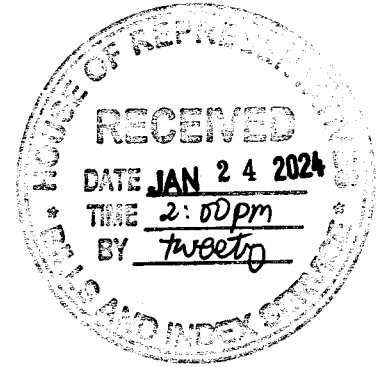


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **9823**



**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO,
JOCELYN P. TULFO, AND ERWIN T. TULFO**

**AN ACT PRESCRIBING A JUST AND HUMANE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
RESETTLEMENT OF UNDERPRIVILEGED AND HOMELESS CITIZENS,
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has an estimated 4.5 million homeless individuals—3 million of which live in the country's capital city of Manila, the largest homeless population of any single city in the world.¹ Likewise, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) categorized over 1.5 million families as "informal settlers", nearly half a million enduring substandard living conditions in the National Capital Region.²

The Philippine Development Plan states that homelessness and poverty are some of the many challenges faced by Filipinos, which critically affect their capacity to obtain basic needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare.³ Both factors often result in the proliferation of informal settlers who lack access to adequate housing and livelihood opportunities, urging them to settle in unauthorized or poorly established areas and making them vulnerable to eviction and demolition occurrences.

Article XIII, Sections 9 and 10 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution highlight issues of informal settlers vis-à-vis social justice and human rights, to wit:

"Section 9. The State shall, by law, and for the common good, undertake, in cooperation with the public sector, a continuing program of

¹ Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva, "Call For Input On Homelessness As A Cause And A Consequence Of Contemporary Forms Of Slavery", *Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*, 31 March 2023, www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/slavery/sr/reporthrc54/submission-slavery-hrc54-state-philippines.pdf, Geneva.

² Manila Bulletin, "4PH: Allowing more access to adequate and affordable housing", 12 Sep. 2023, <https://mb.com.ph/2023/9/11/4-ph-allowing-more-access-to-adequate-and-affordable-housing>.

³ Philippine Development Plan, "Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022", 29 Nov. 2022, pdp.neda.gov.ph/philippine-development-plan-2017-2022.

urban land reform and housing which will make available at affordable cost decent housing and basic services to underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlements areas. It shall also promote adequate employment opportunities to such citizens. In the implementation of such program the State shall respect the rights of small property owners.

“Section 10. Urban or rural poor dwellers shall not be evicted, nor their dwellings demolished, except in accordance with law and in a just and humane manner.

No resettlement of urban or rural dwellers shall be undertaken without adequate consultation with them and the communities where they are to be relocated.”

There have been reports that, without prior notice given to residents, demolitions may also take a violent turn,⁴ which likely result to incidents of injuries and, worse, fatalities. Hence, there is a need for the State to provide a mechanism that enables its agents to efficiently conduct relocation or resettlement and, at the same time, recognize the dignity of underprivileged and homeless citizens living in unauthorized areas.

This proposed legislative measure seeks to provide a just and humane process in the event of demolition or eviction, and ensure that the rights of these citizens are respected and protected throughout the relocation and resettlement process. Salient provisions of the bill include essential steps and procedures that must be followed before, during, and after eviction or demolition activities, and the appointment of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor as the central coordinating body for eviction, demolition, and resettlement activities.

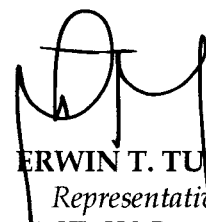
In view of the foregoing, the urgent passing of this bill is earnestly sought.



RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO
Representative
2nd District of Quezon City



JOCELYN P. TULFO
Representative
ACT-CIS Partylist



ERWIN T. TULFO
Representative
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⁴ “Defend Job denounces use of guns, tear gas and violence in demolition in Quezon City, Philippines”, *ESCR-Net*, www.escr-net.org/news/2014/defend-job-denounces-use-guns-tear-gas-and-violence-demolition-quezon-city-philippines#:~:text=According%20to%20Defend%20Job%2C%20the,hospitals%20with%20signs%20of%20trauma.

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1 **AN ACT PRESCRIBING A JUST AND HUMANE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR**
2 **RESETTLEMENT OF UNDERPRIVILEGED AND HOMELESS CITIZENS,**
3 **PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, AND**
4 **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
7 *assembled:*
8

9 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Just and Humane
10 Resettlement Act”.
11

12 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – Pursuant to Article XIII, Section 9 of the 1987
13 Constitution, the State shall ensure that underprivileged and homeless citizens have
14 access to adequate, safe, secure, habitable, sustainable, resilient, and affordable housing.
15

16 Pursuant to Article XIII, Section 10 and Article II, Section 10 of the Constitution, the
17 State shall neither evict nor demolish informal settler families (ISFs), except in
18 accordance with law and in a just and humane manner. Likewise, the State shall
19 promote social justice in all phases of national development.
20

21 The State shall, by law and for the common good, undertake in cooperation with the
22 private sector a continuing program of housing and urban development which shall
23 make available decent housing and basic services at affordable cost to underprivileged
24 and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlement areas.

1
2 In addition, the State shall encourage on-site development in the implementation of
3 housing programs and shall promote the creation of new settlements and the
4 development of sustainable urban renewable programs while guaranteeing the
5 preservation of agricultural lands necessary for food security.

6
7 The State shall encourage more effective people's participation in the urban
8 development process through a mechanism of adequate and genuine consultation in all
9 stages of the relocation and resettlement process with the affected communities, which
10 should include a space for children, women, and other marginalized groups.

11
12 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

13
14 (a) *Adequate and Genuine Consultation* refers to the constitutionally mandated process
15 whereby the public, on their own or through people's organization, is provided
16 an opportunity to be heard and to participate in the decision-making process on
17 matters involving the protection and promotion of its legitimate collective
18 interest, which shall include the following:

19
20 (1) Effective dissemination and full access to the public of relevant information,
21 plans and documents, including but not limited to land records, housing
22 budgets, the proposed plan or project, alternative housing options, technical
23 studies, and comprehensive resettlement plans;

24
25 (2) Reasonable time, which shall not be less than thirty (30) days, for the public
26 to review, comment, and object to the plans and studies;

27
28 (3) Provision by the government or non-government organizations of legal,
29 technical, and other appropriate advice to affected persons, households,
30 and/or organizations on their rights and options;

1 (4) Separate sessions of open and public consultations with affected households
2 in general and affected subsectors in particular, including but not limited to
3 women, children, youth, senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs),
4 workers, farmers, fisherfolk, and lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender
5 persons (LGBT);

6
7 (5) Public hearings that provide affected ISFs and their advocates with
8 opportunities to challenge the eviction decision or present alternative
9 proposals, and to articulate their demands and development priorities; and

10
11 (6) The conclusion of any mediation, arbitration, or adjudication proceedings by
12 an independent body vested with constitutional authority such as a court of
13 law, when appropriate and availed of, in case no agreement is reached on the
14 proposals of the concerned parties;

15
16 (b) *Danger Area* refers to areas which, when occupied for residential purposes,
17 actually pose a danger to the life, safety, and property of either the concerned
18 residents or of the general community. The danger is due to an unavoidable
19 source of probable harm to human life or well-being;

20
21 (c) *Demolition* refers to the dismantling by the local government unit (LGU), or any
22 legally authorized agency of government, of all structures within the premises
23 subject for clearing;

24
25 (d) *Eviction* refers to the removal of persons and their belongings from a subject
26 building/structure or area, or both, in accordance with law;

27
28 (e) *High-Risk Area* refers to an area which poses a high level of threat to the public
29 welfare and safety that cannot be addressed through scientific, physical, and
30 engineering methods and, thereby, is unsuitable for settlement and permanent
31 structures;

1 (f) *Informal Settler Families* refer to individuals or households living in any of the
2 following places:

- 3
4 (1) Lots, buildings, dwelling units, or other structures without the consent of the
5 property owner;
6 (2) Danger areas;
7 (3) Areas for government infrastructure projects;
8 (4) Protected or forest areas, except for indigenous peoples;
9 (5) Areas for priority development as declared under Proclamation No. 1967,
10 series of 1980, if applicable;
11 (6) Government or public lands or facilities not intended for human habitation;
12 or
13 (7) Any other places after being displaced due to natural or man-made hazards;
14

15 (g) *People's Plan* refers to the plan formulated and initiated by the beneficiary
16 associations, with the assistance of the concerned government agencies, in
17 cooperation with the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), with
18 or without the support of civil society organizations, which shall contain a site
19 development plan that conforms to standards of adequate housing and to the
20 comprehensive land use plan of the LGU under whose jurisdiction the project site
21 is proposed to be located, including architecture and engineering house design,
22 community health, sanitation and security plans, as well as non-physical
23 development components such as self-help development, capability building,
24 and a system of allocation of socialize housing units. The formulation and the
25 resulting plan should promote and protect the welfare of women, children,
26 PWDs, and senior citizens; and
27

28 (h) *Social Preparation* refers to the series of activities designed to prepare the affected
29 ISFs to cope with the changes brought about by government infrastructure or
30 development projects and to encourage them to actively participate and prepare
31 their societal, communal, and personal responsibilities in their quest for tenurial

1 security, human development and basic services, employment and livelihood,
2 and other government programs for the ISFs.

3
4 **SEC. 4. Coverage.** – This law shall apply in all cases of demolition or eviction,
5 whether undertaken by the government or private individuals or entities, and whether
6 ordered by the courts or otherwise.

7
8 **SEC. 5. Policy on Eviction and Demolition.** – As a general rule, any eviction of ISFs
9 or demolition of the structures they live in, or any appurtenance thereto, shall be
10 prohibited.

11
12 **SEC. 6. Exceptions.** – Eviction of ISFs or demolition of the structures they live in, or
13 any appurtenance thereto, shall be allowed only in the following exceptional cases:

14
15 (a) When ISFs occupy a danger area, such as *esteros*, railroad tracks, garbage dumps,
16 riverbanks, shorelines, waterways, and other public places such as sidewalks,
17 roads, parks, and playgrounds, or a high-risk area which poses a high level of
18 threat to public welfare and safety that cannot be addressed through or remedied
19 by scientific, physical, and engineering methods and, thereby, is unsuitable for
20 settlement and permanent structures: *Provided*, That an area can only be declared
21 as a danger area or high-risk area through an appropriate technical study,
22 adequate and genuine public consultation with the affected persons or entities,
23 and certification by the appropriate government agency. It shall be the duty of
24 the province and the city or municipality, after one hundred twenty (120) days
25 from the effectivity of this Act, to conduct the technical studies and public
26 consultations necessary to identify all danger and high-risk areas within their
27 respective jurisdictions;

28
29 (b) When government infrastructure projects with available funding are about to be
30 implemented: *Provided*, That evictions or displacements of population due to any
31 development project or business venture involving the government should be

1 avoided or minimized: *Provided, further,* That if eviction is unavoidable under the
2 circumstances, the government shall conduct a comprehensive and holistic
3 impact assessment before the project is implemented to determine whether the
4 project will serve the public interest and to explore alternatives and strategies to
5 minimize harm and further violation of human rights of the affected
6 communities, particularly children, women, and other marginalized groups:
7 *Provided, finally,* That the agency which seeks to implement the eviction or
8 demolition shall establish the budget pertaining to it upon its application to the
9 PCUP for an eviction or demolition certificate of compliance; and

- 10
11 (c) When there is a court order for eviction and demolition: *Provided,* That no
12 execution or eviction or demolition order shall proceed and be carried out during
13 the pendency of an appeal, notwithstanding the failure to file a supersedeas bond
14 to stay the execution of the order if the appellant is an underprivileged and
15 homeless citizen.

16
17 **SEC. 7. Mandatory Requirements Before, During, and After the Conduct of Eviction**
18 **or Demolition.** – No eviction or demolition involving ISFs shall be executed without
19 full compliance with the following mandatory requirements to uphold human dignity
20 and prevent any violation of human rights:

21
22 (a) Before Eviction or Demolition

- 23
24 (1) Conduct of social preparation activities related to asset reform, human
25 development and basic services, employment, and livelihood, and other
26 programs of the government for both the affected underprivileged and
27 homeless citizens and the affected families of the place where the former will
28 be relocated: *Provided,* That separate social preparation activities shall be
29 conducted on matters relating to the promotion and protection of their right
30 to development, survival, protection, and participation for children of both
31 communities.

1
2 (2) Notice served upon the affected persons or entities at least thirty (30) days
3 prior to the date of eviction or demolition;

4
5 (3) Adequate and genuine consultations on the matter of resettlement with the
6 duly designated representatives of the families to be resettled and the affected
7 communities in the areas where they are to be relocated: *Provided, That a*
8 *consultation in the form of an inter-agency pre-eviction or pre-demolition*
9 *conference with the affected underprivileged and homeless citizens shall be*
10 *convened by the national government agency or LGU authorized to evict or*
11 *demolish, and the same shall be complied with under the following*
12 *conditions:*

13
14 (i) The local Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel, whose
15 function is to provide law enforcement and civil disturbance control
16 but not to participate in the physical dismantling of any structure,
17 shall actively participate in the consultation process and their role
18 shall be clearly set forth;

19
20 (ii) The following agencies shall be represented during the inter-agency
21 pre-eviction or pre-demolition conference with the affected
22 underprivileged and homeless citizens:

- 23
24 a. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
25 b. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
26 c. Department of Education (DepEd);
27 d. Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
28 e. Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development
29 (DHSUD);
30 f. National Housing Authority (NHA);
31 g. Department of Health (DOH);
32 h. PCUP;

- i. Commission on Human Rights (CHR);
- j. Philippine Commission on Women (PCW);
- k. Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC);
- l. Appropriate key shelter agencies;
- m. Representatives from non-government organizations and/or people's organizations working for the interest of the ISFs; and
- n. Concerned LGUs.

If the conference is convened by the local government, the PCW and CWC shall be replaced by the Local Gender and Development Focal Point System and the Local Council for the Protection of Children representatives, respectively, of the concerned LGUs.

- (iii) The inter-agency pre-eviction or pre-demolition conference with the affected underprivileged and homeless citizens shall be presided by the PCUP, which may call on the assistance of other agencies whenever necessary;
- (iv) A plan for eviction or demolition shall be formulated during the inter-agency pre-eviction or pre-demolition conference, setting forth clear procedures that will be implemented during the eviction or demolition in order to prevent any human rights violation;
- (v) The details of the inter-agency pre-eviction or pre-demolition conference with the affected underprivileged and homeless citizens shall be documented or recorded, and a summary of the points of the agreements arrived at, as well as the disagreements, shall be considered and given weight by the inter-agency body in coming up with a decision on matters relating to the conduct of eviction or demolition: *Provided, That* copies of the documentation and

summary shall be provided to all the stakeholders present three (3) days after the pre-eviction or pre-demolition conference;

(vi) The inter-agency pre-eviction or pre-demolition conference with the affected underprivileged and homeless citizens shall be conducted after seven (7) days from service of notice of eviction or demolition upon the affected persons and entities; and

(vii) Any request for police assistance shall be accompanied by a certification from the PCUP that an inter-agency pre-eviction or pre-demolition conference with the affected underprivileged and homeless citizens was conducted.

(4) Submission to the Barangay Officials of the following:

(a) Before any Eviction or Demolition:

(1) Certificate of Compliance secured from the PCUP;

(2) Names of all personnel, staff, and crew taking part in the eviction or demolition activity, including private security, and the names of the PNP personnel assigned to maintain law and order;

(3) Notice of the date of demolition which shall be at least five (5) calendar days from such notice; and

(4) List of officers of the agencies forming part of the inter-agency body convened to extend support and assistance.

(b) During Eviction or Demolition:

(1) Reading of the plan of eviction or demolition agreed upon during the inter-agency pre-eviction or pre-demolition conference;

- (2) Presence of local government officials or their representatives during eviction or demolition;
- (3) Proper identification of all persons taking part in the demolition;
- (4) Execution of eviction or demolition only during regular office hours from Mondays to Fridays and only during good weather, unless the affected families consent otherwise;
- (5) No use of heavy equipment for demolition except for structures that are permanent and made of concrete materials;
- (6) Proper uniforms and identification shall be worn by members of the PNP who shall occupy the first line of law enforcement and observe proper disturbance control;
- (7) Observance of a minimum standard of conduct based on rules of engagement that applies maximum tolerance in order to prevent the outbreak of violence or the escalation thereof: *Provided*, That any legal use of force must respect the principles of necessity and proportionality: *Provided, further*, That the child protection policy in the conduct of eviction or demolition shall be implemented;
- (8) Measures to protect the evictees from threats or harassment from the government or private persons or entities, including gender-based violence: *Provided*, That legal assistance shall be made available to any complaining party; and
- (9) Transparency in all stages of the eviction or demolition process, including allowing the media to cover the whole event.

1 (c) After Eviction or Demolition:

2
3 (1) Adequate housing and relocation, whether temporary or permanent:

4 *Provided*, That in cases of eviction and demolition pursuant to a court
5 order involving underprivileged and homeless citizens, relocation
6 shall be undertaken by the LGU concerned and the NHA, with the
7 assistance of other government agencies, within forty-five (45) days
8 from the service of final judgment by the court, after which period the
9 said order shall be executed: *Provided, further*, That should relocation
10 not be possible within the said period, financial assistance in the
11 amount equivalent to the prevailing and applicable minimum daily
12 wage for non-agricultural workers, multiplied by sixty (60) days, shall
13 be extended to the affected families by the LGU concerned: *Provided*,
14 *finally*, That the financial assistance shall not replace the requirement
15 of adequate relocation; and
16

17 (2) Immediately after the eviction, all relief measures, medical facilities,
18 psychosocial services, documentation of evictees to prevent
19 displacement or family separation, and similar assistance shall be put
20 in place by the LGUs concerned in partnership with relevant
21 government agencies.
22

23 **SEC. 8. Enforcement of Mandatory Provisions.** - Observance of the above
24 requirements shall be mandatory in all cases involving the eviction and demolition of
25 underprivileged and homeless citizens and ISFs, regardless of whether or not their
26 dwellings or residential structures were constructed before or after the effectivity of this
27 Act. The DILG and DHSUD shall jointly promulgate the necessary rules and regulations
28 to carry out the immediately preceding section.
29

30 **SEC. 9. Prohibiting Illegal Perimeter Fences.** - It shall be prohibited for any person
31 to secure or build a perimeter fence on an area or property inhabited by underprivileged

1 and homeless citizens after such area or property is razed to the ground by a fire or
2 ruined by a natural calamity: *Provided*, That the fencing of the property shall be allowed
3 if the person causing the fencing can show a duly-signed court order allowing the same.
4

5 **SEC. 10. *Designation of a Central Coordinating Body for Eviction, Demolition, and***
6 ***Resettlement.*** – The PCUP is hereby designated as the Central Coordinating Body for
7 the conduct of eviction and demolition activities involving underprivileged and
8 homeless citizens.
9

10 **SEC. 11. *Functions of the Central Coordinating Body.*** – The PCUP shall exercise the
11 following functions:
12

13 (a) Monitor all evictions and demolitions, whether extrajudicial or court-ordered,
14 involving underprivileged and homeless citizens;
15

16 (b) Require any government agency or LGU proposing to undertake the eviction or
17 demolition activities to first secure from the PCUP Central Office, in case of
18 national projects, or from its regional office, in case of local projects, the checklist
19 and guidelines on eviction or demolition for the national and local projects,
20 respectively, prior to the actual implementation thereof and, subsequently, to
21 submit to the PCUP the completed checklist, attested to under oath by the
22 proponent, indicating that:
23

24 (1) Adequate and genuine consultation with the affected families has already
25 been undertaken;
26

27 (2) Adequate resettlement site and relocation facilities are available; and
28

29 (3) The pre-location requirements have been complied with;
30

31 (c) Review the basis for application for the conduct of eviction of underprivileged
32 and homeless citizens or the demolition of their dwellings, or appurtenances

1 thereto, in a danger area or high-risk area, or in an area where a government
2 infrastructure project with available funding is about to be implemented;

3
4 (d) Based on the completed checklist, subject to further verification and review of
5 the basis for application for eviction or demolition in the immediately preceding
6 sub-paragraph, issue a demolition and eviction certificate of compliance to the
7 national government or LGU proposing the eviction or demolition involving
8 underprivileged and homeless citizens;

9
10 (e) Initiate, in coordination with relevant government agencies, the formulation of
11 rules of engagement in the implementation of eviction or demolition activities
12 which are based on maximum tolerance and on the principles of necessity and
13 proportionality;

14
15 (f) Establish a separate protection mechanism for children through the formulation
16 of a child protection policy in the conduct of eviction and demolition: *Provided,*
17 That the child protection policy shall be developed in partnership with the
18 DSWD, CHR, and CWC, and in consultation with stakeholders including
19 children;

20
21 (g) Investigate *motu proprio* or upon complaint by any party any violation of the
22 provisions of sections 6, 7, and 8 hereof, or the rules and regulations issued to
23 implement them;

24
25 (h) File *motu proprio* or by way of assistance to any aggrieved party, the appropriate
26 criminal, civil, or administrative case against any person or persons found to
27 have violated the provisions of subsections 6, 7, and 8 hereof, or the rules and
28 regulations issued to implement them;

29
30 (i) Recommend to the President appropriate measures for the implementation and
31 enforcement of this Act and the rules and regulations issued to implement it,
32 including possible administrative sanctions against national or local government
33 officials who violate the same;

- 1
2 (j) Require assistance and necessary information from any government agency in
3 the discharge of its functions under this Act;
4
5 (k) Publicize matters covered by its investigation of violations of the provisions of
6 sections 6, 7, and 8 hereof, or the rules and regulations issued to implement them,
7 when circumstances so warrant and with due prudence: *Provided*, That the PCUP
8 shall, under the rules and regulations that shall hereafter be promulgated,
9 determine what cases may be made public: *Provided, further*, That any public
10 report or press release from the PCUP shall be balanced, fair, and true;
11
12 (l) Administer oaths, issue subpoenas *duces tecum*, and take the testimonies of
13 witnesses in the course of its investigation;
14
15 (m) Adopt its own operational guidelines and rules of procedures, as well as rules
16 and regulations not otherwise inconsistent with existing laws, rules and
17 regulations, to effectively carry out its mandate; and
18
19 (n) Perform such other functions as may hereafter be provided by law.

20
21 The PCUP shall designate additional personnel to carry out its mandate.
22

23 **SEC. 12. Penalty for Violation.** – Any person who violates sections 6, 7, and 8 hereof
24 shall be imposed the penalty of not less than six (6) months but not more than six (6)
25 years of imprisonment or a fine of not less than Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos
26 (PhP25,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP100,000.00), or
27 both, at the discretion of the court: *Provided*, That if the offender is a corporation,
28 partnership, association, or a government-owned or -controlled corporation, or other
29 juridical entity, the penalty shall be imposed on the officer/s of said corporation,
30 partnership, association, government entity, or juridical entity who caused the
31 violation.
32

1 **SEC. 13. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act
2 shall be included in the annual budget of implementing agencies in the General
3 Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and every year
4 thereafter.

5
6 **SEC. 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within one hundred twenty (120)
7 days from the effectivity of this Act, the DHSUD, DILG, and PCUP shall, in consultation
8 with non-government organizations, people's organizations, ISFs and their
9 organizations, and the private sector, jointly promulgate the rules and regulations
10 implementing the provisions of this Act.

11
12 **SEC. 15. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any section, subsection, clause, or
13 term of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, such parts not affected by such
14 declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

15
16 **SEC. 16. Repealing Clause.** – All existing laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations,
17 or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended,
18 modified, or repealed accordingly.

19
20 **SEC. 17. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
21 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

22
23 *Approved,*