

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 954



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party List Representatives Gary C. Alejano**
and Francisco Ashley L. Acedillo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1994, Republic Act No. 7696 entitled, "*An Act Amending Certain Sections of Republic Act No. 6948, otherwise known as 'An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and their Dependents'*," was enacted to provide comprehensive benefits to war veterans, military retirees and their surviving spouses and dependents. Through the years, however, the national government was not able to fulfill its commitment to pay such benefits due to lack of government appropriation since the law did not identify the source of funding for the said pension.

In 2010, the government finally appropriated an amount of P170 million in the General Appropriations Act to settle the arrears to the veterans. However, said amount was not enough to cover the total government obligation which reached to P25 billion. The Department of National Defense and the Department of Budget and Management came out with a Joint Circular prioritizing the living/surviving World War II veterans in the payment of the said arrears. Therefore, a plan must be put in place in order to settle the remaining government obligations.

This bill, thus, seeks to utilize the proceeds from the development, lease, or other use of government properties for the payment of these arrears. In the process, the national government will accomplish its constitutional mandate of providing assistance to said beneficiaries without affecting the national budget.

In light of the foregoing, the urgent passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Gary C. Alejano in black ink.

GARY C. ALEJANO

A stylized, handwritten signature of Francisco Ashley L. Acedillo in black ink.

FRANCISCO ASHLEY L. ACEDILLO

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF ARREARS IN THE VETERANS' PENSIONS
AND BENEFITS MANDATED PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7696, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND
UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR
DEPENDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.*** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
2 provide immediate and adequate care and benefits to war veterans by allotting the necessary
3 funds to pay for the arrears in the payment of pensions and other benefits of the veterans and
4 military retirees or their dependents.

5
6 **SEC. 2. *Coverage.*** This Act shall apply to the sale, lease, development or use of the
7 following properties of the government:

- 8 a. Former site of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) at Arroceros Street,
9 Ermita, Manila;
- 10 b. Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City;
- 11 c. Taguig Industrial Estates;
- 12 d. Properties given by the Japanese government to the Philippines government under
13 the Reparations Agreement, including the Roponggi, Nampeidai and Fujimi properties in
14 Tokyo, and the Noniwacho and Obanoyama in Kobe; and

1 e. Other properties that may be identified by the Office of the President.

2
3 **SEC. 3. *Privatization and Management Office.*** The Privatization and Management
4 Office (PMO) of the Department of Finance is hereby authorized to implement the actual
5 marketing for the sale, lease, development or use of the above properties and to perform the
6 following:

7 a. Execute and deliver, on behalf of the national government, the deeds, contracts and
8 other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to effect the lease, development or use of
9 said properties;

10 b. Engage external expertise as may be necessary in the fulfillment of its tasks;

11 c. Submit periodic reports to the PVAO on the status of private sector participation in
12 the lease, development or use of said properties; and]

13 d. Adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to effect the provisions of this
14 Act.

15
16 **SEC. 4. *Funding Source.*** All proceeds from the sale, lease, development or use of the
17 properties mentioned in Section 2 hereof shall be utilized to fund the pension and benefits of
18 veterans and military retirees, whether in arrears or due for payment by the national government:
19 *Provided, That any shortfall in payment of pensions and benefits to veterans and military retirees*
20 *shall be settled by the national government from other sources.*

21 All proceeds and receipts from the lease, development or use of said properties except
22 operational expenses shall be remitted directly to any government bank as the depository bank
23 and managed by the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office for purposes of Automatic distribution of
24 pensions and benefits directly to war veterans and military retirees.

1 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The Secretary of National Defense shall,
2 in coordination with the Secretary of Finance, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the
3 effective implementation of this Act within six (6) months after its effectivity.

4
5 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and
6 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
7 modified accordingly.

8
9 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
10 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,