



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 1685



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BACOLOR RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM FOR THE PROTECTION, REBUILDING, AND RECOVERY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF BACOLOR, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991 caused a gigantic devastation in the whole of Luzon, which brought huge hardship and suffering to many of our countrymen. Among the hardest hit was the Province of Pampanga, with the Municipality of Bacolor being the most ruined as it became the focal point of the aftermath of the volcanic explosion. Many townsmen of Bacolor were displaced by the lahar, forcing them to occupy temporary shelter on resettlement sites in nearby towns, such as Bulaon in San Fernando; Camachile and Madapdap in Mabalacat City; Pandacaqui in Mexico; Sta. Lucia and San Isidro in Magalang; Apalit and Palmayo in Floridablanca; and Arenas and Buensuceso in Arayat, all in the Province of Pampanga.

Rising from this catastrophic event, this representation earnestly sought the immediate rehabilitation of the devastated Municipality of Bacolor by the passage of Republic Act No. 9506, which established the Bacolor Rehabilitation Council. Simultaneous with this is the relentless hard work to formulate and implement the Bacolor Comprehensive Rehabilitation Master Plan and the Local Development Investment Program.

This representation deemed fit to initiate this measure as there are more that needs to be done to ameliorate the people of Bacolor from their misery. Now more than ever, the helping hand of the government must be extended to the people of Bacolor so that they can finally reestablish themselves in their beloved hometown and restore the Municipality of Bacolor in its former splendor.

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

REP. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.
3rd District, Pampanga



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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “**Bacolor Reconstruction Program of 2022.**”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared as national policy to promote and provide for appropriate measures ensuring that the Municipality of Bacolor in the Province of Pampanga and its communities shall effectively and efficiently recover from the impact of disaster events, by coordinating various national government agencies in the protection, rebuilding and recovery of the same Municipality and its affected communities, and for such purpose, to provide for development plans including the establishment, repair, and rebuilding of community and government infrastructure and properties.

SEC. 3. Definition of a Disaster Event. – Disaster event may mean any of the following:

- a. The 1991 volcanic eruption of Mt. Pinatubo;
- b. Widespread flooding and massive lahars brought about by severe Typhoon Diding;
- c. Another disaster within the purview of Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, and as prescribed under its implementing rules and regulations; or
- d. Presidential declarations of a major disaster and/or national emergency.

SEC. 4. Role and Relationship of National Government Agencies and Local Government Units in the Bacolor Reconstruction Program. – The following national government agencies, through their respective Secretaries, in addition with their respective mandates and powers, are hereby mandated to actively coordinate, cooperate, and align their efforts for the proper and orderly planning, design, development, implementation, management, monitoring, and evaluation of the Bacolor Reconstruction Program:

- a. The Socioeconomic Planning Secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority as the lead supervisory authority;
- b. The Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management;
- c. The Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways;
- d. The Secretary of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development;
- e. The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
- f. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture;

- g. The Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform;
- h. The General Manager of the National Housing Authority;
- i. The President and Chief Executive Officer of Home Development Mutual Fund (PAG-IBIG);
- j. The Administrator of the Land Registration Authority; and
- k. The Administrator of the National Electrification Administration

For this purpose, any bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government, including government-owned-and-controlled corporations (GOCCs), in accordance with their respective mandates and powers, may be called upon for any assistance, as may be necessary.

The relevant departments and national government agencies shall ensure that the Municipality of Bacolor and its affected communities be actively consulted, to ensure that their needs are taken into consideration in the protection, rebuilding, and recovery efforts provided in the said Program.

SEC. 5. *Bacolor Reconstruction Program.* – The Bacolor Reconstruction Program, which shall be submitted for approval by the President, shall include, among others, the following infrastructure and services:

- 1. Allocation for rehabilitation and resettlement financing support;
- 2. Land survey and mapping programs;
- 3. Land use plan regulating development in the Municipality of Bacolor;
- 4. Plans for the management and settlement of boundary disputes involving two (2) or more barangays in the same Municipality; and
- 5. Establishment of economic, socialized, and low-cost housing program and projects for on-site development by the National Housing Authority;

The residents of the said Municipality shall be given preference in the hiring or employment for the implementation of any of the programs, activities, and projects under the Bacolor Reconstruction Program.

SEC. 6. *Annual Report to Congress.* – At the close of the year, the concerned national government agencies shall submit their annual report to Congress, giving detailed implementation status and challenges of the projects, activities, and programs, as well as accomplishments during the year, and recommend necessary measures for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the immediate and effective implementation of this Act shall be charged against the existing appropriations of the respective national government agencies and such other funding sources as the Department of Budget and Management may identify, and when necessary, the Contingent Fund, subject to relevant laws, rules and regulations.

Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included as separate line items in the respective annual budgets of the implementing national government agencies in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8 *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 7160, Republic Act No. 9184, and all other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,