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.

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as “NAMRIA Modernization
Act.”

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

The State recognizes the importance of accurate geospatial information in the
planning and implementation of economic development programs. The State shall therefore
promote and pursue technology-based infrastructure and facilities for data acquisition,
production, integration, sharing and widest dissemination of geospatial information. This
shall be achieved through the modernization of the National Mapping and Resource
Information Authority (NAMRIA) to enable the agency to effectively and fully perform its
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.
h) **Geodetic survey** - refers to the type of surveying which considers the size and shape of the earth. This type of survey covers a large area and intends primarily to establish a reference system from which all other surveys are referred to.

i) **Geodetic reference system** - refers to a coordinate system and a set of reference points, used to locate points or objects on the Earth.

j) **Geographic information system (GIS)** - refers to a computer-based technology for capturing, storing, editing, manipulating, analyzing and displaying geographic information. The system provides rapid access and exchange of information. Data inputs include maps, remotely sensed data and statistics.

k) **Geodetic coordinates** - refers to the three-dimensional coordinates on the earth’s surface as expressed in latitude, longitude and height above mean sea level measured on the spherical earth.

l) **Geophysical** - refers to the structural and physical properties of the earth.

m) **Hydrographic survey** - refers to a survey having for its principal purpose the determination of data relating to bodies of water to include: depth of water, nature and configuration of bottom; tidal phenomena; and location of fixed objects for survey and navigational purposes.

n) **Land classification** - refers to a system of determining and segregating which part of the unclassified lands of the public domain are to be declared as forestland and those as alienable or disposable lands.

o) **Mapping** - refers to the representation on a plane surface, at a given scale, of the physical features (natural or artificial) of a part or the whole of Earth’s surface, by means of signs and symbols.
p) **Nautical charting** - refers to the process of compiling, constructing and reproducing a special purpose map (called a chart) for marine navigation or other particular purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) To enhance and modernize its present capabilities to undertake programs and projects in furtherance of its mandate as the central surveying, mapping and resource information agency of the government;
(b) To implement a modern data acquisition program and to upgrade its capabilities in the conduct of geodetic, geophysical, topographic, hydrographic, oceanographic and land classification and related surveys;

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

(d) To establish a national geospatial data infrastructure that will ensure interoperability of geospatial data, and facilitate the integration, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data produced by different agencies and organizations; and

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

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

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

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

(c) Hydrographic, Oceanographic and Nautical Charting Program. The program involves the measurement of the physical features of the oceans and seas for the production of nautical charts for safety of navigation within Philippine waters and sustainable use of the country’s coastal and marine resources.
(d) *Environment and Natural Resources Mapping Program.* The program involves the production of up-to-date environment and natural resources datasets and maps for use of government agencies, local government units, business and the general public.

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

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

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

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

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

SEC. 8. *Use of Income.* – The NAMRIA is hereby authorized to utilize any income derived from its products and services in furtherance of the objectives of this Act.
SEC. 9. Reporting Requirements. — Within the first quarter of the succeeding year, the Administrator of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority through the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall submit to the House Committee on Appropriation, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Committees on Science and Technology of both Houses of Congress, a detailed report on the utilization of prior year’s expended balances/savings in appropriations to implement the NAMRIA’s modernization program.

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

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

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

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

Approved,