

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **5737**



Introduced by Hon. FELICIANO BELMONTE, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangay Krus na Ligas (KNL) is a community in Diliman, Quezon City that has been in existence as early as the Spanish occupation of the Philippines. During the 1896 Philippine Revolution, the area was used as a retreat place of Andres Bonifacio and the Katipuneros. Numerous other documents indicate the history and existence of KNL as early as the 19th Century, preceding even the establishment of the University of the Philippines (U.P.).

In 2 April 1949, President Elpidio Quirino sold a large parcel of land to the University of the Philippines for one peso, which included the KNL area. Various petitions have been made by the residents to protect their lands, but the right of ownership remained with U.P.

From 1975 to 1981, the administration of the University of the Philippines took the initiative to resolve twenty-six (26) cases involving U.P. and the residents of KNL. On 28 July 1979, then U.P. President Onofre D. Corpuz recognized the need to address the issue concerning the ownership of land due to the growing number of residents of Krus na Ligas and the U.P. Community. A number of U.P. Administrations have also shown resolve to transfer ownership of Krus na Ligas to its legitimate residents, including an attempt to donate the KNL estate to the Local Government of Quezon City. Unfortunately, these efforts have not come into fruition.

Through the years, the UP Administration and the UP Community have manifested their willingness to recognize the rights of the people of Barangay KNL, and to transfer to the qualified residents of KNL the ownership over the properties upon which they have built their homes and raised their families for generations.

The precepts of social justice that are enshrined in the 1987 Constitution compel us to give the highest and utmost priority to enact this law in order to fully and finally protect and recognize the rights of the people of Barangay KNL to the land over which they have long resided.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought.


FELICIANO BELMONTE, JR.

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AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF BARANGAY KRUS NA LIGAS TO ITS LEGITIMATE
RESIDENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9500 OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES CHARTER OF 2008

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

SECTION 1. Section 23 of Republic Act No. 9500 or the University of the Philippines Charter of 2008 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“The preservation of the value of the assets of the national university shall be of primordial consideration.

The sale of any existing real property of the national university shall be prohibited: provided that the Board may alienate real property donated after the effectivity of this Act if the terms of the donation specifically allow it; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT AS A MATTER OF SPECIFIC EXCEPTION, KRUS NA LIGAS IS HEREBY DECLARED AS A DISPOSABLE ASSET OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOR HOUSING AND URBAN SETTLEMENT PURPOSES ONLY, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992, AS AMENDED.

x x x”

SECTION 2. *Qualifications of Beneficiaries.* Only legitimate residents of Barangay Krus na Ligas whose long-standing residence in the area can sufficiently be established by

authenticated documentary and testimonial evidence are qualified to become buyers of parcels of land in Barangay Krus na Ligas. For purposes of evaluating legitimacy of applicants, only those who by themselves, or through their predecessors-in-interest, have been in continuous possession and occupation of the same in the concept of owner since time immemorial, or for a period of not less than thirty (30) years immediately preceding the approval of this Act, and uncontested by any other resident of the same, shall have the option to secure title under the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 3. *Supplementary Application of the UDHA.* Republic Act No. 7279 otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992 shall have supplementary application to the housing and urban settlement components of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The National Housing Authority shall, in consultation with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, the University of the Philippines and the Local Government of Quezon City, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* All other laws, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.