
Subject: **ECCP MEMBERS' COMMENTS RE: NEDA's PLAN TO INCLUDE PURELY PRIVATE
BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS ON THE LIST OF IFPs**

Dear Members of the NEDA Infrastructure Committee,

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) extends its gratitude to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for inviting us to participate in the Market Sounding Activity held on 16 August 2024. We appreciate the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue regarding the potential inclusion of purely private business undertakings in the Infrastructure Flagship Project (IFP) list.

We commend NEDA's ongoing commitment to advancing infrastructure development, particularly through initiatives that promote efficiency and expedite processes for the private sector. We recognize the value that streamlined operations and accelerated permits bring to project timelines and overall progress, especially in a rapidly evolving industry. However, while we support these efforts, we believe it is crucial that such acceleration does not come at the expense of due diligence. Comprehensive planning, careful consideration, and thorough assessment are fundamental to ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of any infrastructure project.

The ECCP also notes that the primary value proposition presented is faster permitting, though this benefit has not been clearly quantified, and it comes with the trade-off of increased public accountability. We believe it is important to weigh these factors carefully to maintain the balance between speed and quality. Moreover, we emphasize the need for clear commercial incentives for companies to participate in these projects. Without such incentives, it is unlikely that companies would choose to engage in these undertakings.

By striking this balance, we can ensure that while processes are accelerated, the thoroughness and precision needed for robust, reliable, and sustainable infrastructure are not compromised.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to contribute to this important discussion.