

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6852**



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE RICARDO S. CRUZ, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), there are approximately 4.5 million homeless individuals in the Philippines, most of whom are concentrated in Metro Manila.¹

Rapid urbanization in the country has intensified challenges related to housing, access to basic services, employment, and the overall quality of life, particularly among underprivileged and marginalized sectors. Many urban communities continue to face inadequate housing conditions, limited livelihood opportunities, and the constant threat of displacement due to development projects and disasters.

This measure seeks to establish a Rental Housing Subsidy Program that will serve as a housing and social protection mechanism, enabling Informal Settler Beneficiaries to lead decent lives while supporting their transition into the formal housing market. Eligible beneficiaries shall receive a rental subsidy, the amount of which shall be determined based on appropriate considerations.

For these reasons, the swift passage of the foregoing measure is earnestly sought.


RICARDO S. CRUZ JR.

¹ Retrieved from:
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/joint-activity/decriminalization-homelessness/subm-decriminalization-homelessness-extreme-cso-kariton-coalition-joint-submission-phi.pdf>

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RENTAL HOUSING SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR
INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Rental
Housing Subsidy Program Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the
State to:

(a) Promote a just, equitable, and inclusive urban development through
programs providing adequate social services, broader housing options, livelihood
and
employment, and an improved quality of life for the Filipino people, especially the
underprivileged;

(b) Provide an innovative housing program that makes available affordable,
livable, and decent housing, as well as access to basic social services, especially for
the underprivileged;

(c) Protect the urban poor from the impact of immediate dislocation due to
eviction and demolition arising from government projects; and

(d) Provide interim housing for dislocated families due to natural and
man-made disasters.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

(a) Dislocation refers to the state of being displaced from one place to another
due to causes such as eviction and demolition;

(b) Informal settler families refer to households living on a lot, whether private or public, without the consent of the property owner; or those without legal claim over the property they are occupying; or those living in danger areas such as esteros, railroad tracks, garbage dumps, riverbanks, shorelines, and waterways, as defined in Section 3(e) of Republic Act No. 11201, otherwise known as the “Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Act”; and

(c) Rental housing subsidy refers to the financial assistance provided by the government to pay for the temporary use or occupancy of a residential unit in the public and private rental housing market.

SECTION 4. Rental Housing Subsidy Program. – There is hereby established the Rental Housing Subsidy Program, hereinafter referred to as the “Program”, to provide social protection and support to informal settler families (ISFs) in accessing the formal housing market under the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD). It shall be made an option to address the temporary relocation of displaced families due to natural and man-made disasters.

Eligible ISFs shall receive a flat rental subsidy rate of Three thousand five hundred pesos (PhP3,500.00) for those living in Metro Manila and a rental subsidy rate to be determined by the DHSUD and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for those living in all other regions, taking into consideration the prevailing minimum wage and rental rates per region, but not to exceed Three thousand five hundred pesos (PhP3,500.00): *Provided*, That the rental subsidy shall not exceed the actual rent: *Provided, further*, That at any time, but not more often than once every two (2) years, such subsidy may be reviewed or revised by the DHSUD and NEDA to conform with the prevailing economic conditions.

Rental subsidy shall be granted to eligible beneficiaries until the date of completion of the permanent housing project intended for them or upon their actual transfer to the permanent housing project, whichever comes first: *Provided*, That in case of a delay in the completion of the permanent housing project, the rental subsidy shall be extended: *Provided, further*, That the agency implementing the permanent housing project shall bear the cost of the extended rental subsidy.

SEC. 5. Eligibility. – To be eligible for rental subsidy under this Act, a beneficiary must:

(a) be an ISF as defined under Section 3(b) hereof; and

(b) vacate the informal settlement area presently being occupied and transfer to a safer and government-authorized area.

SEC. 6. Conditions for Continued Entitlement or Eligibility. – All eligible rental subsidy beneficiaries shall comply with the following conditions to avail of the benefits under this Act:

(a) The beneficiaries shall not move or relocate back to the area in which they were originally living in unless such move or relocation has been permitted by the proper government authorities, taking into consideration the purpose of the Program; and

(b) The beneficiaries shall pay to the lessor that portion of the rental fee not covered by the subsidy.

Rental subsidy beneficiaries who maintain good payment standings shall be prioritized as beneficiaries in government housing programs.

SEC. 7. Form of Payment. – The rental subsidy shall be distributed by the DHSUD in such form it may determine to be most beneficial and appropriate for the beneficiaries.

SEC. 8. Roles of Government Agencies. – The various national government agencies and instrumentalities involved in the Program shall perform specific responsibilities.

(a) The DHSUD shall:

(1) Coordinate with housing agencies to formulate Program targets and integrate these to the national housing policy;

(2) Promulgate appropriate housing policies among the attached corporations of DHSUD in line with the implementation of this Program;

(3) Enlist beneficiaries and their lessors for the Program;

(4) Set up monitoring and evaluation system, tools, exit strategy and methodologies on compliance with conditions, implementation, output, and impact assessments together with its attached agencies, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), and the local government units; and

(5) Recommend to Congress measures for the proper and responsive implementation of this Act.

(b) The National Housing Authority (NHA) shall:

(1) Certify to the eligibility of the applicants of the Program;

(2) Coordinate with government agencies, including the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Transportation, on the identification of areas suitable for housing projects and the persons who need immediate resettlement;

(3) Update the masterlist of beneficiaries to be resettled as part of the National Resettlement Program which shall include their socio-economic profiles; and

(4) Design and conduct appropriate monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this Program which shall include a grievance and redress system.

(c) The Home Development Mutual Fund shall enroll in its system at least one household member of the applicant-beneficiaries of the Program to facilitate their entry into the formal housing market.

(d) The DSWD shall design the social preparation activities and conduct workshops and training programs to ensure that beneficiaries are aware of the benefits under the Program, including the parameters and conditions for eligibility.

(e) The PCUP shall:

(1) Assist the DSWD in the design of social preparation activities, workshops, and training programs for beneficiaries; and

(2) Conduct social preparation activities with the local government units.

(f) The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority shall provide skills training to at least one household member of the beneficiaries.

(g) The local government units shall:

(1) Maintain a publicly accessible register of lessors in their respective areas of jurisdiction;

(2) Assist the NHA in conducting census and tagging of ISFs in need of immediate resettlement;

(3) Assist the DSWD and PCUP in conducting social preparation activities;

(4) Contain the vacated areas of ISFs to help achieve the objectives of this Program;

(5) Assist the DSWD in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of this Program; and

(6) Conduct with the DSWD field valuation of beneficiaries and their respective lessors in the rental housing units.

SEC. 9. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DHSUD shall, in coordination with relevant government agencies, issue rules, regulations, and guidelines necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of this Act within six (6) months from the date of effectivity.

SEC. 11. Mandatory Review on the Implementation of this Act. – The DHSUD shall submit to both Houses of Congress a report on the implementation of this Program at the end of the second year from the date of effectivity of this Act and every two (2) years thereafter.

SEC. 12. Separability Clause. – If any portion or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, proclamations, rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication 46 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,