

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2159



Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

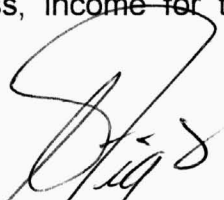
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to authorize the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation to initiate and provide funds for the resettlement of Urban Poor to their *barangay* of origin with the assistance of concerned government agencies and the local government units.

To uproot urban poor in squatter colonies, blighted areas and slums in all urban cities and resettle them to their *barangay* of origin by providing opportunities for a better life. This program is an everlasting solution to the problem of poverty and urban poor migration.

Basically the program is contingent on socio-economic approaches. This new program being introduced however has distinct and specific conditions. One is to resettle urban poor back to his her *barangay* or origin, but paved with opportunity for immediate work or earning for subsistence and in a place where are relations, friends and opportunities waiting to start life anew. This is an assurance that one will become a productive member of the community.

Another special property of the program is the involvement of the business sector as primary player and essential conduit in harnessing the potential of urban poor and to protect capital resources from dissipating. Still the government has to safeguard the productiveness of the endeavor to satisfy basic needs. This is a synergistic design. Profit for business, income for the Urban Poor and Economic growth for the nation.


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AN ACT
TO AUTHORIZE THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES
OFFICE AND THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION
TO CREATE A MECHANISM AND PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE IMMEDIATE
RESETTLEMENT OF MIGRANT URBAN POOR IN METROPOLITAN CITIES
TO THE COUNTRYSIDE OF THEIR ORIGIN

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

SECTION 1. The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Philippine Amusement Gaming Corporation are hereby authorized to create a mechanism and provide funds for the immediate resettlement of migrant Urban Poor in metropolitan cities to the countryside of their origin with the assistance of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the National Anti-Poverty Commission, Cooperative Development Authority, the National Housing Authority, the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Environment and Natural resources, the Department of Health, the National Electrification Administration. The Department of Agriculture, the Department of Trade and Industry, National Food authority, government technical and vocational schools nationwide and the Presidential Commission on Urban Poor being the direct links of the Urban Poor to the Government policy formulation and program implementation which addressed their needs and all local governments units.

SECTION 2. Sec. 9, Article 11 of the Constitution provides that the state shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure prosperity and independence as well as free the people from poverty through policies that

provides adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and improved quality of life for all.

SECTION 3. The State is also mandated under Section 2, Article X111 of the Constitution to promote social justice which shall include the commitment to create economic opportunities based on freedom of initiative and self-reliance.

SECTION 4. The poverty alleviation program of the government seeks to promote parallel urban-rural development through agriculture, food security and small enterprise development, health, housing and education.

SECTION 5. It is emphasize that the resettlement of urban poor is to their *barangay* of origin where there are relatives and friends whom they can assimilate with for understanding and the operation of the program exclusively and intermingling for the benefit of the urban and rural poor, establishing therefore national and local institutional support mechanism to ensure synergy and harmony among the key players towards an effective implementation of the project.

SECTION 6. It is imperative to promote urban renewal and rural development through creation of economic opportunities by forging linkages with the private sector key players and conduits of the government funding agencies in harnessing the productivity and employment of the urban-rural poor, and to facilitate such economic activities, to finance the development of farm and industrial tool and accessories by fabricating and upgrading farm and industrial machinery and equipment, thus providing, additional employment to urban poor who have already acquired skills and experience in their personal endeavors in urban centers.

SECTION 7. Program Components – The fundamental and direct concern of this program is to provide government assistance in accessing livelihood and employment opportunities and strategies for urban poor, specifically on employment, immersion, contracting-subcontracting, corporate farming and industrial partnership, farm employment, cooperative and technology transfer in

government agencies and institutions and private entities which should be pre-arranged and absorb urban poor before any act of resettling them commences.

SECTION 8. The President of the Philippines shall have the power and authority to mobilize all aforesaid government agencies and institutions and where it is necessary the disbursement of their respective funds for the mobilization of manpower and acquisition of facilities to support said program and private entrepreneurs as part of the program.

SECTION 9. Administering Agency. The program shall be managed by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Philippine Amusement Gaming Corporation and their designated government agency as the lead entity together with the aforementioned agencies and institutions of the government, in particular, the National Food Authority to provide cheap supply of rice to resettled urban poor and upgrading its role to include as marketing arm of urban-rural food production and the National Housing Authority to transfer its housing program to the countryside for the benefit of the urban-rural poor.

SECTION 10. Non-government organizations and the private sector are encouraged to participate this program specifically in livelihood and job opportunities for urban-rural inhabitants and must not deviate from the institutional mechanism of the program.

SECTION 11. Action Officers. The program shall have action officers with PCSO and PAGCOR's representatives as management head and the other stakeholders as management group who shall have the duties and responsibilities of establishing, coordinating and monitoring the implementing scheme adopted for the program, particularly to accept, review and evaluate applicants/beneficiaries of the program and to ensure that the program is urban and rural poor based operation and the equitable distribution of resources of the program.

SECTION 12. Program Coordinating and Linkages. To ensure that the implementation is anchored on poverty eradication with focus on the welfare of

the poor and the administering agency is hereby directed to closely coordinate the concerned participating agencies, design tracking mechanism for an effective feedback system and to monitor the impact of the program, hold quarterly meeting to evaluate the effective and efficiency of the program management and prepare and submit periodic report to the President of the Philippines.

SECTION 13. Separability Clause. In the event that any of the provisions is declared invalid by any competent court or tribunal, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. All executive or administrative issuances or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. This Act shall take effect upon approval.

Approved,