

Comments on Senate Bill No. 628: An Act To Develop A National Quality Policy Defining The Philippine National Quality Infrastructure (Nqi), Creating For This Purpose The Philippine National Quality Infrastructure Coordinating Council And For Other Purposes.

*Prepared by Adoracion M. Navarro**

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1. The proposal to legislate a National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) framework and develop a national quality policy is laudable because it will help the Philippines in promoting and maintaining a culture of quality, thereby improving the competitiveness of our products and services.
2. The proposed bill can be enhanced by including in the scope of the NQI "quality management", or the appropriate and reliable application and maintenance of quality standards.
3. It can also be enhanced by including in the functions of the proposed NQI Coordination Council the continuing assessment of the gaps in NQI standards, methods, equipment, capabilities, and competence and identification of ways to fill these gaps. Since this is an urgent need, this can be the first in the listing of functions of the proposed council.
4. The role that higher education institutions can play in upgrading the NQI can also be included in the proposed bill. It should be noted that higher education institutions can host laboratories that may form part of an ecosystem or a network of NQI. They can also be part of a tripartite academe-industry-government collaboration in improving the quality of products and services through NQI.

* Dr. Adoracion M. Navarro, Senior Research Fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS).