EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

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TIME: April 20, 2021

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SENATE

S. No. <u>2140</u>

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT

STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY, EXTENDING ITS CORPORATE TERM, AND AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO 757 (P.D. 757), "CREATING THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY AND DISSOLVING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to ensure a continuing program of urban land reform and housing, which will make available at affordable cost, decent housing and basic services to underprivileged and homeless citizens, in order to guarantee freedom from poverty, rising standard of living, and improved quality of life for all.

In line with this State policy, the National Housing Authority (NHA) was created under Presidential Decree No. 757 on October 15, 1975, with the mandate to develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated housing program which shall embrace, among others, housing development and resettlement, sources and schemes of financing, and delineation of government and private sector participation. Forty-five (45) years into the its creation, the said organization is in need for the appropriate and necessary upgrade in its powers and duties in order to effectively and efficiently fulfill the objectives to which it was created.

This bill seeks to strengthen the NHA by extending its corporate term which is about to expire on October 15, 2025, exempting it from certain taxes and regulatory fees, and increasing and broadening its powers and duties, in order for the same to more effectively and efficiently do its mandate. This bill further aims to authorize the NHA to issue bonds and other securities to finance the implementation of its housing programs, to designate the same as lead agency in the disposition program, and to guarantee absorption of all or part of the bonds or securities issued by the same as determined by the National Economic Development Authority.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

IUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "National Housing Authority Act of 2021".

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SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to ensure continuing program of urban land reform and housing, which will make available at affordable cost, decent housing and basic services to underprivileged and homeless citizens, in order to guarantee freedom from poverty, rising standard of living, and improved quality of life for all.

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The State, in partnership with the private sector, and its stakeholders shall also:

- (a) Extend people's access to affordable, adequate, safe and secure shelter in well-planned communities;
 - (b) Enable informal settler families to live in resilient, vibrant and connected urban communities;
 - (c) Promote inclusive and integrated housing that are culturally sensitive,

1	responsive to local context and/or special needs, and in accordance with
2	appropriate standards and designs;
3	(d) Encourage and sustain investments in the housing and urban
4	development sector by, among others, promoting partnerships,
5	improving market linkages, simplifying government procedures and
6	facilitating access to finance;
7	(e) Improve affordability of housing programs and projects;
8	(f) Promote climate change resilient housing and basic infrastructure; and
9	(g) Make land available and accessible for housing.
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11	SECTION 3. Statement of Objectives Towards this end, the State shall
12	Integrate all laws relating to the National Housing Authority to effectively achieve the
13	following objectives:
14	(a) Develop integrated, sustainable, safe, affordable and resilient
15	communities, particularly for the underprivileged and homeless as well
16	as low-income households;
17	(b) Implement innovative and alternative solutions in addressing the
18	housing needs of informal settler families, the lower-income classes and
19	the vulnerable sector;
20	(c) As a government-owned and -controlled corporation, to generate
21	income through the efficient utilization of existing and future assets to
22	support the programs of the Authority;
23	(d) Adopt viable land acquisition and management approaches; and
24	(e) Strengthen housing as a platform to reduce poverty, promote climate
25	resilience and improve social outcomes.
26	
27	SECTION 4. Extension of Corporate Term; Effect. – The corporate tgerm of the
28	government corporation known as the National Housing Authority, hereinafter, the
29	"Authority", created by virtue of Presidential Decree NO. 757 (P.D. 757), is hereby
30	extended for a period of fifty (50) years, upon the approval of this Act.
31	
32	As such, the Authority shall continue to perform its mandates, exercise its

powers and functions, and enjoy its incentives, as contained in P.D. 757, and subsequent laws and issuances, unless expressly repealed herein. Likewise, it shall continue to enjoy all rights and assume all of the liabilities that pertain thereto.

SECTION 5. Office. – The Authority shall retain its principal office at the NHA Main Office, Eliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1101, but may have such regional and district offices, agencies, or subsidiaries in other areas all over the country, as it may deem proper and necessary.

SECTION 6. Powers and Functions of the Authority. – The Authority, in line with its role as the sole government agency engaged in direct shelter production, and in pursuit of the foregoing policies and objectives, shall also exercise the following powers and functions:

I. Housing Operations and Support Services

 (a) Develop and implement comprehensive and integrated housing and urban and rural development programs for citizens including, but not limited to:

i. programs for the improvement of blighted urban areas;

ii. direct shelter production and disposition primarily for informal settler families and the underprivileged and homeless;

iii. relocation of families subject of court-ordered eviction; and

iv. housing programs for government employees and uniformed personnel, such as: members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Bureau of Fire Protection

(BFP), and Bureau of Corrections (BuCor).

 (b) Prescribe guidelines and standards for the reservation, conservation and utilization of public lands identified for housing and resettlement;

(c) Design and implement sustainable livelihood programs, fully funded by the national government, which are responsive to the needs of its housing community, in coordination with the concerned local and

1		national government agencies and, whenever practicable, with
2	v	participation of civil society organizations and the private sector;
3		(d) Develop and undertake other urban and rural development projects
4		including basic community facilities, by itself or through joint
5		ventures or other arrangements with public and private entities;
6		(e) Improve, redevelop, or revitalize completed but not yet turned-over
7		NHA housing projects by constructing therein additional community
8		structures, or whenever necessary, demolishing previously erected
9		structures similar in nature, subject to law and regulations;
10		(f) Provide technical and other forms of assistance to local government
11		units in the implementation of their own housing programs, or private
12		developers undertaking low-cost housing projects, subject to the
13		policies of the Authority;
14		(g) Undertake financing of housing programs initiated by local
15		government units or local communities; and,
16		(h) Extend shelter services to victims of calamities, natural or man-made,
17	<u>.</u> *	as declared by the President; for this purpose, the Authority is given
18		sufficient leeway by the other government agencies to expedite the
19		process.
20		
21	II.	Asset Management and Business Development
22		(a) Exercise the right of eminent domain, purchase, sell, lease and/or
23		exchange lands for purposes of housing development, resettlement
24		and other related services and facilities;
25		(b) Issue bonds or contract loans, credits, or indebtedness, including
26		suppliers credit or any deferred payment arrangements with any
27		person or entity, domestic or foreign, for the implementation of its
28		housing programs;
29		(c) Invest its funds, as it may deem proper, in bonds and securities
30		issued and guaranteed by the government or by the Bangko Sentral
31		ng Pilipinas, and to invest, own or otherwise participate in equity in
32		any establishment, firm or entity; to form, organize, invest in or

establish and maintain a subsidiary or subsidiaries in relation to any of its purposes;

- (d) Ensure the collection and recovery of all indebtedness, liabilities and/or accountabilities, due from all obligors, whether public or private; to demand payment of the obligations referred to herein, and in the event of failure or refusal of the obligor or debtor to comply with the demand, to initiate and institute the necessary or proper actions or suits, criminal, civil administrative or otherwise, before the courts, tribunals, commissions, boards or bodies of proper jurisdiction: Provided, however, that the Authority may compromise or release, in whole or in part, any interest, penalty or civil liability to the Authority in connection with the collection or amortizations, under such terms and conditions as prescribed by the Board of Directors: Provided, further, That the Board may, upon recommendation of the General Manager, deputize any member of the Authority's legal staff to act as special sheriff in foreclosure cases, in the sale or attachment of the debtor's properties, and in the enforcement of court writs and processes in cases involving the Authority. The special sheriff of the Authority shall make a report to the proper court after any action taken by him, which shall treat such action as if it were an act of its own sheriffs in all respects; and
- (e) Generate sources and formulate schemes for financing, with due delineation of government and private sector participation.

III. Management Services

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- (a) Formulate and enforce general and specific policies for housing and resettlement;
- (b) Monitor and/or discharge of all responsibilities of the government as may arise from treaties, agreements, and other commitments on housing and resettlement to which it is a signatory, including the determination of forms of assistance for housing development to be extended through multilateral or bilateral assistance programs;
- (c) Serve as central repository of database and census list of

1	households/families along waterways, danger areas, government
2	infrastrucute project site and government owned lands in Metro Manila
3	and all regions nationwide, which shall be used for subsequent
4	government interventions with housing and resettlement component;
5	and
6	(d) Approve restructuing proposal for the payment of unpaid amortizations
7	under such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors may
8	prescribe.
9	
10	IV. General Powers
11	(a) Have the power of succession; to sue and be sued; to adopt and use a
12	seal which shall be judicially noticed;
13	(b) Enter into contracts whenever necessary under such terms and
14	conditions as it may deem proper and reasonable;
15	(c) Acquire property rights and interests, and encumber or otherwise dispose
16	the same as it may deem appropriate;
17	(d) Borrow funds from any source, private or government, foreign or
18	domestic;
19	(e) Receive donations, grants, bequests and fund transfers from other
20	branches of government, and utilize the same for the attainment of
21	objectives. Such donations, grants and bequests shall be exempt from
22	the payment of transfer taxes and be fully deductible from the gross
23	income of the donor or grantor for income tax purposes;
24	(f) Maintain a provident fund, which shall consist of contributions made by
25	both the Authority and its officers and employees and their earning, for
26	the payment of benefits to such officials and employees or their heirs
27	under such terms and conditions as it may prescribe;
28	(g) Perform such other acts not inconsistent with this Act, as may be
29	necessary to effect the policies and objectives herein declared.
30	
31	Section 7. The Board of Directors; Its Composition The Board of Directors,

hereinafter referred to as the Board, is hereby reconstituted to have a minimum of

1	thirteen (13) members, consisting of the following:			
2				
3	(a) Eleven (11) ex officio members, namely:			
4	1. Secretary of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban			
5	Development;			
6	Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways;			
7	3. Secretary of the Department of Finance;			
8	4. Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry;			
9	Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment;			
10	Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;			
11	Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government;			
12	8. Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management;			
13	Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority;			
14	10. Executive Secretary; and			
15	11. General Manager of the Authority.			
16				
17	(b) Two (2) expert panel members with expertise in housing, urban planning			
18	and development.			
19				
20	The expert panel members must be: (i) Filipino citizens and of good moral			
21	character; (ii) be of recognized probity and independence and must have distinguished			
22	themselves professionally in public, civic or academic service; (iii) be in the active			
23	practice of their professions for at least seven (7) years; and (iv) not be appointed			
24	within one (1) year after losing in the immediately preceding elections, whether regular			
25	or special.			
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27	The Secretary of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban			
28	Development shall be the ex officio Chairperson of the Board.			
29				
30	All appointive directors must have qualified under the Fit and Proper Rule, as			
31	defined by Republic Act 10149 or the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) Law.			
32	An appointive director shall have a term of one (1) year, unless sooner removed for			

cause, however, the appointive director shall continue to hold office until his/her successor is appointed.

The Board shall meet regularly at least once a month but special meetings may be called either by the Chairperson or by seven (7) members of the Board as and when necessary. Seven (7) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum and all decisions of the Board shall require the concurrence of at least seven (7) members.

- SECTION 8. Powers and Duties of the Board. The Board shall have the powers and functions specified in this Act and the usual corporate powers:
 - (a) Formulate, prescribe, and promulgate the implementing rules and regulations required by this Act;
 - (b) Promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary for proper for the effective exercise of the powers and functions, as well as the discharge of the duties and responsibilities of the Board, its officers and employees;
 - (c) Act upon the annual budget and such supplemental budgets of the Authority submitted by the General Manager: *Provided,* that the Board may reduce but may not increase any item proposed by the General Manager;
 - (d) Approve the Authority's organizational and administrative structures and staffing pattern, and to establish, fix, review, revise and adjust the appropriate compensation package of its officers and employees as submitted by the General Manager;
 - (e) Design, formulate, negotiate, and implement financial or investment schemes;
 - (f) Enter into such contract or agreement as may be necessary for the attainment of the purposes and objectives of this Act;
 - (g) Enter into and execute memoranda of agreements, joint ventures, long-term leases and management contracts with private sector entities, to include real estate development or construction companies with dependable repute and proven track record in developing and managing real estate ventures;
 - (h) Condone or compromise, in whole or in part, penalties, interests or civil liabilities imposed on beneficiaries with delinquent accounts who, for

1	justifiable reasons prescribed by the Board, failed to pay on time any
· 2	obligation due to the Authority;
3	(i) Render annual reports to the President and such special reports as may be
4	requested; and,
5	(j) Exercise all the powers necessary or incidental to the attainment of the
6	purposes of this Act.
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8	SECTION 9. Powers and Duties of the General Manager The General Manager
9	shall have the following powers and duties:
10	(a) Execute and administer the policies and resolutions approved by the Board
11	of Directors and prepare its agenda;
12	(b) Direct and supervise the operations, management and internal affairs of the
13	Authority. The General Manager may delegate certain of his administative
14	responsibilites to other officers of the Authority, subject to the rules and
15	regulations promulgated by the Board;
16	(c) Subject to the approval of the Board, to fix the number and salaries of and
17	appoint, the subordinate officers and personnel of the Authority and to
18	remove, or otherwise discipline, for cause, any such officer or employee
19	purusuant to the provisions of the Civil Service Commission on discipline;
20	(d) Represent the Authority in all dealings with other officers, agencies, and
21	instrumentalities of the Government and with all persons and entities, public
22	or private, domestic or foreign;
23	(e) Act, in the conduct of the business of the Authority, on all matters that are
24	not specifically reserved to the Board by this Act;
25	(f) Solely confer lot awards to the eligible beneficiaries;
26	(g) Decide, to the exclusion of courts and any other government agencies, cases
27	filed questioning the property of lot awards granted to the Authority's
28	beneficiaries; for this purpose, the General Manager may create a body for
29	the investigation and adjudication of such cases;
30	(h) Report and submit to the Board as soon as possible after the close of each
31	fiscal year, if applicable, a complete report of the operations of the Authority
32	for the preceding eyar, and the state of its affairs; and,

(i) Exercise such other powers and duties as may be vested in him by the Board.

SECTION 10. Assistant General Managers. – The General Manager shall be assisted by three (3) Assistant General Managers, who shall be appointed by the President, upon the recommendation of the General Manager: *Provided*, That at least one (1) Assistant General Manager shall be a career officer. The General Manager is further authorized to delineate and assign other functional areas or responsibilities of the Assistant General Managers.

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SECTION 11. Qualifications and Appointment. – No person shall be appointed General Manager and Assistant General Manager of the Authority unless he or she is a citizen and resident of the Philippines, of good moral character, of proven integrity, competence and expertise in housing, urban planning and development.

SECTION 12. Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern. – Subject to the approval of the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG), the Board shall determine the Authority's organizational structure, and create new divisions or units, as it may deem necessary in accordance with civil service laws, rules and regulations.

Subject to the approval of the Board, the General Manager shall likewise determine the rates of allowances, honoraria and such other additional compensation which the Authority is hereby authorized to grant to its officers, technical staff and consultants, including the necessary detailed personnel.

SECTION 13. Exemption from Taxes and Regulatory Fees. — All laws to the contrary notwithstanding, the Authority, its asstes and properties, and all accruals thereto and income or investment earnings therefrom, as well as supplies, equipment, papers or documents shall be exempt from any tax, assessment fee, charge, or customs or import duty, of any kind, whether imposed by local or national entites.

The exemption includes, but is not limited to the following: income tax, real property tax, capital gains tax, transfer tax, value added tax, donor's tax and similar

taxes; and building permit fee, fire inspection permit fee, ECC fees and other regulatory fees. Similarly, the Authority shall be exempt from the payment of documentary stamp tax and registration fees, including fees required for the issuance of transfer certificates of titles.

Furthermore, to promote the policy of improving housing affordability, projects of the National Housing Authority, in cooperation with local government units, the private sector and other entities, shall also enjoy the exemptions enumerated above.

SECTION 14. Lands for Authority Projects; Management, Conversion and Classification. — Lands identified and designated for Housing and Urban and Rural Development, pursuant to Section 24 of Republic Act No. 11201, shall be assessed by the Authority for program or project feasibility. Should the site evaluation be in the affirmative, said lots shall forthwith be transferred to the Authority.

This shall not, however, preclude the Authority from pursuing its continuing mandate of identifying, acquiring and managing lands for the immediate and future needs of its beneficiaries. In pursuit thereof, the Authority must consider, among others, the degree of availability of basic services and utilities, access to modes of transport, proximity to economic opportunities, and the social capital of beneficiaries.

Furthermore, all lands acquired by the Authority, for any of its programs and projects, shall be automatically converted and/or reclassified, in order to facilitate its immediate development. The Authority, in coordination with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Agrarian Reform, shall craft the rules and regulations necessary to implement this provision.

SECTION 15. Designation of the National Housing Authority (NHA) as Lead Agency in the Disposition Program. – The Authority, under the supervision of the DHSUD, shall take the lead in the disposition activities of the lands in the preceding section: *Provided*, that disposition activities shall include the preliminary stages of

identification and evaluation of lands suitable for disposition under this Act.

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development is hereby directed tro submit immediately an updated list of government-owned lands suitable for socialized housing purposes.

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development shall make recommendation for the President relative to the disposition of the lands subject hereof.

SECTION 16. Issuance of Bonds. – Subject to the approval of the Secretary of Finance, after consultation with the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Authority is hereby authorized to issue bonds and other securities to finance the implementation of its housing programs: *Provided*, That only so much of such bonds or securities shall be issued and sold as the annual project implementation would require: *Provided*, *further*, That no bonds or securities shall be issued unless eighty per cent (80%) of those already issued had been sold: *Provided*, *finally*, That the total amount of the bonds or securities issued shall in no case exceed ten times its paid up capital and surplus.

The Authority, in consulation with the Secretary of Finance and Monetary Board, shall prescribe the form, the rate of interest, and denominations, maturities, negotiability, call or redemption features and all other terms and conditions of the bonds and securities to be issued.

In the promotion of the sale bonds or securities, the Authority is authorized to adopt the lottery scheme enunciated under Republic Act 1000 as amended.

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The bonds and securities issued under this Act including the income thereof shall be exempt from all kinds of taxes and from attachment, execution and seizure which facts shall be stated on the face thereof.

A sinking fund shall be established by the Authority in such manner that the total annual contribution thereto, accrued at such rate of interest as may be determined by the Secretary of Finance in consultation with the Monetary Board, shall be sufficient to redeem at maturity the bonds or securities issued pursuant to this Act. The sinking fund shall be under the custody and administration of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas which may invest the same in Bangko Sentral Certificates of Indebtedness and similar financing schemes subject to the approval of the Authority in consultation with the Secretary of Finance: *Provided*, that the proceeds from such scheme shall accrue to the Authority.

SECTION 17. Guarantee by the Government. — The Republic of the Philippines hereby guarantees the payment of both the principal and the interest of the bonds, debentures, collaterals, notes or such other obligations issued or incurred by the Authority by virtue of this Act, and shall pay such principal and interest in case the Authority fails to do so. In such event, the Republic of the Philippines shall succeed to all the rights of the holders of such bonds, debentures, collaterals, notes or other instruments to the extent of the payment made, unless the sum so paid by the Republic of the Philippines shall be refunded by the Authority within a reasonable time.

SECTION 18. SSS and GSIS Participation. – Notwithstanding any provision of the respective charters to the contrary, the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) shall absorb all or part of the bonds or securities issued by the Authority in such proportion as may be determined by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and approved by the President.

SECTION 19. Reports. – The Authority shall submit an annual report to the Office of the President, copy furnished to the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, indicating, among others, the housing program being implemented, the stage of implementation, and the financial position of the Authority. It shall likewise submit such periodic or other reports as may be required from time to time.

SECTION 20. Audit. – The Chairperson of the Commission on Audit (COA) shall
act as the ex officio auditor of the Authority, and accordingly, is empowered to appoint
a representative and other subordinate personnel to perform and report on such audit
duties, responsible to and removable only by the COA Chairperson, without prejudice,
however, to the power of the Board of Directors to contract for another mode of
independent audit service, in addition to that provided by COA as provided for under
Presidential Decree No. 1445, otherwise known as the Government Auditing Code of
the Philippines.

SECTION 21. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The implementing rules and regulations to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act shall be adopted by and promulgated by the Board of Directors of the Authority, not later than ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act.

The Departments, charged with crafting the implementing rules and regulations to effectively carry out Section 14 hereof, are given thirty (30) days after the approval of the Act to enact the same.

SECTION 22. Applicability of the Revised Corporation Law. – The provisions of the Revised Corporation Code, in so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions and policies provided in this Act, shall be applicable to the Authority.

SECTION 23. Separability Clause. – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 24. Repealing Clause. – Section 2 of Presidential Decree NO. 757 is hereby amended accordingly. All other laws, decrees, executive orders, or rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act or its purposes are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 25. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days

- after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least (2) national newspapers of general circulation.
- *Approved,*