

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 134, December 27, 2005]

DESIGNATING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS AS LEAD AGENCY IN THE LONG TERM IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NORTHRAIL AND SOUTHRAIL LINKAGE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the thrust to decongest Metro Manila through railway and road projects and the establishment of new government centers is of paramount importance in the present administration;

WHEREAS, the establishment of a national railway system will be consistent with the rejuvenation and reengineering of physical frameworks;

WHEREAS, the project implementation is faced with six issues needing resolution, namely (1) the dangers posed by the existing railway system, (2) the stability of current bridges needing repairs, (3) standardization of the track gauge, (4) compatibility of the signaling and communication systems of the Northrail and the Southrail, (5) interconnection of the light railway systems at Magallanes, and (6) relocation of informal settlers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Lead Agency. The Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) shall be the lead agency for the long term implementation of the Northrail-Southern Linkage Project (South Manila Commuter Line).

SEC. 2. Tasks. The DOTC is hereby tasked to study relevant issues and propose measures concerning:

1. The continued danger posed by the Philippine National Railways (PNR) train on the public and private vehicles using the 97 level/road crossings: 46 from Caloocan to Alabang and 51 from Alabang to Calamba.
2. The repair of 76 bridges, 37 of which are found from Caloocan to Alabang and 39 from Alabang to Calamba.
3. The standardization of track gauge. The retention of the narrow 'gauge' vis-à-vis its replacement with 'standard gauge'.
4. The compatibility of the signaling and communication systems of the Northrail and the Southrail.