



NAST STATEMENT



STATEMENT OF THE NAST EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE ENGINEERING SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION ON THE PHILIPPINE BUILDING ACT (PBA) BILLS AT THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES

10 October 2024

We anticipate with much optimism that the Senate of the Philippines during the 3rd Regular Session of the current 19th Congress will approve with urgency and priority the proposed Philippine Building Act of 2024.

For consolidation and approval are Senate Bill Numbers (SBN) 1181, 1467, and 1970.

The House of Representatives had approved its counterpart HBT 8500 AN ACT REGULATING THE PLANNING, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OCCUPANCY, MAINTENANCE, AND DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS, PROMOTING BUILDING RESILIENCE AGAINST EARTHQUAKE, FIRE, FLOOD, LANDSLIDE, STORM, VOLCANIC ERUPTION, AND MULTIPLE HAZARDS WITHIN AN ALL-HAZARDS APPROACH TO RESILIENCE BUILDING, ENACTING A NEW PHILIPPINE BUILDING ACT, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6541, "AN ACT TO ORDAIN AND INSTITUTE A NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES", AND PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1096, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES" on 9 August 2023 and the Senate had received the same on 14 August 2023.

The SBN 1181, SBN 1487, SBN 1970, and HBT 8500 are in full agreement on the need to repeal and replace Presidential Decree No. 1096 of 1977, in order to update not only the technical but also the administrative provisions that govern all the public and private buildings in the country, both those proposed and those existing.

Disaster risk reduction and management is at stake, as well as the sustainability of our built environments both the new and the old. Also, at stake is the ease of doing business and efficient government service delivery. The proposed PBA not only provides for the minimum standards to safeguard life, ensure health and well-being, protect property, and minimize disaster risk; it mitigates any negative environmental, economic, and social impacts; it promotes the accountability of stakeholders including officials, owners, professionals and contractors; and it enforces related rights and obligations of persons, both natural and juridical. The proposed PBA will enable a great leap in technical and administrative innovations.

Science-informed assessments of hazards, exposures, vulnerabilities, and capacities are embedded in the proposed Philippine Building Act, and will better guide the implementing rules and regulations and the reference standards. Along the way, science-based education, research and development, and long-term capacity development in technology will likewise help improve our country's regulations and innovations for buildings and structures and contribute to the resilience and sustainability of our built environments.

Indeed, our built environments must count as one of the four clusters of application areas of technologies within our national foresight for science, technology, and innovation (e.g., PAGTANAW 2050), the others being: energy and water; environment and climate change; and food, health, and nutrition.

We urge the Senate of the Philippines to prioritize the approval of their consolidated Senate Bill on the Philippine Building Act in aid of preventing and mitigating both chronic and catastrophic disaster risks that may be associated with buildings and structures.

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