NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session



RECENCED

22 JUL 11 P6:25

SENATE

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S. No. 278

Introduced by SENATOR JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE RESETTLEMENT, AID AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE INFORMAL SETTLERS AFFECTED BY THE DEMOLITION OF HOUSES / DWELLINGS ALONG DANGER AREAS AS WELL AS THE VICTIMS OF DISASTERS AND CALAMITIES AND THOSE AFFECTED BY GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN URBAN AREAS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Population growth and migration of Filipinos has contributed to the proliferation of illegal settlers in both public and private lands in urban areas all over the country.

According to Memorandum Circular No. 2020-05, series of 2020 of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), the "Local Shelter Plan (LSP) consolidated data as of December 2019 indicates that a total count of 3,683,020 informal settler families, which include homeless families, displaced households and those that need tenurial upgrading."

The demolition and mass eviction of informal settlers is usually met with opposition and violent behavior. It results in injuries and damages to property even death.

This bill seeks to protect the informal settlers as well as victims of disasters and calamities and those affected by government infrastructure projects. It aims to provide funds for the immediate relief of the displaced underprivileged families and homeless citizens and the establishment of resettlement centers, home sites or town sites under local and national housing programs or under the other socialized housing programs of other agencies.

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

JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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

Section 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to assist the underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban areas adversely affected by the demolition of houses / dwellings along danger areas such as esteros, garbage dumps, riverbanks, shorelines, waterways and other public places such as sidewalks, roads, parks and playgrounds as well as the victims of disasters and calamities and those affected by government infrastructure projects.

Sec. 2. *Statement of Objectives and Guidelines.* - This Act is intended to help the underprivileged and homeless citizens who suffered damages to property and injury to persons resulting from the demolition in or the clearing up of the aforementioned danger areas as well as the victims of disasters and calamities and those affected by government infrastructure projects in urban areas. It aims to provide funds for the immediate relief of the displaced underprivileged families and homeless citizens and the establishment of resettlement centers, home sites or

town sites under local and national housing programs or under the other socialized
housing programs of other agencies.

Sec. 3. *Guidelines in the Allocation of Funds.* - Government funds and resources shall be spent effectively in consonance with the principle of providing the greatest good for the greatest number. Accordingly, the following guidelines shall be observed in allocating the funds made available for the implementation of this Act:

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 (a) Funds shall be allocated exclusively for the underprivileged and homeless citizens affected by the demolition of their houses/ dwellings in urban areas;

- (b) Funds shall be used exclusively for relocation or resettlement sites under
 local and national housing programs or under the other socialized
 housing programs of other agencies;
- 14 (c) Funds shall be used, when necessary, for the construction of basic 15 services and facilities such as schools, health centers as well as roads or 16 access to places of employment and livelihood which should be sufficient 17 to meet the basic needs of the affected families; and,
- (d) In no case shall any portion of the sum herein appropriated be used in
 payment of any subsisting obligation contracted before the passage of
 this Act.

Sec. 4. *Appropriations*. - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included the annual General Appropriations Act until such time that the total requirements for this purpose shall have been fully implemented.

Sec. 5. *Determination of Beneficiaries and Projects.* - City mayors, in consultation with national and local government agencies, shall assist in the resettlement of beneficiaries under local and national housing programs or under the other socialized housing programs of other agencies.

The Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, in coordination with the Local government unit concerned, shall take the census of beneficiaries and crosscheck the same with the census of the National Housing Authority (NHA).

1 Sec. 6. *Alpha Listing of Beneficiaries.* - The Department of Human 2 Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) in coordination with local government 3 units, shall produce an alpha listing of the beneficiaries covered under this Act.

Sec. 7. *Rules and Regulations*. - The DHSUD, in coordination with local government units, shall within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 8. Penalty Clause. - Any person or persons who shall take advantage 7 the situation for undue personal and private gain by committing an act of 8 of profiteering in the purchase of lots or materials, or by committing an act of 9 misrepresentation in the documentation, or by falsifying reports shall be imposed 10 the penalty of not more than six (6) years of imprisonment or a fine of not less than 11 Five thousand pesos (Php 5,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand 12 pesos (Php 100,000.00). Any other illegal act that may be committed in relation 13 thereto shall be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. 14

15 Sec. 9. *Separability Clause*. - If any provisions of this Act shall be held 16 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain 17 in full force and effect.

18 Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause*. - Any law, decree, rules and regulations which 19 are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or 20 repealed accordingly.

21 Sec. 11. *Effectivity Clause*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after 22 its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,