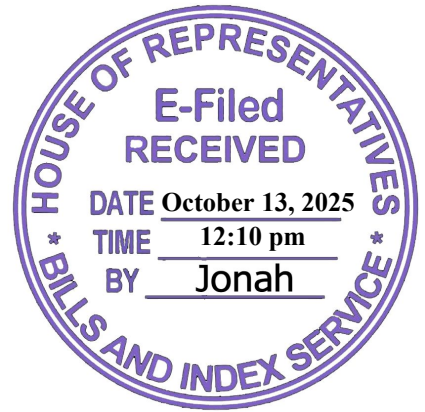


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5482



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Existing resettlement areas in the Philippines often fall short of offering truly dignified and sustainable living conditions. Many of these communities struggle with inadequate basic services, dilapidated infrastructure, and a severe lack of economic opportunities, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and dependence among their residents. This situation undermines the fundamental right to adequate housing and hinders the holistic development of these vulnerable populations.

This bill, "Resettlement Area Improvement and Sustainable Development Act of 2025", seeks to address these critical challenges by mandating a comprehensive and integrated approach to the rehabilitation and development of all government-identified resettlement areas nationwide. This proposed legislation recognizes that true rehabilitation extends beyond merely providing shelter; it must encompass the creation of resilient physical environments and the establishment of robust, sustainable economic foundations.

The bill empowers the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), in coordination with relevant agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs), to formulate and implement a program focused on upgrading the physical aspects of resettlement areas. This also mandates a multi-agency effort involving the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to provide residents with relevant skills, employment opportunities, financial literacy and seed capital and equipment for small businesses.

The Resettlement Area Improvement and Sustainable Development Act of 2025 represents a vital step towards transforming resettlement areas from mere relocation sites into thriving, self-reliant communities. By addressing both physical infrastructure deficits and the critical need for sustainable

livelihoods, this bill aims to uplift the living conditions of resettled families, foster their empowerment, and ensure their integration into the broader socio-economic fabric of the nation.

In view of the aforesaid, the approval of this measure is hereby earnestly sought.



SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5482

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION AND
UPGRADING OF EXISTING RESETTLEMENT AREAS, PROVIDING FOR
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND UPLIFTING THE LIVING
CONDITIONS OF RESIDENTS THEREIN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 "Resettlement Area Improvement and Sustainable Development Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to uphold the right of all citizens to adequate housing and to improve the quality of life of the underprivileged and homeless.

The State recognizes that existing resettlement areas, established to address informal settlements and disaster displacement, often lack the necessary infrastructure, services, and economic opportunities to ensure sustainable and dignified living conditions.

The State should therefore undertake a comprehensive program for the rehabilitation and upgrading of these areas, not only to provide decent shelter but also to foster community development, generate local employment, and empower residents towards self-sufficiency and improved well-being.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. Resettlement Area - refers to any area designated and developed by the government or its instrumentalities for the relocation of informal settler families, families displaced by natural or man-made disasters, or those affected by government infrastructure projects.

b. Rehabilitation and Upgrading - refers to the comprehensive improvement of physical infrastructure, social services, environmental conditions, and economic opportunities within a resettlement area.

c. Implementing Agencies - refer to the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), the National Housing Authority (NHA), the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs).

d. Residents - refer to the legitimate beneficiaries and occupants of a resettlement area.

SEC. 4. *Mandate for Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Upgrading.*

a. The Implementing Agencies, in coordination with each other and the concerned LGUs, are hereby mandated to conduct an inventory and assessment of all existing resettlement areas nationwide within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act. The assessment shall identify the specific needs for rehabilitation and upgrading, including but not limited to:

i. Physical Infrastructure: Repair and improvement of housing units, construction or upgrading of roads, drainage systems, water supply, sanitation facilities, and electrification.

ii. Social Infrastructure: Establishment or upgrading of community facilities such as health centers, multi-purpose halls, public markets, and accessible educational facilities.

iii. Environmental Management: Implementation of solid waste management programs, greening initiatives, and disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures.

b. Based on the assessment, a comprehensive Rehabilitation and Upgrading Plan shall be formulated for each identified resettlement area, prioritizing those in critical condition or with high population density. The plan shall be developed in consultation with the residents.

SEC. 5. *Provision for Employment Opportunities.*

a. The Implementing Agencies, particularly the DTI and TESDA, in coordination with LGUs, are mandated to implement programs that generate sustainable employment opportunities for the residents of resettlement areas. These programs shall include:

i. Skills Training and Development: Provision of free technical-vocational skills training programs tailored to

the local job market and potential industries, including construction, carpentry, plumbing, electrical works, handicrafts, food processing, and digital skills.

- ii. Livelihood and Entrepreneurship Development: Facilitation of access to microfinance, seed capital, business development services, and market linkages for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to be established by residents.
- iii. Local Employment Preference: Encouraging and, where feasible, mandating contractors undertaking rehabilitation and upgrading projects within the resettlement areas to prioritize the hiring of qualified residents for labor and skilled positions.
- iv. Partnerships with Private Sector: Forging partnerships with private companies and industries to provide job placements, apprenticeships, and supply chain opportunities for residents and their enterprises.

b. The DSWD shall integrate sustainable livelihood programs into their existing social protection frameworks for resettlement area residents.

SEC. 6. *Uplifting Living Conditions of Residents.*–

a. The DSWD, in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Education (DepEd), shall ensure the delivery of comprehensive social services to residents, including:

- i. **Health and Nutrition:** Access to primary healthcare services, maternal and child health programs, nutrition interventions, and health education campaigns.
- ii. **Education:** Support for access to quality education for children and adults, including alternative learning systems and scholarship programs.
- iii. **Social Protection:** Provision of targeted social welfare programs, psychosocial support, and community-based interventions. b. LGUs shall ensure the effective delivery of basic services and utilities within resettlement areas, consistent with their mandates under the Local Government Code.

SEC. 7. Responsibilities of Implementing Agencies. –

- a. Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD): Shall serve as the primary coordinating agency for the overall implementation of this Act, overseeing the formulation and execution of rehabilitation and upgrading plans.
- b. National Housing Authority (NHA): Shall be responsible for the physical rehabilitation and upgrading of housing units and site development within resettlement areas.
- c. Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH): Shall undertake the construction and improvement of roads, bridges, drainage systems, and other public infrastructure within and leading to resettlement areas.
- d. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD): Shall be responsible for social preparation, community organizing, and the delivery of social protection and sustainable livelihood programs.
- e. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI): Shall lead in the promotion of local enterprises, market linkages, and business development support.
- f. Department of Labor and Employment: Shall provide for matching employment opportunities to skilled residents of the resettlement areas.
- g. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA): Shall provide relevant technical-vocational education and training programs.
- h. Local Government Units (LGUs): Shall play a crucial role in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of programs and projects under this Act, ensuring community participation and sustainability.

SEC. 8. Funding. - The initial funding for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Implementing Agencies under the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The Implementing Agencies are also authorized to seek and receive grants, donations, and other forms of assistance from local and international sources, subject to existing laws and regulations.

SEC. 9. Monitoring and Evaluation. - The DHSUD, in coordination with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), shall establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress and impact of the programs and projects implemented under this Act. An annual report on the status of all resettlement areas and the outcomes of the rehabilitation and livelihood programs shall be submitted to the President of the Philippines and both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,