


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



'22 JUL -7 P 6 :02

SENATE  
S.B. No. 235

RECEIVED BY: 

---

**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ROBINHOOD PADILLA**

---

**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING PENITENTIARY SYSTEMS IN REGIONS I, II, III, V, VI, VIII,**  
**IX, X, XII, AND XIII TO DECONGEST THE NEW BILIBID PRISON (NBP) AND**  
**OTHER PENAL FARMS AND PROVINCES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Over the past years, numerous bills, news reports, studies, and journal articles have stressed the need to address the congestion issues in the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) and other penal farms. While that remains a pressing issue, this representation wants to focus more on the impact of far incarceration of persons serving final judgment from their families.

Article XV Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution declares the State's recognition of the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. It is duty bound to strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development. In furtherance of this mandate, the State is required to afford the same protections even to incarcerated individuals and their families.

At present, we have seven (7) national penitentiary institutions: (1) the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City which accounts for 60% of the inmates in the national prison system, (2) the Correctional Institution for Women in Mandaluyong City, (3) the Iwahig Penal Colony in Puerto Prinsesa City, Palawan, (4) San Ramon Prison And Penal Farm is at Zamboanga City, (5) Sablayan Prison And Penal Farm (SPPF) is situated at Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro; (6) Leyte Regional Prison (LRP) in Brgy. Mahagna, Abuyog, Leyte; and (7) the Davao Prison and Penal Farm in Panabo, Davao.

With very limited penitentiary institutions nationwide, it appears that visits among families become a mere privilege given the challenges on the distance of the penal facility and the needed costs for transportation and accommodation per family members' visit.

Recognizing therefore the paramount role of the family in providing emotional, moral, and psychosocial support to every person serving final judgment, this measure is being proposed to widen the opportunities of families and other support groups to pay a visit to their loved ones inside the penitentiaries.

Ultimately, this bill seeks to create additional regional penal institutions not only to address the severe congestion in the country's jails and prisons, but to also ensure the welfare of persons serving final judgment as they await their reintegration to society.

In this regard, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



**ROBINHOOD PADILLA**

'22 JUL -7 P 6 :02

SENATE  
S.B. No. 235

RECEIVED BY: 

---

**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ROBINHOOD PADILLA**

---

**AN ACT**

**ESTABLISHING PENITENTIARY SYSTEMS IN REGIONS I, II, III, V, VI, VIII, IX, X, XII, AND XIII TO DECONGEST THE NEW BILIBID PRISON (NBP) AND OTHER PENAL FARMS AND PROVINCES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1       **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Regional*  
2 *Penitentiaries Act*".  
3

4       **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – Section 5 of Article II states that "[t]he  
5 maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the  
6 promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of  
7 the blessings of democracy."  
8

9       It is the policy of the State to value human dignity and guarantee full respect  
10 for human rights regardless of any wrongful act or omission done. The State likewise  
11 adopts the mandate under Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that  
12 "no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or  
13 punishment." Among others, an adequate standard of living for our prisoners,  
14 including decent accommodations, is considered a human right.  
15

16       **Section 3. Creation of Regional Penal Farms.** – The Bureau of Corrections  
17 (BuCor) shall establish and operate additional penal farms in regions I, II, III, V, VI,  
18 VIII, IX, X, XII, and XIII to decongest existing penal institutions and accommodate  
19 the increasing number of inmates committed to the agency.  
20

21       **Section 4. Facilities.** – Each penal farm established pursuant to this Act shall  
22 operate with standard and uniform design of prison facilities, reformation facilities,  
23 and administrative facilities, such as the following:  
24

- 1 1. Dormitory;
- 2 2. Administration building;
- 3 3. Perimeter/Security fences;
- 4 4. Hospital/Infirmary;
- 5 5. Recreation/Multipurpose hall;
- 6 6. Training/Lecture center;
- 7 7. Workshop facility;
- 8 8. Mess hall/kitchen;
- 9 9. Visiting area;
- 10 10. Water tank and pump;
- 11 11. Reception and diagnostic center;
- 12 12. Service personnel facilities; and
- 13 13. Other structures deemed relevant to the operations of jail facilities.

14  
15 **Section 5. Roles and Functions of the BuCor.** – The Bureau of Corrections  
16 (BuCor) is hereby mandated to:

- 17
- 18 1. Create an Infrastructure Plan which shall begin not later than six (6)  
19 months from the effectivity of this Act, to be completed not later than  
20 five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act;
- 21
- 22 2. Coordinate the construction of regional penitentiaries, whenever  
23 necessary, with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH),  
24 the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of  
25 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), local government units  
26 concerned, and such other concerned government agencies;
- 27
- 28 3. Carry out the decentralization and transfer of prisoners incarcerated in  
29 the national penitentiaries to regional penal farms, including the  
30 performance and coordination of all tasks and activities, pursuant to this  
31 Act; and
- 32
- 33 4. Ensure the implementation of the provisions stipulated in this Act.
- 34

35 **Section 6. Determination of Budgetary Requirements.** – For the  
36 foregoing purpose, the DOJ, DBM, and DPWH are mandated to determine the  
37 budgetary requirements for the establishment of the aforementioned regional penal  
38 farms. Within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this Act, the DOJ, DBM,  
39 and the DPWH shall jointly report to Congress on such budgetary requirements.

40  
41 **Section 7. Appropriations.** – Such amounts as may be necessary to carry  
42 out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations  
43 Act.

44  
45 **Section 8. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is  
46 declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force  
47 and effect.

1           **Section 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
2 regulations, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, or modified  
3 accordingly.

4  
5           **Section 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its  
6 publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,