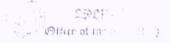
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES *First Regular Session*



SENATE

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S. No. 167

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING AN ON-SITE, IN-CITY OR NEAR-CITY RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM, FOR INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MANDATING THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS PROVIDE LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE AND OTHER BASIC SERVICES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII (Social Justice and Human Rights) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that:

"Section 9. The State shall, by law, and for the common good, undertake, in cooperation with the private sector, 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 urban centers and resettlement areas. It shall also promote adequate employments of such programs that the State shall respect the rights of small property owners."

"Section 10. Urban and rural poor dwellers shall not be evicted, nor their dwellings demolished, except in accordance with law and in a just and humane manner.

No resettlement of urban or rural dwellers shall be undertaken without adequate consultation with them and the communities where they are to be located."

In response to this directive, Congress passed Republic Act No. 7279, otherwise known as the "Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992," and, on March 24, 1992,

it was signed into law by President Corazon C. Aquino. The law prescribes the coverage of socialized housing, mandates the formulation of a national urban development and housing framework, requires local governments to conduct an inventory of all lands within their respective territorial jurisdictions, and provides the overall framework for a continuing and comprehensive urban development and housing program in the country.

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However, more than two (2) decades after the passage of the Urban Development and Housing Act, the nation seems to have scarcely progressed towards achieving the goal therein of decent and affordable housing for the homeless and under-privileged. Figures from the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) reveal a national backlog of 3,756,072 housing units as of 2011, which translates into more than 3.7 million Filipino families without homes or secure dwellings; a backlog that continues to rise considering the rapidly increasing population and the influx of migrants towards urban centers.

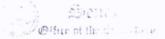
Thus, there is an urgent need to arrest this trend and strengthen the country's housing program by, among others, adopting On-Site, In-City, or Near-City Resettlement on the basis of People's Plans or Proposals submitted by affected Informal Settler Families as a primary and preferred policy of the State. Furthermore, this proposed bill also addresses concerns of Informal Settler Families *vis-a-vis* employment, access to markets for micro-enterprises, and basic services.

The immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

RISA HONTIVEROS

Senator

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES *First Regular Session*



SENATE

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s. No. ____167

19 JUL -2 M1 :56

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING AN ON-SITE, IN-CITY OR NEAR CITY RESSTLEMENT PROGRAM FOR INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MANDATING THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS PROVIDE LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE AND OTHER BASIC SERVICES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992"

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 "On-site, In-City or Near-City Resettlement Program Act."

Sec. 2. *Amendatory Provisions.* – For purposes of this Act, the following provisions of Republic Act No. 7279, otherwise known as the "Urban Development and

5 Housing Act of 1992", are hereby amended as follows:

- 6 (a) Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7279 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 7 "SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act:
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" 'Zonal Improvement Program or ZIP' refers to the program of the
 National Housing Authority of upgrading and improving INFORMAL
 SETTLEMENTS within the cities and municipalities of Metro Manila pursuant
 to existing statutes and pertinent executive issuances[.];

17"(Y) 'ADEQUATE AND GENUINE CONSULTATION' REFERS TO THE18STANDARD OF CONSULTATION WITH THE AFFECTED INFORMAL

SETTLER FAMILIES (ISFs) WHICH SHALL REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING:

"(1) EFFECTIVE DISSEMINATION AND FULL ACCESS TO RELEVANT INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO LAND RECORDS, HOUSING BUDGETS, THE PROPOSED PLAN OR PROJECT, ALTERNATIVE HOUSING OPTIONS, AND COMPREHENSIVE RESETTLEMENT PLANS;

"(2) REASONABLE TIME FOR THE PUBLIC TO REVIEW, COMMENT AND OBJECT TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT;

"(3) PROVISION BY THE GOVERNMENT OR NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS OF LEGAL, TECHNICAL, AND OTHER ADVICE TO AFFECTED PERSONS ON THEIR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS;

"(4) PUBLIC HEARINGS THAT PROVIDE AFFECTED ISFs AND 13 14 THEIR ADVOCATES WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO CHALLENGE THE EVICTION DECISION OR PRESENT ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS AND 15 TO ARTICULATE THEIR DEMANDS AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES; 16 AND "(Z) 'CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS OR CSOS' REFER TO 17 18 NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs), PEOPLE'S 19 ORGANIZATIONS (POs), COOPERATIVES, TRADE UNIONS, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, 20 INDIGENOUS 21 MEDIA GROUPS, PEOPLES MOVEMENTS, 22 FOUNDATIONS AND OTHER CITIZEN'S GROUPS FORMED PRIMARILY FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO PLAN 23 AND MONITOR GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS, ENGAGE 24 IN POLICY DISCUSSIONS, AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN 25 COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES WITH THE GOVERNMENT; 26

27 "(AA) 'IN-CITY RESETTLEMENT' REFERS TO A RELOCATION SITE
 28 WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT
 29 (LGU) WHERE THE AFFECTED ISFs ARE LIVING;

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"(BB) 'INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS' REFERS TO:

31 "(1) RESIDENTIAL AREAS WHERE HOUSING UNITS HAVE BEEN
 32 CONSTRUCTED BY SETTLERS ON LAND WHICH THEY OCCUPY
 33 ILLEGALY; OR

34 "(2) UNPLANNED SETTLEMENTS AND AREAS WHERE HOUSING IS
 35 NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING PLANNING AND BUILDING
 36 REGULATIONS;

"(CC) 'INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES' (ISFs) – INDIVIDUALS OR HOUSELHOLDS LIVING UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. A LOT/DWELLING UNIT WITHOUT CONSENT OF THE PROPERTY OWNER;

2. DANGER AREAS;

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3. AREAS FOR GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS;

PROTECTED/FOREST AREAS (EXCEPT FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES);

5. AREAS FOR PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT AS DECLARED UNDER PROCLAMATION NO. 1967, SERIES OF 1980, IF APPLICABLE; AND

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 6. OTHER GOVERNMENT/PUBLIC LANDS OR FACILITIES NOT

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 INTENDED FOR HUMAN HABITATION.

"(DD) 'NEAR-CITY SETTLEMENT' REFERS TO A RELOCATION SITE 14 WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT 15 16 ADJACENT то THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT HAVING JURISDICTION OVER THE PRESENT SETTLEMENTS 17 OF THE INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES. 18

"(EE) 'NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION OR NGO' REFERS TO A 19 20 DULY REGISTERED NONSTOCK, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION 21 FOCUSING ON THE UPLIFTMENT OF THE BASIC OR 22 DISADVANTAGED SECTORS OF SOCIETY BY PROVIDING ADVOCACY, 23 TRAINING, COMMUNITY ORGANIZING, RESEARCH, ACCESS TO RESOURCES, AND OTHER SIMILAR ACTIVITIES, AS DEFINED UNDER 24 REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8425, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'SOCIAL 25 REFORM AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION ACT' AND ORGANIZED AND 26 27 **OPERATED** EXCLUSIVELY FOR SCIENTIFIC, RESEARCH, EDUCATIONAL, CHARACTER-BUILDING AND YOUTH AND SPORTS 28 DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE, CULTURAL AND 29 CHARITABLE PURPOSES, OR A COMBINATION THEREOF, AND NO 30 PART OF THE NET INCOME OF WHICH INURES TO THE BENEFIT OF 31 ANY PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL PURSUANT TO SECTION 34 (H)(2)(c)(1) 32 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 33 34 THE 'TAX REFORM ACT OF 1997':

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 "(FF) "OFF-CITY RESETTLEMENT' REFERS TO A RELOCATION

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 SITE DEVELOPED OUTSIDE AND NOT ADJACENT TO THE CITY

WHERE THE AFFECTED INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES HAVE THEIR SETTLEMENTS;

"(GG) 'PEOPLE'S PLAN' REFERS TO THE PLAN FORMULATED AND INITIATED BY THE BENEFICIARY-ASSOCIATION, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES; AND

"(HH) 'SOCIAL PREPARATION' REFERS TO THE PROCESS OF 6 ESTABLISHING SOCIAL, ORGANIZATION, AND INSTITUTIONAL 7 8 NORMS AND MECHANISMS. SUCH NORMS AND MECHANISMS WILL: (1) ENABLE THE SETTLERS TO COPE WITH CHANGES; AND (2) IN 9 10 PARTNERSHIP WITH CONCERNED INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS, ENCOURAGE THE SETTLERS NOT ONLY TO WORK 11 AMONG THEMSELVES FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAWING UP AND 12 UNDERTAKING THEIR HOUSING RESETTLEMENT PROPOSALS BUT 13 ALSO TO ACTIVELY AND MEANINGFULLY PARTICIPATE IN HOUSING 14 15 RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN THEIR BEHALF, THUS RESOLVING COLLECTIVE ACTION PROBLEMS AMONG COMMUNITY 16 MEMBERS AND COORDINATION PROBLEMS WITH GOVERNMENT 17 AND OTHER ENTITIES.": 18

(b) Section 21 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 21. Basis Services - Socialized housing or resettlement areas shall be
 provided by the local government unit, IN COORDINATION WITH [or] the
 [National Housing Authority] HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
 COORDINATING COUNCIL (HUDCC) AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES,
 OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND [in cooperation with
 the] private developers [and concerned agencies] with the following basic
 services and facilities:

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Potable AND TREATED water SUPPLY;

- Power and electricity and an adequate power distribution system;
- c. SANITATION FACILITIES INCLUDING [S]sewerage [facilities],
 MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITEIS, GARBAGE COLLECTION and an efficient and adequate solid waste disposal system;
 - d. Access to primary roads and transportation facilities.

"The provision of other basic services and facilities such as health,
 education, communications, security, recreation, relief welfare, AND
 LIVELIHOOD COMPONENTS shall be planned and shall be given
 priority for implementation by the local government unit and concerned

agencies in cooperation with the private sector and the beneficiaries 2 themselves. THE CONCERNED LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND GOVERNMENT 3 NATIONAL AGENCIES SHALL SIGN Α MEMORANDUM OF 4 AGREEMENT (MOA) WHICH SHALL SPECIFY 5 THEIR DUTIES. **RESPONSIBILITIES**, AND TIMETABLES FOR THEIR COMPLETION. COPIES OF THE MOA 6 SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN THE WEBSITE OF THE LEAD LOCAL 7 GOVERNMENT UNIT AND GIVEN TO THE AFFECTED ISFS AT 8 9 LEAST THIRTY (30) DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE 1()RESETTLEMENT PROCESS; PRVIDED, THAT THE RECIPIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN CASES OF NEAR CITY OR OFF-12 CITY RESETTLEMENT SHALL ALSO BE CONSULTED AND SHALL 13 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES AS 14 **REQUIRED UNDER THIS PROVISION."**

- The local government unit, in coordination with the concerned national 15 16 agencies, shall ensure that these basic services are provided at the 17 most cost efficient rates, and shall set as mechanism to coordinate operationally the thrusts, objectives and activities of other government 18 agencies concerned with providing basic services to housing projects. 19 20 THE HUDCC AND THE BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT 21 FINANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SHALL JOINTLY WORK ON THE COST-SHARING MECHANISM NECESSARY TO 22 FULLY IMPLEMENT THE PROVISION OF SUCH OTHER BASIC
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(c)Section 23 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows;

SERVICES AND FACILITIES."

"SEC. 23. Participation of PROGRAM Beneficiaries OR AFFECTED ISFs, 26 27 FORMATION OF BENEFICIARY-ASSOCIATION, AND FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A PEOPLE'S PLAN. - The LGUs, in 28 coordination with the PCUP and concerned government agencies, shall afford 29 30 Program beneficiaries **OR AFFECTED** ISFs or their duly designated representatives an opportunity to be heard and to participate in the decision-31 32 making process over matters involving the protection and promotion of their legitimate collective interests which shall include appropriate documentation 33 and feedback mechanisms. They shall also be encouraged to organize 34 35 themselves [and imdertake self-help cooperative housing and other livelihood activities] INTO AN ASSOCIATION FOR ACCREDITATION 36 AS

BENEFICIARIES OR AWARDEES OF OWNERSHIP RIGHTS UNDER THE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM, COMMUNITY MORTGAGE PROGRAM, LAND TENURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND OTHER SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN RELATION TO A SOCIALIZED HOUSING PROJECT ACTUALLY BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OR BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS. They shall assist the government in preventing the incursions of professional squatters and members of squatting syndicates into their communities.

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⁹ "In instances when the affected beneficiaries have failed to organize
themselves or form an [alhance] ASSOCIATION within a reasonable period
prior to the implementation of the program or projects affecting them,
consultation betv\een the implementing agency and the affected beneficiaries
shall be conducted with the assistance of the PGUP and the concerned NGO
UNTIL AN ASSOCIATION IS FORMED IN PLACE.

15 "THE ASSOCIATION, IN COORDINATION WITH THE PCUP WITH OR 16 WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF CSOs, SHALL FORMULATE A 'PEOPLE'S PLAN' THROUGH A PROCESS OF CONSULTATION WHICH SHALL CONTAIN 17 A SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, INCLUDING NON-PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT 18 COMPONENTS SUCH AS SELF-HELP HOUSING COOPERATIVE, LIVELIHOOD, 19 SELF-HELP DEVELOPMENT, AND CAPABILITY-BUILDING TRAININGS. 'THE 20 ASSOCIATION, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF CSOs AND GOVERNMENT 21 AGENCIES INCLUDING THE NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION (NAPC), 22 23 PCUP, NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA), CITY OR MUNICIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, SOCIAL HOUSING FINANCE 24 CORPORATION (SHFC), AND OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, 25 SHALL AGREE ON, DEVELOP, AND IMPLEMENT THE PEOPLE'S PLAN. "IN 26 27 ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROTECTION GUIDELINES PROVIDED UNDER 28 SECTION 28 OF THIS ACT, A RELOCATION ACTION PLAN SHALL BE AN INDISPENSABLE COMPONENT OF THE PEOPLE'S PLAN. THE RELOCATION 29 30 ACTION PLAN SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

31 "(A) ENSURE SAFE, AFFORDABLE, DECENT, AND HUMANE 32 CONDITION OF RELOCATION, INCORPORATING THEREIN APPROPRIATE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MANAGEMENT AND 33 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STANDARDS; 34

35 "(B) PROVIDE ADEQUATE SOCIAL PREPARATION; AND

"(C) PREVENT FORCED EVICTION: PROVIDED, THAT PRIMARY CONSIDERATION SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE HOUSING FINANCIAL SCHEME SUGGESTED IN THE PEOPLE'S PLAN.";

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(d) Section 26 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC 26. Urban Renewal and Resettlement. - [This] **URBAN RENEWAL AND RESETTLEMENT** shall include the rehabihtation and development of informal settlements and the resettlement of Program beneficiaries in accordance with the provisions of this Act On-site development shall be implemented [whenever possible] **AFTER ADEQUATE AND GENUINE CONSULTATION WITH THE AFFECTED ISFs, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PEOPLE'S PLAN FORMULATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23 OF THIS ACT**, in order to ensure minimum movement of informal settler families.

"[The] WHERE DEMOLITION OR EVICTION IS ALLOWED IN THE 13 AREA OCCUPIED BY THE PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES PURSUANT TO 14 15 SECTION 28 OF THIS ACT, AND ON-SITE RESETTLEMENT CANNOT 16 BE UNDERTAKEN BY REASON THEREOF, THE IN-CITY resettlement of the beneficiaries of the Program from their existing places of occupancy shall 17 be undertaken only [when on-site development is not feasible and] after 18 compliance with the procedures laid down in [Section 28 of this Act] THE 19 SAME SECTION OF THIS ACT AND IN CONSIDERATION WITH THE 20 PREFERENCE OF THE AFFECTED ISFs AS CONTAINED IN THE 21 PEOPLE'S PLAN. 22

23 "SHOULD IN-CITY RESETTLEMENT NOT BE FEASIBLE, NEAR-CITY 24 RESETTLEMENT SHALL BE CONSIDERED. OFFCITY RESETTLEMENT 25 SHALL BE THE LAST RESORT AND MUST SATISFY THE 26 REQUIREMENTS OF ADEQUATE AND GENUINE CONSULTATION 27 PRIOR TO RELOCATION." "ACQUISITION OF LANDS TO BE USED FOR RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE 28 PROVISION OF SEC. 9 OF THIS ACT"; and 29

(e) Section 29 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 29. Resettlement. - Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act,
 the local government units, in coordination with the NHA, shall implement the
 relocation and resettlement of persons living in danger areas such as esteros,
 railroad tracks, garbage dtunps, riverbanks, shorelines, waterwrays, and in
 other public places such as sidewalks, roads, parks, playgrounds AND
 THOSE AFFECTED BY GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

The LGU, in coordination with the CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND AFFECTED LGUS IN CASES OF NEAR-CITY AND OFF-CITY RESETTLEMENT, shall provide relocation or resettlement sites with basic services and facilities and access to employment and livelihood opportunities sufficient to meet the basic needs of the affected families.

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⁶ "ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS SHALL IDENTIFY POTENTIAL
 7 RESETTLEMENT AREAS IN THEIR COMPREHENSICE LAND USE
 8 PLANS (CLUPs)."

"IN ADDITION TO THE FUNDING SOURCES PROVIDED UNDER 9 10 SECTION 42 OF THIS ACT, THE ALLOCATION FOR THE BASIC 11 SERVICES AND FACILITIES MAY BE TAKEN BY THE LGU IMPLEMENTING THE RELOCATION OR RESETTLEMENT FROM THE 12 TWENTY PERCENT (20%) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT 13 14 APPROPRIATED FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AS MANDATED 15 UNDER SECTION 287 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE 16 KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991'."

17 Sec. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The principles, policies and 18 provisions of this Act shall be incorporated in the National Shelter Program.

The HUDCC and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), in 19 20 consultation and coordination with appropriate government agencies, CSOs, NGOs, representatives from the private sector, and ISFs, shall promulgate a new set of 21 22 implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act. The implementing rules and regulations shall be consistent with the provisions of 23 this Act, particularly with the amendments, parameters, and standards introduced to 24 Sections 23, 26, and 29 of the "Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992", and shall 25 include the following: 26

- a) A People's Plan template to guide ISFs in the development of their own
 People's Plan: Provided, That such template shall be a complete pro
 forma People's Plan: Provided, however, That such a template shall be
 used to benchmark minimum standards in a People's Plan; and
- 31b) A guide to effective implementation of the People's Plan, including32details on the necessity of the issuance of internal memoranda by33concerned agencies.

The implementing rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Section shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Sec. 4. *Congressional Oversight Committee.* – There is hereby created a Congressional Oversight Committee to oversee, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of this Act.

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The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five (5) members from the Senate which shall include the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement, and five (5) members from the House of Representatives, which shall include the House of Representatives Committee on Housing and Urban Development. The four (4) other members from each Chamber shall be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The Minority shall have at least one (1) representative from both Chambers.

Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part, section or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 7. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation
 Approved,