

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5841




Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1994, Republic Act No. 7696 entitled, "*An Act Amending Certain Sections of Republic Act No. 6948, otherwise known as 'An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and their Dependents'*," was enacted to provide comprehensive benefits to war veterans, military retirees and their surviving spouses and dependents. Through the years, however, the national government was not able to fulfill its commitment to pay such benefits due to lack of government appropriation since the law did not identify the source of funding for the said pension.

This bill, thus, seeks to utilize the proceeds from the development, lease, or other use of government properties for the payment of these arrears. In the process, the national government will accomplish its constitutional mandate of providing assistance to said beneficiaries without affecting the national budget.

In light of the foregoing, the urgent passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT

**MANDATING THE USE OF PROCEEDS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT, LEASE OR
USE OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES FOR PAYMENT OF PENSIONS
AND OTHER BENEFITS OF THE VETERANS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
2 provide immediate and adequate care and benefits to war veterans by allotting the necessary
3 funds to pay for the arrears in the payment of pensions and other benefits of the veterans and
4 military retirees or their dependents.

5
6 **SEC. 2. Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to the sale, lease, development or use of the
7 following properties of the government:

- 8
9 (a) Former site of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) at Arroceros Street,
10 Ermita, Manila;
11 (b) Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City;
12 (c) Taguig Industrial Estates;
13 (d) Properties given by the Japanese government to the Philippine government under the
14 Reparations Agreement, including the Roponggi, Nampeidai and Fujimi properties in
15 Tokyo, and the Noniwacho and Obanoyama in Kobe; and
16 (e) Other properties that may be identified by the Secretary of the Department of National
17 Defense (DND).

18
19 **SEC. 3. Privatization and Management Office.** – The Privatization and Management
20 Office (PMO) of the Department of Finance is hereby authorized to implement the actual
21 marketing for the sale, lease, development or use of the above properties and to perform the
22 following:

- 23 (a) Execute and deliver, on behalf of the national government, the deeds, contracts and
24 other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to effect the lease, development
25 or use of said properties;
26 (b) Engage external expertise as may be necessary in the fulfillment of its tasks;
27 (c) Submit periodic reports to the PVAO on the status of private sector participation in the
28 lease, development or use of said properties; and
29

1 (d) Adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to effect the provisions of this
2 Act.

3
4 **SEC. 4. Utilization of Proceeds for Veterans and Military Retirees' Pension and**
5 **Benefits.** – All proceeds from the sale, lease, development or use of the properties identified in
6 Section 2 hereof shall be utilized to fund the pension and benefits of the veterans and military
7 retirees, whether in arrears or due for payment by the national government: *Provided*, That any
8 shortfall in payment of pensions and benefits to veterans and military retirees shall be settled
9 by the national government from other sources. *Provided further*, That all proceeds and receipts
10 from the lease, development, and use of said properties, except operational expenses, shall be
11 remitted directly to the Philippine Veterans Bank as the depository bank and managed by the
12 Philippine Veterans Affairs Office.

13
14 **SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Secretary of National Defense
15 shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Finance, issue the necessary rules and regulations
16 for the effective implementation of this Act within six (6) months after its effectivity.

17
18 **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** – If for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is
19 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other sections or provisions hereof, unaffected thereby,
20 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

21
22 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and
23 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
24 modified accordingly.

25
26 **SEC. 8. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
27 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,