

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3148



Introduced by Representative Ambrosio "Boy" C. Cruz, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

With the onset of climate change, sea levels are expected to rise progressively in the near future, endangering low coastal areas around the world. In the Philippines, the northern shores of the Manila Bay are already frequently flooded during heavy rainfall. This is because the Manila Bay is also the catch basin of the waters that flow downstream from the Pasig, Tullahan, and Pampanga Rivers. The northern Metro Manila cities of Valenzuela, Malabon, and Navotas, and the municipalities of Obando, Bulakan, Paombong, and Hagonoy in the Province of Bulacan, Masantol, Macabebe, Minalin, Guagua, Sasmuan, and Lubao in the Province of Pampanga, and Hermosa, Orani, Samal, Abucay, Balanga, and Pilar in the Province of Bataan, all situated at the northern shore of the Manila Bay, are susceptible to flooding and are the most dangerously exposed areas as the sea level rises. This danger is exacerbated by land subsidence caused by excessive groundwater extraction and rapid urban development, which has extended out of Metro Manila and into the nearby provinces of Regions III and IV-A.

In order to address this danger, plans have already been made to establish a coastal defense system in the Manila Bay to protect the shoreline from future rises in the sea level. In 2013, the New San Jose Builders, Inc. suggested a project involving a combination of flood control barriers in the northern shores of the Manila Bay and a Metro Manila to Bataan toll road, with a 50-year concession period, to be pursued by the private sector through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement. In 2015, the San Miguel Corporation Holdings entered the project. Unfortunately, this project did not materialize.

In the previous administration, the unsolicited proposal to build a coastal defense system in the northern shoreline of the Manila Bay was brought up again. According to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), such a project required massive resources, and a thorough study of the project's technical requirements and environmental impact. The enormity of the project's scope may cause some hesitation on the part of both the private sector investors and the implementing agencies in the executive department.

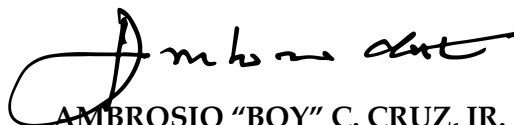
As such, it is time for government to take action by taking the lead in the pursuance of the project which will not only shield the coastal areas of the northern Manila Bay from

typhoon waves and flooding, but will also spur development in Metro Manila and the neighboring provinces, as well as unclog highways that connect these regions, through the construction of a new highway that will connect all of them through the Manila Bay.

This is made even more imperative by the fact that these regions have been undergoing rapid growth in the past decade, necessitating the construction of new infrastructure to accommodate the transport of people and goods in these areas, and to protect coastal dwellers from the dangers caused by climate change.

This bill seeks to establish the Manila Bay Integrated Flood Control Coastal Defense and Expressway and provide funds therefor, to kickstart its planning and construction.

Considering the rationale stated above, urgent passage of this bill is sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ambrosio Cruz Jr.', written in a cursive style.

AMBROSIO "BOY" C. CRUZ, JR.
Representative, Fifth District of Bulacan

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MANILA BAY INTEGRATED FLOOD CONTROL
COASTAL DEFENSE AND EXPRESSWAY, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared national policy to establish flood control systems in heavily-populated coastal areas to mitigate flooding caused by climate change.

Section 2. Flood Control Coastal Defense System. – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall undertake the construction of a flood control coastal defense system in the northern shoreline of the Manila Bay: Provided, That any such construction is based on a program prepared by the DPWH and upon consultation with the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and local chief executives, as well as civil society groups representing residents of the said area.

Section 3. Metro Manila to Bataan Expressway. – The DPWH shall also commence the construction of an expressway connecting Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, and Bataan, on top of the flood control coastal defense system.

Section 4. Submission of Reports. – Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, and at the end of every calendar quarter thereafter, the Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall submit progress reports to each House of Congress on the implementation of this Act.

Section 6. Funding. – The amount needed for the implementation of the construction of the flood control coastal defense system and expressway shall be included in the appropriations of the DPWH under the General Appropriations Act. Such funds may be augmented through loans, in accordance with the provisions of the law on government borrowing from financial institutions.

This project may also be funded through a Public-Private Partnership in accordance with the rules and regulations governing such partnerships.

Section 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,