

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 849

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The basic requisite in the pursuit of national development is a prudent use of land resource. Only through a comprehensive land use plan can we efficiently use our resources to propel the country towards economic and social development. However, efforts are being hampered by the lack of available information related to land resources which are necessary for efficient land use. The data available are either inadequate or grossly outdated.

In order to respond to the challenges of development, there is an urgent need to modernize the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA). The NAMRIA, in fulfilling its mandate of supplying all necessary information on land resource matters, must be at the forefront of national planning and development.

This bill seeks to establish a modernization program for the NAMRIA in order to effectively fulfill its mandate. This modernization program shall undertake the following programs:

a. National Mapping Program which aims to accelerate the production of digital base maps and information for environmental planning and development within a geographic information system environment;

b. Information Technology Strategic Plan, which seeks to develop and define an over-all medium-term information technology structure for NAMRIA to include proposed technology, data application and service models in order to address the agency's information needs at both management and operational levels;

c. Data acquisition from satellite missions through the establishment of a multi-satellite, multi-purpose ground receiving station, the development of Hydrographic, Oceanographics Surveys and Nautical Charting of the Exclusive Economic Zone and the development of innovative techniques in generating geographic information.

The modernization program shall benefit not only our local government units and the various national planning agencies but also the private sector as well. In view of the foregoing considerations, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

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

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE NATIONAL MAPPING AND  
RESOURCE INFORMATION AUTHORITY (NAMRIA)

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the "**NAMRIA  
Modernization Act**"

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the state to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living and an improved quality of life for all. However, national development and policies must be based on current information on land resources. The National Mapping and Resources Information Agency (NAMRIA), as sole custodian of all land-resource-related information, shall therefore be a prime mover of national development planning. Towards this end, the State shall promote and pursue the Modernization of National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) to a level where it can effectively and fully perform its mandate to act as the central surveying and mapping agency of the Republic of the Philippines.

**SEC. 3. Objectives of the NAMRIA Modernization Program.**

- (a) To promote the conservation and management of the country's natural resources by assisting the various agencies of government in their efforts toward the proper determination of the country's land boundaries and land use patterns, forest lands, ancestral domains, maritime boundaries and other related physical, geographic, demographic and socio-economic characteristics.
- (b) To develop its present capabilities as the central surveying and mapping agency of the government by implementing equipment acquisition program consonant with technological advances to hasten the conduct of needed nationwide geodetic, topographic, hydrographic and oceanographic survey.

- (c) To establish a one-stop shop of geographically referred database and related information.

**SEC. 4. General Mandate and Responsibilities.** The NAMRIA shall have the following general mandate and responsibilities:

- (a) To act as the Government's central surveying and mapping agency providing map making and related services to government instrumentalities;
- (b) To be the official depository and distribution agency for land and natural resources database;
- (c) To conduct land and natural resources classification surveys, inclusive of all marine resources within the maritime zones;
- (d) To undertake continuing ocean and land research and natural resources database development activities; and
- (e) To upgrade, modernization and acquire appropriate surveying and map making technology and equipment.

**SEC. 5. Components of the NAMRIA Modernization Program.** The NAMRIA Modernization Program shall consist of the following components:

- (a) **RESTRUCTURING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.** Aims to effectively and efficiently carry out the nationwide coordination of geographic information development activities and to strengthen research and development program.
- (b) **TECHNOLOGY AND STRATEGIES SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT.** Aims to provide a mechanism for the acquisition and installation of appropriate systems and technology to improve the delivery of its products and services;
- (c) **HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.** Aims to upgrade the skills of its personnel, develop, implement and institutionalize a program designed to optimize personnel capabilities through a sustainable training and development strategies in improving the quality of work as well as the standard of living of its personnel.

**SEC. 6. Development of NAMRIA Capabilities.** The modernization of NAMRIA shall be geared towards the development of the following capabilities:

- (a) **ENHANCEMENT OF MAPPING CAPABILITIES** – The NAMRIA, being the central mapping agency of the government, shall develop and upgrade its map production capability to digital technology. To this end, it shall:
  - (1) Provide updated water and land-based information in the form of digital base maps and charts within geographic information environment;

- (2) Provide nationwide coverage of updated large scale maps in graphic and digital format of urban areas, centers of population and development areas;
- (3) Conduct periodic integrated resource and environment survey for the generation of updated, standardize and reliable geographic and resource information, and;
- (4) Service the various mapping needs of government agencies and the private sector.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITY – The NAMRIA, shall be develop its technology structure by establishing one-stop source of geographically referenced ocean, land and resource database information. To this end, it shall:

- (1) Eliminate data duplication and provide a mechanism for data sharing with other government agencies and instrumentalities;
- (2) Provide a rapid response system to generate maps and charts to disaster management in coordination with concerned agencies and for high priority planning in development areas;
- (3) Keep up with the demand for complete and updated land, water and natural resources data bases, land use classification maps, inclusive of microfilm and microfiche processes;
- (4) Provide better access to its products and services; and
- (5) Speed up its base mapping, revision and technological programs.

(c) IMPROVEMENT OF DATA ACQUISITION CAPABILITY – The following programs shall be implemented to enhance the data acquisition capability of NAMRIA:

- (1) Establishment of Ground Receiving Station – The NAMRIA shall develop its data acquisition capability by operating a multi-satellite, multi-purpose ground station in order to:
  - 1.a. establish and develop its capabilities for real or near data acquisition
  - 1.b. conduct disaster monitoring and damage assessment, detect potential environmental hazard and near real time inventory of resources in coordination with other government agencies
  - 1.c. serve as user service unit.
- (2) Upgrading of Surveys and Charting Capabilities – The NAMRIA shall increase its capabilities for hydrographic, oceanographic and geographic surveys and nautical charting capabilities. To this end, it shall:

2.a. produce up-to-date nautical charts of the Exclusive Economic Zones to ensure safety of navigation and provide basic reference in planning and executing all marine activities in the country;

2.b. delineate the different maritime zone of the country in coordination with other government agencies;

2.c. provide technical data needed in the judicious delimitation of overlapping international boundaries;

2.d. generate marine scientific information for assessment and efficient management of living and non-living ocean resources for both government and non-government units;

2.e. densify existing geographic network, integrate existing cadastral and control data into Philippine Resources System, establishment of a network maintenance system and modernization of survey practices;

2.f. initiate the delineation of administrative boundaries throughout the country in coordination with the Land Management Bureau and other government agencies.

(d) IMPROVEMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CAPABILITY  
– NAMRIA shall undertake researches in order to develop new techniques in generating geographic information. To this end, it shall:

1. engage in exploratory projects which can improve capabilities in information science;
2. acquire expertise in servicing the geographic information requirements of all sectors in the country;
3. establish standards and procedures in geographic information system (GIS), remote sensing, mapping and surveying;

**SEC. 7. *Period of Implementation*** – The modernization program under this Act shall be implemented over a period of ten (10) years; Provided, However, that payments for amortization of outstanding multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act, may extend beyond this period.

**SEC. 8. *Appropriation for the NAMRIA Modernization Program*** – The annual appropriation for the NAMRIA Modernization Program shall include the amounts necessary to support the funding requirements for all modernization projects approved by Congress.

**SEC. 9. *Multi-Year Contracts and Other Contractual Arrangements.***

(a) The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, pursuant to the NAMRIA Modernization Program projects and appropriations approved by Congress, may, subject to the approval of the President, and consistent with the provisions of existing laws and regulations including those of the Commission on Audit and under such terms and conditions most favorable

to the government, enter into multi-year contracts and other contractual arrangements.

(b) For multi-year contracts, Congress shall upon certification by the President, make the corresponding appropriation for the ensuing fiscal year: *Provided*, that Congress shall appropriate only such funds as may be necessary to pay an unpaid amount where the funds appropriated, for the current fiscal year is not sufficient or available to meet such payment in full or in part.

(d) The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall submit to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Environment and Finance and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Environment and Appropriations copies of this multi-year contracts and other agreement to enable Congress to appropriate funds.

**SEC. 10. Procurement System.** In addition to the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations regarding procurement acquisition of equipment, the DENR and NAMRIA shall strengthen said system and procedures taking into account new requirement under the NAMRIA modernization program. The NAMRIA is hereby given the authority to strengthen its system and procedures for equipment acquisition, taking into account new requirements under the NAMRIA modernization program.

**SEC. 11. Tax Exemption.** The importation by NAMRIA of mapping and surveying materials such as photogrammetric, eartographic, survey, data processing, remote sensing equipment and material supplies, and spare parts which will be used actually, directly and exclusively, in its operations shall be exempted from all forms of taxes, duties and other fees.

**SEC. 12. Annual Reports.** The Administrator of the NAMRIA through the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), shall submit to the President and Congress, not later than the end of the first quarter of the succeeding year, an annual report containing the progress of the implementation of the modernization program under this Act.

**SEC. 13. Austerity and Use of Savings.** Upon the approval of this act, the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the NAMRIA Administrator, shall submit to Congress, within the first quarter of the succeeding year and every year thereafter a report on:

- (a) The amount of all unused and undisbursed funds remaining from previous DENR and NAMRIA appropiations; and
- (b) The amount of savings from austerity measures generated in the previous fiscal year.

The savings generated under this section are hereby authorized to be used to augment funds for the NAMRIA Modernization Program.

**SEC. 14. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act shall be unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions no otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Act, are hereby deemed accordingly repealed or amended.

**SEC. 16. *Effectivity Clause.*** This act shall take effect after fifteen days (15) from its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national cut circulation.

*Approved,*