



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 6131

Introduced by Representative: Victor A. Yap


EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is one of the most dynamic economies in Asia with a growing middle class, an increasing population and a developing urbanization.¹ According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), more than half of the world’s population live in urban areas. It is estimated that by 2050, that figure will have risen to 6.5 billion people or two-thirds of all humanity.² In the National Capital Region (NCR), the overall population as of the 2015 national census is 12.8 million³ people and is projected to increase to 20 million by the present year.⁴

The rapid growth of cities, coupled with increasing rural to urban migration, has led to a boom in mega-cities. However, extreme poverty and inequality has risen in these highly populated and concentrated urban spaces. It is therefore essential to make cities safe and sustainable by ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, upgrading highly dense slum settlements, investing in public transport, creating green public spaces and improving urban planning through inclusive and participatory management.

In line with the country’s commitment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this bill is sought to institutionalize the policy framework for establishing sustainable cities and ensure the development of cities and communities to be geared towards sustainability.

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


VICTOR A. YAP
Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac

¹ Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/philippines/overview> on 16 January 2020.
² Retrieved from <https://www.ph.undp.org/content/philippines/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-11-sustainable-cities-and-communities.html> on 16 January 2020.
³ Retrieved from <https://psa.gov.ph/content/population-national-capital-region-based-2015-census-population-0> on 16 January 2020.
⁴ Retrieved from <https://www.manilatimes.net/2014/02/12/opinion/columnists/a-manila-megalopolis-by-2020/75279/75279/> on 16 January 2020.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY, 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 “Sustainable Cities and Communities Act”.

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The 1987 Constitution mandates the undertaking of a program of urban land reform and housing which will make decent housing and basic services available at affordable cost to underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlements areas, and ensure the availability of employment opportunities for them.

Pursuant thereto, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to make cities safe and sustainable by ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, and upgrading slum settlements.

The State shall likewise invest in public transport, create green public spaces, and improve urban planning and management in a way that is both participatory and inclusive.

Sec. 3. *Model for Sustainable Cities and Communities.* – Existing cities and communities shall transition into sustainable cities and communities. A sustainable city or community shall have the following:

- (a) Affordable housing;
- (b) Accessible healthcare services and facilities;
- (c) Accessible social services to all, especially the vulnerable and disadvantaged;
- (d) Child care facilities, youth centers, centers for senior citizens and other sectors;
- (e) Efficient, accessible, and affordable public transport system;
- (f) Alternative means of getting from one place to another, other than private and public vehicles, such as by walking, biking, using scooters, and other eco-friendly and non-motorized modes;
- (g) Safe, accessible, and enjoyable areas of open space;
- (h) Preference for use of renewable resources;
- (i) Waste management system, where waste is recycled, wherever possible;
- (j) Energy efficient homes;
- (k) Strong community linkages to deal with issues such as peace and order; and
- (l) Access to sports and cultural activities.

Sec. 4. *Indicators.* – The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) shall set targets based on the following indicators, taking into consideration Goal No. 11 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda, to determine if a city or community has fully transitioned into a sustainable city or community:

- (a) Urban population living in slums – measured in terms of proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing;
- (b) Public transport access – measured in terms of proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities;

- (c) Sustainable urbanization rates – measured in terms of ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate;
- (d) Urban planning management – measured in terms of proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically;
- (e) Protecting cultural heritage - measured in terms of total public and private expenditure per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage;
- (f) Deaths and injuries from natural disasters - measured in terms of number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population;
- (g) Economic losses from natural disasters - measured in terms of direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters;
- (h) Solid waste management - measured in terms of proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated;
- (i) Urban air pollution - measured in terms of the annual mean levels of fine particulate matter;
- (j) Open spaces in cities - measured in terms of average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities;
- (k) Safe spaces in cities - measured in terms of proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months;
- (l) Urban and regional planning - measured in terms of proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city;
- (m) Integrated disaster risk management - measured in terms of adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies;
- (n) Local disaster risk management —measured in terms of adoption and implementation of local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies; and
- (o) Such other targets based on indicators to be determined by NEDA consistent with the model of sustainable cities and communities provided in Section 3 of this Act.

Sec. 5. Support from National Government - The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall provide the necessary technical assistance and resource augmentation to LGUs to assist them in transitioning into sustainable cities and communities.

The NEDA and other related agencies are also hereby mandated to extend the necessary support and provide relevant input towards the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 6. Incentives for Transitioning into Sustainable Cities or Communities. - The DILG shall develop a grant or cash award incentive scheme for LGUs that are able to achieve their annual targets set by NEDA related to transitioning into sustainable cities and communities.

Sec. 7. Authority to Enter into Contracts and Agreements. - LGUs are hereby authorized to enter into contracts or agreements and receive grants, as may be necessary for the attainment of the objective of this Act.

Sec. 8. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,