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SENATE

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S.B. NO. 187

Introduced by Senator Biazon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines currently ranks as one of the most populated countries in the world with our total population of around 86 million. With an annual growth rate of 2.36%, our population is expected to double in 29 years (National Statistics Office).

Our large and still rapidly growing population impacts on the country's development. It heavily strains the government's capacity to provide basic social services, develop the rural areas, and stem the tide of rapid rural-to-urban migration. Congestion in many urban centers have led to a host of problems such as housing shortage, unemployment, poor nutrition, flooding, diseases, inadequate educational facilities and shortage in educators, pollution, and a breakdown in the peace and order situation.

The multi-faceted nature of the problems besetting our country and its people calls for the vital recognition of the interdependent relationship between population and sustainable development. Achieving rational population growth and distribution should be defined in the context of available resources and the country's carrying capacity, and should respect every Filipino's right to self-determination by empowering them to decide rationally through the provision of complete and up-to-date information and quality services.

Clearly, there is a need to build capabilities to integrate population variables, including migration and urbanization, into development policies, plans and programs at the national, regional and local levels. This proposed measure seeks to fill this void in legislation.

It is for this reason that passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



RODOLFO G. BIAZON
Senator

7 JUN 30 P3:33

SENATE
S.B. No. 187

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced By **Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN INTEGRATED POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY,
STRENGTHENING ITS IMPLEMENTING MECHANISM AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Integrated Population and*
2 *Development Act.*"

3 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policies.** - The State shall promote a just and dynamic social
4 order that shall ensure the prosperity of the country and free the people from poverty through
5 policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of
6 living and improved quality of life for all.

7 The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful
8 ecology.

9 Toward this end, the State shall ensure sustainable development and guarantee human
10 rights. As such, it shall recognize the dynamic interrelationships of population, development and
11 environment through their integration into national and local policies, programs, strategies and
12 plans including the appropriation, allocation and mobilization of resources at all levels.

13 **Sec. 3. Objectives.** - The State shall create an enabling environment where population,
14 development and environment-sensitive policies and programs are inextricably linked
15 instruments for the realization of a healthy, educated, and empowered people. The State shall
16 also prioritize human development, promote human dignity and respect human rights, including
17 the right to development in all critical areas covering psycho-social, political and economic
18 aspects.

1 To this end, the State must prioritize the attainment of social equity in society, the
2 promotion of the welfare and rights of the child, the delivery of comprehensive health services
3 with focus on the vulnerable sectors, and ensure gender equity and equality in development. The
4 objectives of such policy are the following:

5 1. To fully integrate population concerns into the development strategies, planning, and
6 implementation of programs, including resource mobilization and allocation at all levels of
7 government to ensure that people shall be in the center of all development efforts;

8 2. To undertake programs which address the interrelationship between population,
9 development, and environment;

10 3. To ensure equity in development, reasonable utilization and consumption of
11 resources, and provision of social safety nets for vulnerable groups;

12 4. To achieve equality and equity based on harmonious partnerships between women
13 and men. Women's contributions to sustainable development shall be enhanced through their full
14 involvement in policy and decision-making processes at *all stages and participation in all aspects*
15 of production, employment, income-generating activities, politics, governance, education, health,
16 science and technology, sports, culture and other gender-sensitive activities;

17 5. To enable couples or parents to decide their *family size* in the context of responsible
18 parenthood and sustainable development and in accordance with their personal, moral, religious
19 and cultural beliefs and values;

20 6. To support the family, *contribute to its stability* and harmony, promote equality of
21 rights and opportunities for family members, especially women and children, and provide
22 assistance to solo-parent households;

23 7. To foster a more balanced spatial distribution of the population by promoting in an
24 integrated manner, the *equitable and ecologically sustainable development* of major sending and
25 receiving areas;

26 8. To *incorporate the perspectives and needs* of women, children and youth, indigenous
27 communities, the elderly, and persons with disabilities in the design, implementation, monitoring
28 and evaluation of population, development and environment programs;

1 9. To promote an effective partnership at all levels between and among the national
2 government and local government units, the private sector and civil society, in the design,
3 implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of programs relating to population,
4 development and environment;

5 10. To ensure adequate comprehensive health care information and services;

6 11. To assess population trends in order to achieve eventual population stabilization
7 within the context of social and economic development and respect for human rights;

8 12. To strengthen government capacity to update relevant population development
9 information, studies and researches to establish a factual basis for understanding and anticipating
10 the interrelationships of population and socio-economic and environmental variables and to meet
11 the need to formulate, implement, monitor, and evaluate sustainable population and development
12 strategies; and

13 13. To support policies protecting the welfare of Filipino migrants, giving attention to the
14 special needs of overseas Filipino workers and trafficked persons and the effects of overseas
15 employment on the integrity and well-being of the family *vis-à-vis* the country's long-term
16 sustainable development on the other.

17 **Sec. 4. Definition of Terms.** - For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall be
18 defined as follows:

19 1. *Gender equality* — the absence of discrimination on the basis of a person's sex in
20 opportunities, in the allocation of resources or benefits, or in access to services.

21 2. *Gender equity* — fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and
22 responsibilities between women and men, and often requires women-specific projects and
23 programs to end existing inequalities.

24 3. *Responsible parenthood* — the will and the ability of couples to respond to the needs
25 and aspirations of their family and children in accordance with their cultural and religious beliefs.

26 4. *Sustainable development* – development that meets the needs of the present without
27 compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

1 5. *Human development* – a process of expanding human choices by enabling people to
2 enjoy long, healthy and creative lives. The three essential capabilities for human development are
3 for people to lead long and healthy lives, to be knowledgeable and to have access to resources
4 needed for a decent standard of living.

5 6. *Spatial distribution* – the patterns of settlement and dispersal of population within a
6 country or other sub-national area.

7 7. *Migration* – the movement of people into, or out of an area for the purpose of
8 establishing a new permanent residence in the area of destination crossing a defined territorial
9 boundary.

10 **SEC. 5. Implementing Mechanism.** - All the national, regional, local and government
11 agencies are hereby tasked to analyze and integrate on a continuing basis the interrelated
12 population, development and environment variables into the planning, implementation,
13 allocation, mobilization of resources and evaluation of their respective programs.

14 a. This Act shall provide the means for a stronger and more effective partnership
15 between and among the government agencies, the private sector and civil society at all levels, and
16 the provision of the necessary support to expand their work more effectively among the citizenry.

17 b. The Commission on Population (POPCOM) shall serve as the central coordinating
18 body for the implementation of this Act. It shall be an attached agency of the National Economic
19 and Development Authority (NEDA). Specifically, it shall:

20 1. Provide technical advice and support, including capability building to the national,
21 regional and local agencies, including local government units in the
22 implementation of this Act.

23 2. Formulate a population investment plan;

24 3. Coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Act;

25 4. Educate and inform the public about the implications of the population,
26 development and environment variables for the sustainable development of the
27 country;

1 5. Act as the government's clearinghouse and resource center for population and
2 development information and data through an annual State of the Philippine
3 Population and Development Report (SPPDR); and

4 6. Promote and provide the mechanism and support for the full participation of civil
5 society, the private sector and the citizenry in the planning and implementation of
6 population and development programs and projects pursuant to this Act.

7 c. The following agencies, in addition to their primary mandates and functions, are
8 hereby tasked to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act:

9 1. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) shall ensure that the
10 population and development (POPDEV) perspective is incorporated into the
11 current national and regional development plans of all government line agencies;

12 2. The Department of Health (DOH) shall plan, coordinate and implement programs
13 on comprehensive health care advantageous to the vulnerable sectors;

14 3. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall provide support
15 for policy formulation and coordination with LGUs in ensuring integration of
16 population and development in the local development planning processes and
17 programs;

18 4. The Department of Education (DepEd) shall integrate into its basic education
19 curriculum learning concepts on population, health, environment, and
20 development. It shall likewise design and implement opportunities for greater
21 access to the vulnerable groups/ sectors.

22 5. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall integrate
23 into the planning and implementation of its programs the population and
24 development variables including the development and dissemination of
25 environment and sustainable development indicators;

26 6. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in coordination
27 with the LGUs shall institutionalize the provision of day-care services,
28 emphasizing early childhood care and development, in every barangay with

1 particular focus on the children of poor families and the girl-child. It shall
2 likewise design appropriate support mechanisms to address the special needs of
3 the elderly and persons with disabilities, consistent with and supplementary to
4 existing laws;

5 7. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall plan, coordinate and
6 implement programs related to the equalization of employment opportunities
7 between men and women and the promotion of gender equality and equity in the
8 workplace. The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the
9 Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) under the Department of
10 Labor and Employment shall integrate corresponding adjustments into their
11 program and services relating to the special needs of Filipino migrant workers,
12 particularly women, and the prevention of trafficking and violence in persons;

13 8. The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) shall
14 promote a sustainable, ecologically sound and well-planned urban development
15 and housing delivery system by consistently integrating the National Urban
16 Development and Housing Framework with population and development
17 variables and goals: *Provided*, That the vulnerable sectors shall be accorded
18 priority access to housing benefits and opportunities;

19 9. The National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) shall plan, implement and
20 evaluate population and development programs and provide opportunities
21 intended to benefit the basic sectors;

22 10. The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) shall plan,
23 coordinate and implement programs relating to women empowerment and
24 women's rights, including the mainstreaming of gender equality and equity in
25 both national and local levels;

26 11. The National Youth Commission (NYC), through the Sangguniang Kabataan and
27 its affiliate organizations, shall plan and implement at all levels policies and

1 programs that promote the health and rights of adolescents, especially young
2 women;

3 12. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall plan,
4 coordinate and implement programs that integrate population, development and
5 comprehensive health issues in the development of *life skills and competencies*;

6 13. The UP Population Institute (UPPI) shall promote the proper understanding of
7 population, economic and sustainable development, and environment through the
8 conduct of population health research, training, and research dissemination among
9 policy-makers, program managers, local government executives and civil society;

10 14. The Philippine Information Agency (PIA) shall conduct a comprehensive
11 information dissemination program to support the purposes of this Act; and

12 15. The Leagues shall provide representation to all the local government units, apart
13 from those that are already defined under the Local Government Code, in the
14 crafting of policies, and in the development and implementation of programs and
15 projects pursuant to the integrated population and development goals of this Act.

16 c. The implementation of this mandate shall be integrated in the regular budgets of the
17 agencies enumerated herein.

18 d. The private sector consisting of all individual corporations, companies, enterprises,
19 and partnerships, operating for profit, including their business organizations and chambers, shall
20 assist in the program implementation of population and development goals of the State as part of
21 their service to their employees and in the performance of their social responsibility;

22 e. The civil society shall represent the interest of the basic sectors in the crafting of
23 policies, and in the development of programs and projects pursuant to the population and
24 development goals of the State.

25 **Sec.. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The NEDA in coordination with all
26 the agencies herein mentioned, and with a representative each from the private sector and civil
27 society shall formulate the IRR within thirty (30) days upon approval of this Act.

1 **Sec. 7. Reporting Requirements.** - Before the end of April each year, POPCOM shall
2 submit an annual State of the Philippine Population and Development Report (SPPDR) to the
3 President of the Philippines, the *President of the Senate and the Speaker* of the House of
4 Representatives. The report shall provide a definitive and comprehensive assessment of the
5 implementation of this Act and recommend appropriate priorities for executive and legislative
6 actions. The report shall be printed and disseminated to all national agencies, the LGUs, civil
7 society and the private sector involved in said programs.

8 **Sec. 8. Separability Clause.** - If any part, section or provision of this Act is held invalid
9 or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

10 **Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.** - All other laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and
11 regulations, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended
12 or modified accordingly.

13 **Sec. 10. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
14 the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

15 Approved.