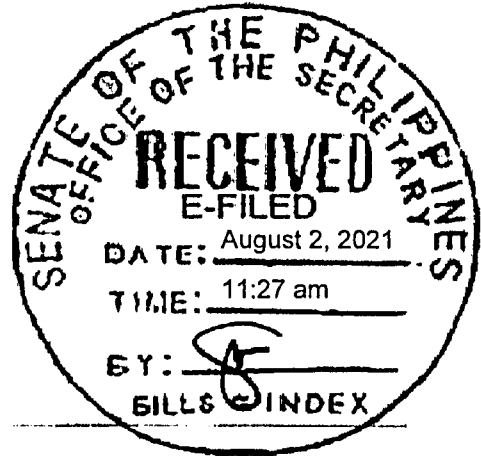


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE

S. No. 2340



Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the 2020 Census of Population and Housing, the Philippines has a total population of 109,035,343 as of May 2020, registering a growth rate of 1.63% from the 2015 total population.¹ Likewise, the level of urbanization or the percentage of population residing in urban areas in the country continues to rise, recorded at 51.2% in 2015, higher than the urbanization rate in 2010 at 45.3%.² The United Nations also projects that 90% of urban growth is forecasted to happen in Asia and Africa in the next 30 years.

Rapid urbanization, if left unplanned, is linked to a lot of consequences. These include inadequate road infrastructure, inadequate social services, homelessness, problems in health and sanitation, as well as threats to safety and environmental degradation.

¹ <https://psa.gov.ph/content/2020-census-population-and-housing-2020-cph-population-counts-declared-official-president>

² <https://psa.gov.ph/content/urban-population-philippines-results-2015-census-population>

In line with the country's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as SDG 11, a goal particularly to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", this bill proposes to institutionalize a policy framework that shall include policies and programs to ensure sustainable development of our cities and communities.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

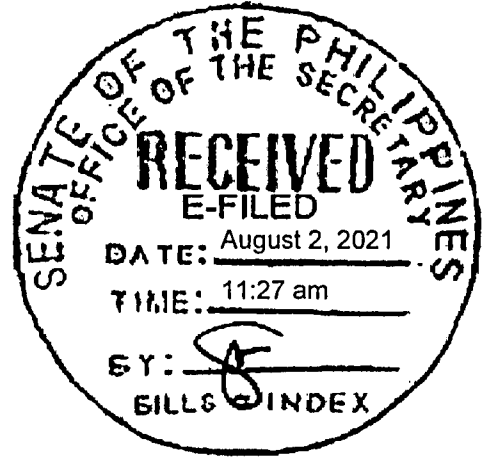


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY, 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 "*Sustainable Cities and*
2 *Communities Act*".

3 Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The 1987 Constitution mandates the
4 undertaking of a program of urban land reform and housing which will make decent
5 housing and basic services available at affordable cost to underprivileged and
6 homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlements areas, and ensure the availability
7 of employment opportunities for them.

8 Pursuant thereto, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to make cities
9 safe and sustainable by ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, and upgrading
10 slum settlements.

11 The State shall likewise invest in public transport, create green public spaces,
12 and improve urban planning and management in a way that is both participatory and
13 inclusive.

1 Section 3. *Model for Sustainable Cities and Communities.* – Existing cities and
2 communities shall transition into sustainable cities and communities. A sustainable city
3 or community shall have the following:

- 4 (a) Affordable housing;
- 5 (b) Accessible healthcare services and facilities;
- 6 (c) Accessible social services to all, especially the vulnerable and disadvantaged;
- 7 (d) Child care facilities, youth centers, centers for senior citizens and other sectors;
- 8 (e) Efficient, accessible, and affordable public transport system;
- 9 (f) Alternative means of getting from one place to another, other than private and
10 public vehicles, such as by walking, biking, using scooters, and other eco-
11 friendly and non-motorized modes;
- 12 (g) Safe, accessible, and enjoyable areas of open space;
- 13 (h) Preference for use of renewable resources;
- 14 (i) Waste management system, where waste is recycled, wherever possible;
- 15 (j) Energy efficient homes;
- 16 (k) Strong community linkages to deal with issues such as peace and order; and
- 17 (l) Access to sports and cultural activities.

18 Section 4. *Indicators.* – The National Economic and Development Authority
19 (NEDA) shall set targets based on the following indicators, taking into consideration
20 Goal No. 11 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda, to determine if
21 a city or community has fully transitioned into a sustainable city or community:

22 (a) Urban population living in slums -measured in terms of proportion of urban
23 population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing;

24 (b) Public transport access - measured in terms of proportion of population that
25 has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities;

26 (c) Sustainable urbanization rates - measured in terms of ratio of land
27 consumption rate to population growth rate;

1 (d) Urban planning management - measured in terms of proportion of cities
2 with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management
3 that operate regularly and democratically;

4 (e) Protecting cultural heritage - measured in terms of total public and private
5 expenditure per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all
6 cultural and natural heritage;

7 (f) Deaths and injuries from natural disasters - measured in terms of number
8 of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per
9 100,000 population;

10 (g) Economic losses from natural disasters - measured in terms of direct
11 economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number
12 of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters;

13 (h) Solid waste management - measured in terms of proportion of urban solid
14 waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid
15 waste generated;

16 (i) Urban air pollution - measured in terms of the annual mean levels of fine
17 particulate matter;

18 (j) Open spaces in cities - measured in terms of average share of the built-up
19 area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with
20 disabilities;

21 (k) Safe spaces in cities - measured in terms of proportion of persons victim of
22 physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence,
23 in the previous 12 months;
24

25 (l) Urban and regional planning - measured in terms of proportion of population
26 living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating
27 population projections and resource needs, by size of city;

1 (m) Integrated disaster risk management - measured in terms of adoption and
2 implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies;

3 (n) Local disaster risk management -measured in terms of adoption and
4 implementation of local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster
5 risk reduction strategies; and

6 (o) Such other targets based on indicators to be determined by NEDA consistent
7 with the model of sustainable cities and communities provided in Section 3 of this Act.

8 Section 5. *Support from National Government.* – The Department of Interior
9 and Local Government (DILG) shall provide the necessary technical assistance and
10 resource augmentation to LGUs to assist them in transitioning into sustainable cities
11 and communities.

12 The NEDA and other related agencies are also hereby mandated to extend the
13 necessary support and provide relevant input towards the effective implementation of
14 this Act.

15 Section 6. *Incentives for Transitioning into Sustainable Cities or Communities.*
16 – The DILG shall develop a grant or cash award incentive scheme for LGUs that are
17 able to achieve their annual targets set by NEDA related to transitioning into
18 sustainable cities and communities.

19 Section 7. *Authority to Enter into Contracts and Agreements.* – LGUs are hereby
20 authorized to enter into contracts or agreements and receive grants, as may be
21 necessary for the attainment of the objective of this Act.

22 Section 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is held
23 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain
24 in full force and effect.

25
26 Section 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations
27 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified

1 accordingly.

2

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

5

6 *Approved,*