

[**REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1613, August 24, 1956**]

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR PUBLIC WORKS

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

SECTION 1. *Long-range Program of Capital Improvements with General Funds.*—For the purpose of implementing the 1956-1957 phase of the long-range program of capital improvements of the Administration as contained in Appendix A hereof, the following sums or so much thereof as may be necessary are hereby appropriated out of the General Funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for projects indicated opposite the General Revenue (GR) Finance Method, subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth, for the purposes mentioned hereunder:

[Itemized portions omitted for lack of space]

Total	for	miscellaneousP	3,670,000.00
.....			
Total	under	section	1P47,620,000.00
.....			

SEC. 2. *Short Term Projects.*—The following sums or so much thereof as may be necessary are hereby appropriated out of the General Funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for short-term projects subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth, for the purposes mentioned hereunder: *Provided*, That all waterworks and artesian wells projects herein authorized shall be undertaken by the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority:

[Itemized portions omitted for lack of space]

Total	for	paragraph	g
.....			P15,802,200.00
Total	under	section	2
.....			P30,188,700.00
Total	appropriations	from	
General Funds		P77,808,700.00

SEC. 3. *School Building Program under Republic Act No. 836 as amended.*—For the purpose of implementing Republic Act Numbered Eight hundred and thirty-six, as amended by Republic Act Numbered One thousand two hundred and forty-seven, the provisions of the same as to the method of financing to the contrary notwithstanding, the Secretary of Finance is hereby authorized to negotiate for the sale of bonds or to borrow under existing laws the necessary funds to carry out the purposes of said Act. The itemized schedules appearing in Appendix B hereof are approved, as revised, and the sums indicated therein are hereby appropriated; PROVIDED, That no part of the amount appropriated herein shall be released until after the amount appropriated under Republic Act Numbered Fourteen hundred

eleven for this purpose shall have been totally released—P20,000,000.

SEC. 4. *Public Works Projects to be Financed from Bond Issue.*—The following sums or so much thereof as may be necessary are hereby appropriated from the proceeds of the sales of bonds issued and/or from loans that may be negotiated under existing laws, to be allocated by the President of the Philippines under the terms thereof:

Total	for	Portworks	
.....			P 6,550,000.00
Total amount authorized from			
Bond Issue			P239,369,200.00

SEC. 5. *Apportionment of Portworks Special Fund.*—The following sums or so much thereof as may be necessary are hereby apportioned out of the construction portion of the Portworks Special Fund that have accrued under Act Numbered Three thousand five hundred and ninety-two as amended by Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred and thirty and by Republic Act Numbered One thousand two hundred and sixteen, not otherwise apportioned, for portworks projects contained in the 1956-1957 phase of the Five-Year Program of Capital Improvements as indicated opposite Finance Method "130", to be released by the Secretary of Public Works and Communications pursuant to the provisions hereinafter set forth, for the purposes mentioned hereunder:

[Itemized portions omitted for lack of space]

Total	for	Lighthouses	
.....			P 300,000.00
Total Appropriation from Port			
works Special Fund			P 5,965,000.00

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 6. *Authority to Parent-Teacher Associations and Civic Organizations to Undertake Work on School Building and Community Improvement Projects.*—Any school building project and any community improvement project not requiring complicated, technical methods of construction or is not national in scope, such as Park, Playground, Plaza, Public Midden Shed, Civic Center building, and the like authorized in this Act shall be constructed by contract through public bidding in accordance with the usual contract procedures of the Bureau of Public Works in such cases, but if there are no bidders or if the project can be done at a reasonably lower cost than the lowest bid, such project shall be prosecuted by administration upon the approval of the highway district engineer without the necessity of securing the usual permit from the Office of the President through the Secretary of Public Works and Communications and the General Auditing Office: *Provided*, That in such case, preference shall be given in the matter of school buildings to Parent-Teacher Associations and in the matter of Community Improvement projects to duly registered Civic Organizations in the municipality, city or province, as the case may be, in the construction thereof on a negotiated contract basis with the, intervention of the Office of the Highway District Engineer only in an advisory capacity and to acquire, such data or information for the preparation of a cost-performance report thereon: *Provided, further*, That when any such project is apparently abandoned or

unnecessarily delayed, the Highway District Engineer shall promptly take over said work upon notice, either by letter or by telegram, to the Head of the Bureau concerned: *Provided, still further,* That in communities where there is an adequate supply of local materials adaptable to the requirements of the project, the Parent-Teacher Association or Civic Organization concerned may utilize such materials in the prosecution of work: *Provided, still further,* That regardless of fund limitations for the purpose of this section, the President of the Philippines may authorize any school building project to be undertaken by administration as an exception to pertinent provisions of the Revised Administrative Code as amended: *Provided, finally,* That where two or more civic organizations are willing to undertake the prosecution of any project covered by this section, the Highway District Engineer shall negotiate the contract with the organization offering the lowest quotation.

SEC. 7. *Suspension of Work Done by Administration Before General Elections.*—The provisions of any existing law to the contrary notwithstanding, regardless of the sources of funds, within thirty days before every general election, no laborer shall be employed or money spent in any public works project even if the money is actually released before or within such period except for:

- a. Ordinary maintenance work or existing and/or completed public works projects: *Provided,* That there is no increase in the number of usual laborers or employees employed thereon sixty days prior to the beginning of this thirty-day period;
- b. Work awarded by contract before the thirty-day period: *Provided,* That work for the purpose of this section undertaken under the so-called "takay" or "paquiao" system shall not be considered as work by contract;
- c. Payment for the usual cost of preparation of working drawings, specifications, bills of materials, estimates, and other procedures preparatory to actual construction, including the purchase of materials and equipments, and all incidental expenses for wages of watchmen and other laborers employed for such work in the central offices and field storehouses before the beginning of such period: *Provided,* That the number of such laborers shall not be increased beyond that employed when the project or projects were commenced; and
- d. Emergency work necessitated by the occurrence of a public calamity within the thirty-day period, but such work shall be limited to the restoration of the damaged facility.

SEC. 8. *Engineering Surcharges.*—Except in the case of school building projects implemented under Republic Act Numbered Eight hundred and thirty-six as amended, all provincial engineering surcharges on projects provided for herein shall not exceed four per cent.

SEC. 9. *Program of Work Required before Prosecuting Public Works.*—Before prosecuting any public works, the district, city or project engineer concerned shall prepare a program of work including among other things the total cost of materials and labor required, the anticipated duration of the work in men-days, the margin of contingencies, above his estimates if the work is to be undertaken by administration, and in addition, an estimate of what he deems as a reasonable profit for the contractor if the work is to be undertaken by contract. In no case, however, shall this margin of contingencies be more than ten per cent of the cost of the work if undertaken by administration, or more than fifteen per cent if undertaken by contract. He shall, however, be allowed to submit a revised program of work before