

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5587**



Introduced by **REP. MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposal to revamp the present Tax Code has both its positive and negative effects. While it may provide solution to the fiscal woes of the present administration, it will undoubtedly place an additional burden upon the shoulders of Filipino taxpayers, especially those living below the poverty line. While those living below the poverty line are most likely not paying any income tax, they remain burdened by indirect taxes such as the Value-Added Tax (VAT). For these brothers and sisters of ours, the affordability of at least the basic necessities is of paramount concern. The latter situation is exactly what this bill is trying to address.

Section 9, Article II of the 1987 Constitution expressly mandates that the State promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

This bill aims to realize and concretize the aforementioned state policy with its goal of helping our Filipino brothers and sisters deal with the adverse effects of new systems of taxation in the country as well as other factors that prevent them from getting out of being classified as poor. The bill seeks to ensure that the poorest municipalities will be able to avail of basic social services of the government and alleviate their station in life.

The bill seeks that the most basic of social services will be accessible to the poorest municipalities in the country regardless of their leaders' political affiliations and alliances, namely: (1) food security; (2) livelihood; (3) housing; (4) water supply; and (5) electricity supply.

This bill ultimately wants to preserve the dignity of the ordinary Filipino and prove that even the most poor and underprivileged Filipino has the right to live in a decent and humane state.

Thus, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI
Representative
3rd District, Bukidnon

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AN ACT
INSTITUTING A POVERTY-ALLEVIATION MEASURE TO UPLIFT THE MOST
CRITICALLY-SITUATED MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

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

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “*Oplan Tanggal Hirap Act*.”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to improve the quality of life for all in the least time possible while maintaining a rising standard of living for all of its constituents. It shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will free the people from poverty through policies that shall provide the socio-economic needs of the people to the end that no one shall be left behind.

Section 3. Selection of Municipalities. The National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall conduct a study using reliable and up to date methods in order to determine the three most critically-situated municipalities in every province in the Philippines. Standards to be used in determining which municipalities to be enrolled under the Program may include per capita income, infant mortality rate, poverty-incidence, unemployment rate, etc.

Section 4. Program Implementation. Once the most critically-situated municipalities have been identified, NAPC shall give them priority in its policy and coordinating efforts with other government agencies in rendering social services such as but not limited to the following:

1. Food security;
2. Livelihood;
3. Housing;
4. Health;
5. Education;
6. Access to Water; and
7. Access to Electricity

Furthermore, these municipalities shall not only be the most preferred but shall also be prioritized recipients of cash transfers and other forms of financial assistance from the national government.

Section 5. Coordination with national and local governments. The NAPC shall coordinate with the local governments of the municipalities included in the program, and the appropriate national agencies and government instrumentalities for the implementation of additional but related measures envisioned to achieve the objectives of this bill.

The aforementioned national agencies and government instrumentalities shall include but are not limited to the following:

1. Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);
2. Department of Agriculture (DA);
3. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
4. Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
5. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
6. Department of Health (DOH);
7. Department of Education (DepEd);
8. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
9. Department of Tourism (DOT);
10. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
11. National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); and
12. Presidential Commission on Urban Poor (PCUP).

Section 6. Monitoring. The NAPC shall be in-charge of monitoring the progress of the municipalities included in this program.

It shall also submit a report detailing the status of the program at least once a month to Congress and to the President of the Philippines. In the said report, the NAPC shall indicate whether or not the program improved the standard of living of the municipalities.

Section 7. Duration. This program shall last for three (3) years. Once indicators show that a participating municipality has been successfully removed from a province's most critically-situated municipalities, the next most critically-situated municipality shall be enrolled in the Program. Subject to the extension of the Program in accordance with the following Section, the Program shall continue until such time that all the municipalities in the province shall no longer be considered critically-situated.

Section 8. Extension. The President of the Philippines shall extend the program for another one (1) year if the NAPC indicated in its sixth and final report that the current municipalities included in the program did not improve its standard of living before moving on to implement the program to other municipalities in the province.

However, if the NAPC reports otherwise, the President shall terminate the inclusion of the municipalities in the program after the completion of the six-month period and shall be dealt with and supported like other municipalities similarly situated with it.

In the event that a municipality, previously a participant to this program, relapses to being categorized and included in the top 3 most critically-situated municipalities in the province, the same shall be reintegrated into the Program. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to deny or diminish whatever assistance or benefit is currently extended to any municipality under present laws and regulations.

Section 9. Funding. The Department of Budget and Management shall allocate and release the initial amount of five billion pesos (P5,000,000,000.00) to commence the program: *Provided that* additional funds may be provided by the Office of the President upon the favorable recommendations of the NAPC. Thereafter, the necessary budget of the NAPC in implementing the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The NAPC, in coordination with the national agencies enumerated in Section 5 hereof, shall promulgate the necessary joint rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this bill, within six (6) months from its effectivity.

Section 11. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 12. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Act are hereby deemed accordingly repealed or amended.

Section 13. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,