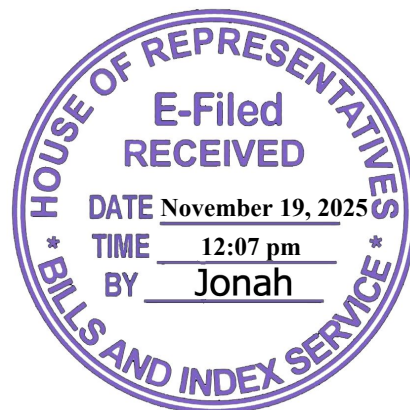




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

20th CONGRESS

First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6188

Introduced by Hon. Charisse Anne C. Hernandez

Lone District of Calamba, Laguna

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines' population is projected to hit 117 million in 2025, making it Asia's seventh-most populous nation and presenting both opportunities and challenges for sustainable growth. From 112.7 million in 2024, we've seen an annual growth rate of about 0.8% between 2020 and 2024, shaped by fertility, mortality, and migration. Key issues include an aging population, falling birth rates, widespread unintended pregnancies, urban-rural divides, and a fleeting demographic dividend that could boost the economy if harnessed properly.

Data shows our fertility rate has dropped to 1.9 births per woman in 2025—below the 2.1 replacement level—from 2.7 in 2017, accelerating population aging. By 2030, 7% of Filipinos will be 65 or older, straining healthcare and productivity. With a median age of 26.1, 67% are working-age, offering a "sweet spot" for growth, but our low talent ranking (64th out of 69 in the 2025 IMD report) risks wasting it.

Migration fuels rural depopulation and brain drain, while urban areas grapple with overcrowding. Unintended pregnancies affect 51% of cases, with 71 per 1,000 women annually—ranking us 56th globally—and adolescent rates remain high, perpetuating poverty, especially in rural and low-income groups. These trends worsen challenges like climate change, food security, and resource strain, even as the economy eyes 6% growth through 2026.

This bill updates Presidential Decree No. 79 to create a unified policy framework. It bolsters the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) under the Department of Economy, Planning

and Development as the lead for planning, coordination, and monitoring. Core elements include a long-term strategy addressing aging, responsible parenthood, unintended pregnancies, population distribution, and integrating demographics into sectors like health, education, and environment. It emphasizes informed choice, human rights, and inclusion for marginalized groups, with interagency collaboration and tools like research and early warnings.

By empowering a diverse CPD Board and classifying staff as public health workers, the bill ensures data-driven actions and regular reports to leaders. Passing it is crucial to seize the demographic dividend, ease aging burdens, cut unintended pregnancies, close gaps, and align policies with national goals—ultimately helping Filipinos thrive now and in the future.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charisse', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ



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HOUSE BILL NO. 6188

Introduced by Hon. Charisse Anne C. Hernandez

Lone District of Calamba, Laguna

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY,
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 79, SERIES OF 1972, AS
AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “**Philippine Population and Development Act of 2026.**”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy and Guiding Principles.* The State shall hereby foster and adopt an integrated, coherent, responsive or adaptive policy and strategies in optimizing the country’s demographic situation and addressing its emerging impact on development conditions to accelerate and advance the national socioeconomic goals where every Filipino has the enabling capacity to achieve their aspiration and desired quality of life.

It shall also be the policy of the State to facilitate and promote sustainable level and quality of its human resources within the principles of informed choice and volunteerism, human rights, and

equitable and sustainable development particularly within the context of the country's anticipated population ageing and other emerging demographic trends and dynamics.

The population and development policy shall be guided by the following principles:

- a. The right to development of every Filipino is a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights. This right to development must be fulfilled to equitably meet the population, development and environmental needs of present and future generations.
- b. People are at the center of concern for sustainable development and the primary and most important resource of the country. Hence, the country shall ensure that its human resources are fully developed through their life course.
- c. Inclusive growth shall be promoted by providing equal and equitable opportunities to all segment of the population regardless of age, sex, socioeconomic conditions, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, race, religion and other social realities, to achieve their desired quality of life. This includes the recognition of the specific needs of marginalized segment of the population including the indigenous people, older person, children, workers in the informal economy, those living in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, and other group of population that have difficulty in accessing socioeconomic services through strategic including affirmative actions.
- d. Population-related goals and policies are an integral part of the country's social and economic development with the primary purpose of enabling and improving the quality of life of all people.
- e. The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support regardless of their circumstances.
- f. Every Filipino has the right to form their family and foster or attain its wellbeing and development within the principles of responsible parenthood and informed choice.
- g. A dynamic balance and harmonious integration of population, resources, the environment and development shall be pursued efficiently to facilitate sustainable development that is equitably shared by all people today and in the future.
- h. To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, the State shall endeavor to reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate policies, including population-related policies, to meet the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- i. The right of all individuals to move in search of better opportunities shall be promoted, ensured, upheld, respected, and protected through enabling policies and services with the goal of optimizing its socioeconomic consequences and mitigating its social and economic costs in both sending and receiving areas.

- j. Promote and enhance the capacity and involvement of local government units for local autonomy in ensuring the general welfare and development of their people by adopting and implementing a responsive and integrated population and development policies and strategies.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a. **Adolescents**- refers to the population aged 10 to 19 years.
- b. **Demographic Dividend** – refers to the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population’s age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older).
- c. **Geographically Isolated and Underdeveloped Areas** – refers to communities where marginalized populations experience significant physical and socio-economic barriers to accessing essential services and opportunities.
- d. **Informed Choice** – refers to the act of choosing based on enough knowledge or information.
- e. **Migration** – pertains to the movement of people into or out of an area for the purpose of establishing a new permanent residence in the area of destination, crossing a defined territorial boundary.
- f. **Population** – the total number of people living in a certain area, which may be distributed by age, sex, residence, and other characteristics. Population is affected by the interplay of fertility, mortality and migration.
- g. **Population Ageing** - refers to the increasing average age of a population or proportion of older person, primarily driven by declining birth rates and increasing life expectancy.
- h. **Population and Development** - refers to interaction of population dynamics (like growth, distribution, and composition) and various aspects of societal and economic development.
- i. **Reproductive Health** - refers to the state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. This implies that people are able to have a responsible, safe, consensual and satisfying sex life, that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when, and how often to do so. This further implies that women and men attain equal relationships in matters related to sexual relations and reproduction.
- j. **Responsible Parenthood**- the will and the ability of couples to respond to the needs and aspirations of the family and children in accordance with their cultural and religious beliefs.

- k. ***Sustainable Development*** - development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

SECTION 4. Comprehensive Medium-to-Long-term Population and Development (POPDEV) Strategy. A medium-to-long-term national population and development strategy shall be formulated and implemented through a whole-of-society approach to fully optimize emerging demographic opportunities and address population issues towards accelerating and sustaining socioeconomic development at all levels. The national POPDEV strategy shall include the following agenda and objectives:

- a. To address and optimize the anticipated population ageing in the Philippines and its impact on socio-economic development in the short- to long-term through life-course and intergenerational development strategies.
- b. To promote responsible parenthood and family planning and development and support evolving reproductive preferences and behaviors among women and couples.
- c. To reduce and prevent unplanned pregnancies among women and girls especially among those with poor socioeconomic conditions.
- d. To structurally influence and facilitate population movement towards more rationalized distribution of population and equitable socioeconomic development across regions, provinces, cities and municipalities through interdependent rural and urban development.
- e. To address the causes and impact of emerging depopulation of human resources especially in rural areas.
- f. To address the demographic impact of increasing international migration within the context of global population dynamics.
- g. To promote the inclusion and social protection of marginalized segment of population such as not, but not limited to, indigenous people, workers in the informal economy, rural and urban poor, adolescent parents, and people in geographically isolated and underdeveloped areas, within the mainstream of socioeconomic development.
- h. To explicitly integrate population issues in sectoral development concerns especially those sectors that are critically affected by population dynamics (e.g., agriculture and food security, urban and rural development, health and nutrition, employment, education and skills development, environment, infrastructure, among others).

The national POPDEV strategy shall be spelled-out in a **Philippine Population and Development Plan of Action (PPD-POA)**, which shall be aligned with the thrust of the Philippine Development Plan and other socioeconomic and development policies and strategies at the national, regional, sectoral, and local levels. At the sectoral level, concerned government agencies shall endeavor to integrate the abovementioned POPDEV strategies in their sectoral

development plans and programs. Emerging population issues at the regional and local levels shall likewise be addressed and explicitly integrated in regional and local development plans and strategies.

SECTION 5. Strengthening the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). The Commission on Population and Development, referred to as “CPD” herein, an agency attached to the Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DEPDev) for purposes of policy and program coordination as provided in Republic Act No. 12145 (Economy, Planning and Development Act), shall be strengthened to serve as the primary policy, planning, coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating arm of the Executive Branch of the government in pursuing the country’s population and development agenda and strategies specifically provided for in Section 4 of this law.

SECTION 6. Powers and Functions of the CPD. - The CPD shall have the following powers and functions:

a. BOC Secretariat

- i. Provide secretariat functions to the CPD Board of Commissioners.

b. Policy, Plan and Program Development

- i. Formulate and adopt coherent, integrated, comprehensive and data-driven medium-to-long-term plans and strategies (i.e., PPD-POA) on population as it relates to social and economic development.
- ii. Provide evidence-based policy or strategic advice or collaborate with concerned institutions in addressing and integrating population factors and dynamics in their development policies, plans, programs, and strategies at all levels particularly on the areas of, but not limited to food security, human development (i.e., health, education and skills development), employment, land use, climate change and environment, housing, urbanization, and economy.
- iii. Capacitate and collaborate with regional and local government units or institutions in identifying and analyzing critical population issues and in planning or developing and implementing corresponding strategic interventions within their mandates.
- iv. Develop effective programs and approaches in addressing population and development issues for adoption and institutionalization of relevant institutions at the national and sub-national levels.
- v. Recommend to Congress relevant policies in addressing emerging population issues as it relates to socioeconomic development concern in the country.

c. Institutional Capacity Development

- i. Capacitate concerned institutions at all levels in analyzing and addressing the impact of population dynamics in their development issues and agenda.
- ii. Capacitate national, regional, local, and community-based population workers on population and development-related strategies, skills, plans, and other interventions or services.
- iii. Establish efficient mechanisms for continuous accessibility of population and development knowledge products and training by various stakeholders.
- iv. Provide relevant training and capacity building to pre-marriage orientation facilitators, local and community-based population and development and workers.

d. Population Data, Information and Knowledge Generation and Management

- i. Establish and manage a national and regional POPDEV Research and Training Centers as a mechanism for generating knowledge on the emerging impact of population in development and building the capacities of institutions to understand and consider population dynamics in their development initiatives.
- ii. Generate and provide or disseminate empirical data, knowledge (research) and information on emerging population trends and issues and its current and potential impact on critical development concerns in collaboration with government statistical and research agencies and/or academic/research institutions.
- iii. Develop databases or population surveillance systems such as the registry of migrants and the marginalized sectors to strengthen evidence-based planning and policy development.
- iv. Develop early warning systems and population projections illustrating the current and potential impact of population issues on socioeconomic development at all levels to inform planning, policy development, and projection of service requirements.

e. Education, Promotion and Communication

- i. Develop, implement and assess promotion and communication strategies and materials using effective channels and media at the national and regional levels to increase the level of awareness of stakeholders on the interrelationships of population and development.
- ii. Promote and sustain education of individuals on responsible parenthood, family planning and development, and reproductive health.
- iii. Collaborate with educational institutions and agencies in integrating education or information on population and development in curricular or educational programs.

f. Local and International Coordination

- i. Collaborate with relevant national, regional, and local government agencies and other institutions in pursuing the objectives of the national population and development strategies.
- ii. Actively participate in international dialogue or conferences and collaborate with international organizations in forging international consensus and cooperation on the population and development agenda.
- iii. Pursue and strengthen south-south technical cooperation or collaboration or knowledge-sharing with other countries on population and development.
- iv. Enter, on behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, into relevant contracts, agreements or arrangements with national and international government or private agencies as will be necessary, contributory and desirable in the implementation this policy.

g. Resource Generation and Mobilization

- i. Generate and accept grants, donations, and other resources in support of the implementation of population and development strategies.
- ii. Collect and retain revenue from the training fees for the maintenance and sustainability of capacity building activities for stakeholders.

SECTION 7. *CPD Board of Commissioners.* The CPD Board of Commissioners, referred to as the Board, shall serve as the executive collegial body responsible for directing and providing overall policy direction on population matters as they relate to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development. The Board shall be composed of the Secretaries/Heads or their authorized representatives, provided that they occupy a position with at least Salary Grade 26, of the following agencies:

- a. Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DEPDev) as the Chairperson;
- b. Department of Education (DepEd);
- c. Department of Health (DOH);
- d. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
- e. Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- f. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
- g. Department of Agriculture (DA);
- h. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- i. Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);
- j. Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development (DHSUD);
- k. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- l. Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
- m. University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI); and

- n. Two (2) representatives from civil society organizations, academe or private institutions with expertise on population and development to be appointed by and co-terminus with the President.

SECTION 8. *Powers and Duties of the Board.* The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. Direct and approve the formulation, adoption and implementation of policies, plans, programs, strategies and projects that address emerging population issues with national importance as they relate to socioeconomic development in the country.
- b. Ensure the adoption and integration of agreed population and development strategies within the relevant mandates, programs, and strategies of the Board's member agencies.
- a. Constitute committees consisting of members of the Board or such other experts and consultants from both the private and public sectors as are deemed necessary in the preparation of technical inputs needed in the discharge of its functions.
- c. Approve the level of annual CPD budget for consideration in the National Expenditure Program for the succeeding fiscal year.
- d. Issue rules and regulations necessary for the effective discharge of its powers and functions.

SECTION 9. *Functions of the Chairperson of the Board.* The Chairman of the CPD Board shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. Call and preside over the meetings of the Board or delegate the same to his/her authorized representative or to the most senior official of the members of the Board present in the meeting;
- b. Resolve, with the concurrence of the Board, emerging major policy-related issues;
- c. Appoint, with the concurrence of the Board, the Executive Director and such number of Deputy Executive Director and Regional Directors as the exigencies of the service may require and recommend to the Board their suspension and removal of said officials for cause;
- d. Delegate to the Executive Director subject to the approval of the Board any of the powers vested in him/her as may be necessary in the performance of functions; and
- e. Perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board from time to time.

Section 10. *Meetings of the CPD Board.* The Board shall meet at least every semester or more often at the call of the Chairman. The majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum and no action shall be considered as a decision of the Board unless it carries the affirmative vote of the majority members present and voting. The deliberation and voting of the

Board for urgent or emerging issues or resolutions that may arise in between regular meetings of the Board may be carried out via ad referendum to be reported during the regular meeting. The authorized representative may sign resolutions and other pertinent documents on behalf of their principal, provided that a certification or authorization for representation specified such power or duty.

A member who cannot physically attend the meeting may join through an online platform, provided that he/she is acknowledged by the presiding officer and his/her attendance is duly recorded or documented. Such members shall be included in the determination of the quorum.

The members of the Board who are government officials shall serve without additional compensation except for the reimbursement of actual travel expenses. The appointed representatives from the civil society organization, academe, or private sector shall be entitled to honorarium to be agreed by the Board based on existing government rules and regulations.

Section 11. *The Executive Director, Powers, Duties, and Qualifications.* The management, direction, and overall operation of the Commission on Population and Development in the implementation of its mandate shall be vested in an Executive Director, to be appointed and to serve for a fixed term of six (6) years, subject to the approval of the Board. The Executive Director shall receive the emoluments attached to the rank of an undersecretary (Salary Grade 30) as provided by Executive Order No. 71 series of 2018.

The Executive Director shall have the following' minimum qualifications: demonstrated or publicly distinguished expertise in population and development and a substantial number of years of managerial experience.

The Executive Director shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

- a. Serves as the Secretary of the CPD Board of Commissioners;
- b. Direct and manage the affairs and operations of CPD, in accordance with its duties and functions provided in this law, policies enunciated by the Board, and existing government rules and regulations;
- c. Sit in all meetings of the Board and participate in its deliberations without the right to vote;
- d. Review, recommend and establish and maintain the approved organizational structure of the CPD;
- e. Appoint officials and employees below the Regional Director and to remove, suspend and otherwise discipline, for just cause, any subordinate personnel;

- f. Disburse, administer and obligate appropriations of the CPD and report the financial performance of the agency to the Board;
- g. Submit annual and/or such supplemental budget estimates to the Chairperson of the Board for endorsement to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for approval and inclusion in the National Expenditure Program (NEP) and General Appropriations Act (GAA);
- h. Facilitate the preparation of the PPD-POA and its corresponding accomplishment report for approval of the Board;
- i. Recommend to the Board major policies and strategies on population and development that entails adoption by the member agencies within their mandates and key programs and for submission to Congress for their consideration and enactment;
- j. Represent the agency in high level meetings at the national and international levels; and
- k. Perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board and the Chairperson from time to time.

The Executive Director shall be assisted by Deputy Executive Directors for Technical Operations and for Administrative Services with the position of Director IV (Salary Grade 28).

Section 12. *CPD Regional Offices.* The CPD shall establish, operate, and maintain an office in each region of the country, except in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), which may be created under the Organic Law for the BARMM (Republic Act No. 11054). Each regional office shall be headed by a Regional Director, who shall be assisted by an Assistant Regional Director. The CPD Regional Offices shall discharge the functions of the CPD, as applicable, at the regional level. The CPD Regional Offices shall be headed by a Regional Director with a position of Director II (Salary Grade 26).

Section 13. *Structure and Staffing Pattern.* The CPD shall have a structure in accordance with its major functions. It shall review its existing and recommend an efficient organizational and staffing pattern of the CPD to the Board and endorsed to Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to ensure the more effective furtherance and delivery of CPD's mandates, objectives, tasks, and functions.

Section 14. *Creation and Mobilization of Inter-agency Regional Coordinative and Advisory Bodies on Population and Development.* To promote interagency collaboration in advancing the population and development agenda at the regional levels, a Regional Population and Development Sub-Committee under the Regional Development Committee (RDC) at the regional level shall be organized and mobilized. The RPD-SC shall discuss, recommend, organize and assess interagency actions in addressing the population and development agenda in Section 3 of

this law. The RPD-SC shall consists of the agency member of the CPD Board and other relevant institutions as deemed by the committee.

Section 15. *Population and Development Personnel as Public Health Workers.* All personnel of the CPD shall be classified as public health workers in accordance with the pertinent provisions under Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7305, also known as the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR);

Section 16. *Reporting.* The Commission on Population and Development shall submit to the Congress, Office of the President and CPD Board, a State of the Philippine Population and Development Report (SPPDR) every beginning, middle and end of the new Congress and Administration. The Report shall serve as an input in the formulation of the socioeconomic development agenda.

Moreover, the CPD shall submit an annual agency accomplishment report to the Office of the President and CPD Board.

Section 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the CPD Board shall, in consultation with other concerned government agencies, private agencies, and civic society, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 18. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary for the effective and continued implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 19. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 20. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 21. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in newspapers of general circulation.