



Republic of the Philippines

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2374**

---

**Introduced by Honorable Luz V. Mercado**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Considering the issuance of Executive Order No. 70, Series of 2018, the implementation of the Whole-of-Nation approach presents a policy that is worth institutionalizing.

While it is true that E.O. 70 has initially given life to the Task Force on Whole-of-Nation approach, the continuity of the policy hinges on the sitting President and is at risk of being discontinued once another administration will sit in. This bill if enacted will ensure the continuity of the Whole-of-Nation approach.

Therefore, passage of this bill is hereby being earnestly sought.

**LUZ VERANO MERCADO**



Republic of the Philippines

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2374**

---

Introduced by Honorable Luz V. Mercado

---

**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE WHOLE OF NATION APPROACH IN ATTAINING**  
**INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE, CREATING A NATIONAL TASK FORCE**  
**TO END LOCAL COMMUNIST ARMED CONFLICT, AND DIRECTING THE**  
**ADOPTION OF A NATIONAL PEACE FRAMEWORK**

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

- 1       **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** Article of the 1987 Constitution provides for the  
2 following State principles and policies:  
3       a) The Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy;  
4       b) The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and  
5       the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people  
6       of the blessings of democracy; and  
7       c) The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the  
8       prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through  
9       policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising  
10      standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

1       **SECTION 2. *Institutionalizing the Whole-of-Nation Approach.*** The Whole-of Nation  
2 approach is hereby institutionalized as a government policy for the attainment of inclusive  
3 and sustainable peace. Towards this end, the Government shall prioritize and harmonize  
4 the delivery of basic services and social development packages in conflict-affected areas  
5 and vulnerable communities, facilitate societal inclusivity, and ensure active participation of  
6 all sectors of society in the pursuit of the country's peace agenda.

7       **SECTION 3. *Creation of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed***  
8 *Conflict.* To ensure efficient and effective implementation of the Whole-of-Nation approach,  
9 a National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (Task Force) is hereby  
10 created under the Office of the President (OP).

11       **SECTION 4. *Composition.*** The Task Force shall be composed of the President of the  
12 Republic of the Philippines, as Chairman; the National Security Adviser, as Vice-Chairman;  
13 and the following as members:

- 14       a) Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government;
- 15       b) Secretary, Department of Justice;
- 16       c) Secretary, Department of National Defense;
- 17       d) Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways;
- 18       e) Secretary, Department of Budget and Management;
- 19       f) Secretary, Department of Finance;
- 20       g) Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform;
- 21       h) Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- 22       i) Secretary, Department of Education;
- 23       j) Director General, National Economic and Development Authority;
- 24       k) Director General, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency;
- 25       l) Director General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority;
- 26       m) Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process;
- 27       n) Presidential Adviser for Indigenous Peoples' Concern;
- 28       o) Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines;
- 29       p) Director General, Philippine National Police

- q) Chairperson, National Commission on Indigenous People;
- r) Secretary, Presidential Communications Operations Office; and
- s) Two (2) Representatives from the private sector.

Except for the private sector representatives, the members may designate an alternate, with a rank not lower than an Assistant Secretary, to represent their respective offices in the Task Force, provided that the alternate must be fully authorized to decide on behalf of the member. The names of the alternates shall be submitted to the National Secretariat.

The Private Sector Representatives, with a term of one (1) year each, shall be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Task Force.

**SECTION 5. Powers and Functions.** The Task Force shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, formulate and start to implement in coordination with relevant national government agencies, LGUs, the civil society and other stakeholders, a Whole-of-Nation approach-driven National Peace Framework (Framework);
- b) Ensure inter-agency convergence in the implementation of the Framework in conflict-affected and-vulnerable communities;
- c) Enlist the assistance of any department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government, including LGUs, government-owned • controlled corporations (GOCCs), and state universities and colleges (SUCs), in accordance with their respective mandates, in the implementation of the Framework;
- d) Evaluate, define, modify or integrate policies, programs and activities contained in the Framework;
- e) Organize ad hoc inter-agency and multi-sectoral dusters, councils, committees and groups in national, regional, and local levels, or modify existing ones, whenever necessary, to fulfill its mandates;

- 1 f) Develop strategic communications, advocacy, and peace constituency  
2 plans in case of ceasefire, as well as capability-building measures, to  
3 enable the local chief executives and local peace bodies to engage and  
4 facilitate local peace engagements or negotiations or interventions;
- 5 g) Review the mandates and functions of offices undertaking the peace  
6 efforts to avoid duplications of functions and programs, and submit its  
7 recommendation/s to the President for approval;
- 8 h) As may be necessary, issue supplemental guidelines, protocols or policies  
9 in furtherance of this Act;
- 10 i) Recommend to the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process  
11 projects in conflict-affected areas where the PAYapa at MASaganang  
12 Pamayanan Program may be implemented, subject to the provisions of  
13 the General Appropriations Act; and
- 14 j) Perform such other duties and functions as the President may direct.

15 **SECTION 6.** *The National Peace Framework.* The Framework shall contain principles,  
16 policies, plans, and programs that will bring inclusive and sustainable peace, and address  
17 the root causes of insurgencies, internal disturbances and tensions as well as other  
18 armed conflict and threats in identified areas. The Framework shall be responsive to the  
19 local needs and sensitive to the realities on the ground. To this end, the Framework shall  
20 include a mechanism for localized peace engagements or negotiations and interventions  
21 that is nationally orchestrated, directed and supervised, while being locally implemented.

22 **SECTION 7. Convergence.** *All departments, bureaus, offices, agencies or*  
23 *instrumentalities of the government, including GOCCs and SUCs, are hereby directed to*  
24 *render the necessary support to the Task Force.*

25 The private sector, non-government organizations and other stakeholders are  
26 encouraged to participate in all peace-building programs, plans and activities, in the  
27 implementation of the Framework.

**SECTION 8. Secretariat.** The Task Force shall be assisted by a National Secretariat, headed by an Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the President with the rank of Undersecretary. The Executive Director shall submit an organizational and staffing pattern of the Task Force National Secretariat to the DBM, within two (2) months from his/her appointment. Pending the approval of the organizational and staffing pattern, the Executive Director shall be assisted by the personnel from the member-agencies of the Task Force under secondment, detail or other appropriate arrangement.

**SECTION 9. Functions of the National Secretariat.** The National Secretariat shall have the following functions;

- a) Provide technical and effective administrative support and assistance to the Task Force in the performance of its tasks, coordinate with relevant agencies on the status of its plans and programs, and provide update to the Task Force on the implementation of the Framework;
- b) Ensure that all policies, directives, plans and programs formulated by the Task Force are faithfully carried out; and
- c) Perform such other functions as may be directed by the Task Force.

**SECTION 10. Funding.** The initial funding requirements for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against existing appropriations of member-agencies of the Task Force and such other appropriate funding sources as the DEN may identify, and when necessary, the Contingent Fund, subject to relevant laws, rules and regulations.

The succeeding year's appropriations for the operation of the National Secretariat shall be included in the budget proposal of the OP. The funding requirements for the implementation of the programs, plans and activities in the Framework shall be included in the respective annual budgets of the concerned agencies, subject to the usual budget preparation process.

**SECTION 11. Sunset Clause.** The Task Force shall be rendered functus officio upon the accomplishment of the purpose for which it was created or unless sooner dissolved by the President.

1     **SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.*** In the event that any provisions of this Act or any  
2     part hereof is declared invalid, illegal or unconstitutional, the provisions not thereby  
3     affected shall remain in force and effect.

4     **SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.*** All orders, rules and regulations, and other  
5     issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or  
6     modified accordingly.

7     **SECTION 14.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

8     Approved,