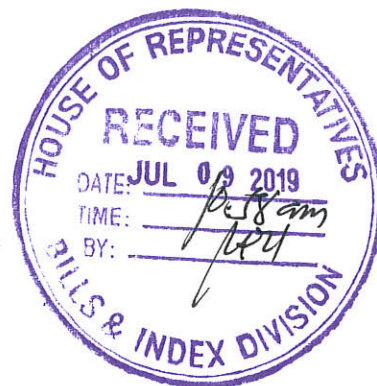


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1658



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) was created in 1987 by virtue of Executive Order No. 192. NAMRIA is the government's central mapping agency, depository and distribution facility for natural resources data of the country. The agency is responsible for the establishment of a nationwide geodetic network of control points that serves as common reference system for all surveys in the country. The research being conducted by the agency is instrumental for development planning, environment and natural resource management, and delineation of maritime territories.

In order for the NAMRIA to realize their mandate as the central surveying and mapping agency of the Republic of the Philippines, and provide the government and the private sector with reliable geospatial information, this proposed measure pushes for the modernization of the NAMRIA for them to effectively contribute to the planning and implementation of development programs of the country.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MDC' or similar, written over the printed name.

HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 1658

Introduced by MAGDALO Party-List Representative
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE NATIONAL MAPPING AND
RESOURCE INFORMATION AUTHORITY (NAMRIA), AMENDING CERTAIN
PORTIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 192, SECTION 22(a) AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as “NAMRIA Modernization
2 Act.”

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure
4 the prosperity of the nation and free the people from poverty by adopting policies and
5 programs that will ensure national security, and provide adequate social services, stimulate
6 and improve the efficiency of economic activities, empower the people to raise their standard
7 of living, and increase their resiliency against climate change, and natural and man-made
8 disasters.

9 The State recognizes the importance of accurate geospatial information in the
10 planning and implementation of economic development programs. The State shall therefore
11 promote and pursue technology-based infrastructure and facilities for data acquisition,
12 production, integration, sharing and widest dissemination of geospatial information. This
13 shall be achieved through the modernization of the National Mapping and Resource
14 Information Authority (NAMRIA) to enable the agency to effectively and fully perform its
15 mandate to act as the central surveying and mapping agency of the Republic of the

Philippines, and provide the government and the private sector with reliable geospatial information.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. –For purposes of this Act, the following terms are thus defined:

- a) *Aerial Photograph* - refers to a photograph of the earth's surface taken from an aircraft in flight.
- b) *Base map* - refers to a map or chart showing certain fundamental information, used as a base upon which additional data of specialized nature are compiled or overlaid.
- c) *Elevation* - refers to the vertical distance of a feature of the earth's surface from a reference level such as sea level.
- d) *Environment and Natural Resource (ENR) Datasets* - refers to datasets on specific characteristics of land and water areas such as land cover and land use, as well as their legal and regulatory status such as protected areas, national parks, mineral reservations, etc.
- e) *Geospatial*- refers to the geographic location and characteristics of natural or constructed features and boundaries on, above, or below the earth's surface; esp. referring to data that is geographic and spatial in nature.
- f) *Geospatial Information* - is information describing the location and names of natural and cultural features beneath, on or above, or below the earth's surface. It includes the basic information found on a topographic map, but also includes different location-related datasets combined into complex layers that show information such as land use and population density.
- g) *Geodetic network* - refers to a network or system of points selected in a definite manner, marked on the ground and accurately surveyed, serving as control points for topographical surveying and geodetic measurements on the ground.

- 1 h) *Geodetic survey* - refers to the type of surveying which considers the size and
2 shape of the earth. This type of survey covers a large area and intends primarily to
3 establish a reference system from which all other surveys are referred to.
4
- 5 i) *Geodetic reference system* - refers to a coordinate system and a set of reference
6 points, used to locate points or objects on the Earth.
7
- 8 j) *Geographic information system (GIS)* - refers to a computer-based technology for
9 capturing, storing, editing, manipulating, analyzing and displaying geographic
10 information. The system provides rapid access and exchange of information. Data
11 inputs include maps, remotely sensed data and statistics.
- 12 k) *Geodetic coordinates* - refers to the three-dimensional coordinates on the earth's
13 surface as expressed in latitude, longitude and height above mean sea level
14 measured on the spherical earth.
15
- 16 l) *Geophysical* - refers to the structural and physical properties of the earth.
17
- 18 m) *Hydrographic survey* - refers to a survey having for its principal purpose the
19 determination of data relating to bodies of water to include: depth of water; nature
20 and configuration of bottom; tidal phenomena; and location of fixed objects for
21 survey and navigational purposes.
22
- 23 n) *Land classification* - refers to a system of determining and segregating which part
24 of the unclassified lands of the public domain are to be declared as forestland and
25 those as alienable or disposable lands.
- 26 o) *Mapping* - refers to the representation on a plane surface, at a given scale, of the
27 physical features (natural or artificial) of a part or the whole of Earth's surface, by
28 means of signs and symbols.
29

1 p) *Nautical charting* - refers to the process of compiling, constructing and
2 reproducing a special purpose map (called a chart) for marine navigation or other
3 particular purposes.

4
5 q) *Nautical chart* - refers to a special purpose map portraying water bodies in
6 relation to land indicating depths of water, dangers and aid to navigation and other
7 information necessary for safe marine navigation and other practical purposes.

8
9 r) *Physical oceanographic survey* - refers to the measurement of tides (sea level),
10 waves and currents, salinity, temperature, density, turbidity, nutrient contents, etc.
11 at various positions, depths and time; an expedition for the purpose of gathering
12 water sample and measuring the above data.

13
14 s) *Satellite Imageries* - refers to imageries of the earth's surface taken from an
15 artificial satellite in orbit.

16 t) *Surveying* - refers to the orderly process of determining data relating to any
17 physical characteristics of the Earth such as the location or boundaries of land or
18 bodies of water.

19
20 u) *Topographic map*- refers to a graphic representation of the earth's surface
21 showing the relative size, position of features, and relief at a given scale.

22
23 v) *Topographic Survey*- refers to the surveys made to determine the configuration of
24 the Earth's surface and to locate natural and cultural features on it.

25
26 **SEC. 4. Objectives of the NAMRIA Modernization Program.** – The NAMRIA
27 modernization program shall be implemented in accordance with the following objectives:

28
29 (a) To enhance and modernize its present capabilities to undertake programs and
30 projects in furtherance of its mandate as the central surveying, mapping and
31 resource information agency of the government;

32

1 (b) To implement a modern data acquisition program and to upgrade its capabilities in
2 the conduct of geodetic, geophysical, topographic, hydrographic , oceanographic
3 and land classification and related surveys;

4
5 (c) To improve and accelerate the production and management of analog and digital
6 geospatial products and services;

7
8 (d) To establish a national geospatial data infrastructure that will ensure inter-
9 operability of geospatial data, and facilitate the integration, sharing, and
10 dissemination of geospatial data produced by different agencies and organizations;
11 and

12
13 (e) To implement a continuing human resource development and management
14 program for its personnel, as well as to reorganize, revitalize and restructure its
15 organizational set-up, as needed, in order to meet the demands of its
16 modernization program.

17
18 **SEC. 5. *Components of the NAMRIA Modernization Program.*** – The NAMRIA
19 modernization program shall consist of the following components:

20
21 (a) *National Topographic Base Mapping Program.* The program involves the
22 continuing acquisition of high-resolution imageries of the earth's surface (such as
23 satellite imageries and aerial photographs), high-resolution elevation data, as well
24 as digital map production systems to provide nationwide map coverage and
25 periodic updating thereof.

26 (b) *National Geodetic Network Development.* The program involves development and
27 maintenance of a globally consistent geodetic reference system that will serve as
28 reference for all surveying and mapping activities in the country.

29 (c) *Hydrographic, Oceanographic and Nautical Charting Program.* The program
30 involves the measurement of the physical features of the oceans and seas for the
31 production of nautical charts for safety of navigation within Philippine waters and
32 sustainable use of the country's coastal and marine resources.

33

1 (d) *Environment and Natural Resources Mapping Program*. The program involves
2 the production of up-to-date environment and natural resources datasets and maps
3 for use of government agencies, local government units, business and the general
4 public.

5
6 (e) *Philippine Geospatial Data Infrastructure*. The program involves the
7 establishment and management of an online access facility to enable integration
8 and sharing of geospatial data generated by government agencies, the academe
9 and other organizations using a common set of standard topographic base maps.

10
11 (f) *Human Resource Development* - The program includes upgrading the skills of
12 NAMRIA's personnel, both civilian, commissioned and enlisted services;
13 develop, implement and institutionalize a program designed to optimize personnel
14 capabilities through sustained trainings.

15
16 (g) *Research, Development and Extension*. The program involves the assessment of
17 existing and development of new systems and procedures to enhance the delivery
18 of NAMRIA products and services, and support the development of the geospatial
19 information industry in the country.

20
21 **SEC. 6.** All government agencies, Local Government Units, State Universities and
22 Colleges, Government Owned and Controlled Corporations, and other Government
23 Instrumentalities are mandated to coordinate their geospatial information activities with
24 NAMRIA to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize the use of geospatial resources.

25 **SEC. 7. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
26 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act

27
28 **SEC. 8. Use of Income.** – The NAMRIA is hereby authorized to utilize any income
29 derived from its products and services in furtherance of the objectives of this Act.

30

1 **SEC. 9. *Reporting Requirements.*** – Within the first quarter of the succeeding year,
2 the Administrator of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority through the
3 Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall submit to the House
4 Committee on Appropriation, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Committees on
5 Science and Technology of both Houses of Congress, a detailed report on the utilization of
6 prior year's expended balances/savings in appropriations to implement the NAMRIA's
7 modernization program.

8
9 **SEC. 10. *Transitory Provision.*** – All existing laws, rules and regulations governing
10 the NAMRIA shall continue to be in effect until repealed, revised, or amended.

11
12 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations
13 inconsistent with or contrary to this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended.

14
15 **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall be unconstitutional
16 or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

17
18 **SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from
19 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,