
14 skilled workers for round-the-clock operations.

15 (b) May initiate training programs to enhance the skills of workers and improve
16 their adaptability to shift work.

17 Sec. 8. *Health and Safety Standards.* – The implementing agency shall establish
18 and enforce health and safety standards for round-the-clock operations to protect the
19 well-being of workers and mitigate potential occupational and safety hazards.

20 Sec. 9. *Penalties for Non-Compliance.* –

21 (a) Failure to adhere to the provisions of this Act shall result in penalties for the
22 implementing agency, such as but not limited to possible budgetary reductions for
23 future projects.

24 (b) Contractors found to be negligent in implementing the provisions of this Act
25 will face sanctions, such as but not limited to suspension from bidding for and
26 participating in other government projects.

27 Sec. 10. *Research and Development.* – A portion of the budget allocated for
28 infrastructure projects shall be earmarked for research and development initiatives
29 aimed at identifying innovative technologies and practices to further enhance the
30 efficiency of round-the-clock operations.

31 Sec. 11. *Accessibility and Inclusivity.* –

1 (a) The implementing agency shall ensure that round-the-clock operations are
2 accessible to all workers, taking into consideration the needs of vulnerable sectors
3 such as women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities.

4 (b) Adequate accommodations and support services shall be provided to workers
5 as necessary.

6 Sec. 12. *Public Awareness Campaign.* – The implementing agency shall conduct a
7 public awareness campaign to inform the public about the benefits of round-the-clock
8 operations, the anticipated impact on project timelines, and the measures taken to
9 address potential concerns.

10 Sec. 13. *Integration with National Development Plans.* – The implementation of
11 round-the-clock operations shall be integrated into existing and future national and
12 local development plans to ensure alignment with overall development goals.

13 Sec. 14. *Periodic Review.* – The effectiveness of round-the-clock operations shall
14 be subject to periodic review by the implementing agency, with adjustments made as
15 necessary to improve efficiency and address emerging challenges.

16 Sec. 15. *Separability Clause.* – Should any part of this Act be declared
17 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof that not affected thereby shall
18 continue to be in full force and effect.

19 Sec. 16. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
20 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,