



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**H. No. 6715**

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BY REPRESENTATIVES BENITEZ, YAP (C.T.), GUINTU, CAGAS, VERZOSA, CRUZ (A.), LUISTRO, TULFO (R.W.), SORIANO, UMALI, YAP (ERIC), YAP (EDVIC), LEE, CO-PILAR, MASTURA, TIENG, MERCADO-REVILLA, FERRER (A.), ABALOS, GARDIOLA, GO (M.), BONGALON, LAGON (S.), GORRICETA, ADVINCULA, GOLEZ, ZUBIRI, ORDANES, LEGARDA, FORTES, ORTEGA, DY (F.M.C.), CASTRO (J.), LARA, CASTRO (F.), MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, BORDADO, RIVERA AND DALIPE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 261

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND  
COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY**

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

1       **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Sustainable Cities and  
2 Communities Act”.

3  
4       **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State shall, pursuant to the constitutional mandate  
5 to undertake a continuing program of urban land reform and housing which will make available  
6 to underprivileged and homeless citizens decent and affordable housing, access to basic  
7 services, and adequate employment opportunities, and in consonance with the constitutional  
8 guarantees on social justice, general welfare, public health, and ecological balance, recognize  
9 the right to the city of all which encompasses the collective access to sustainable resources,  
10 meaningful participation in urban planning and governance, and social inclusion.

11  
12       It is likewise declared the policy of the State to promote inclusive, resilient, and  
13 sustainable urban development.

14  
15       To these ends, the State shall ensure the inclusive use of urban space for housing and  
16 livelihood, improve access to basic services, develop integrated public transportation systems

1 and green infrastructures, protect ecosystems, and manage risks to climate change and  
2 disasters.

3  
4 Further, the State shall pursue programs to celebrate diversity and cultural heritage, foster  
5 creativity, innovation, and participation in urban planning and policy-making, and maintain  
6 public order and safety through the prevention of crime, violence and discrimination.

7  
8 **SEC. 3. Coverage.** – All cities and municipalities, with a majority of barangays classified  
9 as urban by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), hereinafter referred to as urban areas,  
10 are hereby mandated to align their plans, programs and activities towards the full  
11 implementation of this Act.

12  
13 **SEC. 4. Guiding Framework for Sustainable Cities and Communities.** – To fulfill its  
14 economic, political and social functions, a local government unit covered under this Act shall  
15 conform with and implement plans, programs and activities, guided by *Ambisyon 2040*, the  
16 Philippine Standards for Sustainable Cities and Communities, and the following guiding  
17 principles:

- 18  
19 (a) Inclusive urban circular economy which creates decent jobs with fair wages;  
20 supports entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation; ensures safe and non-  
21 discriminatory working environments; and promotes resource-efficient industries  
22 and consumption;  
23  
24 (b) Spatial justice which promotes multiple use of land to prevent forced  
25 evictions, displacement, marginalization, and gentrification; and ensures that  
26 urban development provides vulnerable and marginalized sectors the access to  
27 safe, adequate and affordable housing under different tenurial arrangements,  
28 giving priority to on-site resettlement, as well as universal healthcare, accessible  
29 education, adequate infrastructures, sustainable livelihoods, food security and  
30 nutrition; and safe and inclusive public spaces that foster social cohesion;  
31  
32 (c) Urban renewal which includes slum upgrading to improve housing,  
33 infrastructures and services; urban greening, including the promotion of urban  
34 agriculture for food security and communal wellness; and the development of  
35 inclusive, safe, accessible and enjoyable open spaces and parks;  
36  
37 (d) Urban mobility and connectivity which provides for inclusive, safe, accessible,  
38 affordable, efficient and sustainable public transportation through the  
39 development of adequate transportation infrastructures, utilities and intermodal  
40 transportation systems, including non-motorized modes of transportation to  
41 strengthen global and urban-rural linkages and management;  
42  
43 (e) Digital connectivity through the establishment and maintenance of information  
44 and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and fast, secure, stable, and  
45 affordable internet connectivity to strengthen global and urban-rural linkages;  
46  
47 (f) Urban safety which ensures freedom of all persons, regardless of gender, age,  
48 health status, income, nationality, ethnicity, and political, religious or sexual  
49 orientation from crimes and all forms of violence and discrimination in the  
50 workplace and public spaces;

- 1 (g) Ecological balance which requires the sustainable management of natural  
2 resources; protection and conservation of biodiversity, natural ecosystems and  
3 landscapes; proper waste management and sanitation; provision of green  
4 infrastructures; and the development and use of renewable energy sources in  
5 transportation, industry and households to reduce carbon footprint and improve  
6 water and air quality;  
7
- 8 (h) Disaster resilience and climate change adaptation by capacitating urban areas to  
9 adapt to and manage threats and risks posed by climate change and disasters upon  
10 the citizenry, especially vulnerable groups, and to facilitate post-disaster  
11 rehabilitation and recovery;  
12
- 13 (i) Cultural diversity which respects, protects, and promotes the diverse livelihoods,  
14 customs, memory, identities, expressions, and sociocultural forms of its  
15 inhabitants; the preservation of tangible cultural heritage, such as artistic  
16 creations, historical sites and monuments; and safeguards intangible cultural  
17 heritage, such oral traditions, performing arts, indigenous knowledge and  
18 traditional skills, as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces  
19 associated therewith;  
20
- 21 (j) Participatory urban governance which involves political participation in the  
22 formulation, implementation, and monitoring of urban policies, and the budgeting  
23 of urban programs to promote transparency, effectiveness, and inclusiveness in  
24 the engagement of a diverse set of inhabitants and their organizations, especially  
25 of urban poor and marginalized groups, upholding communal spirit and  
26 supporting community-building; and  
27
- 28 (k) Alignment of economic, social, and environmental policies between and among  
29 national, regional, city, and municipal government units, facilitating the  
30 achievement of the goals of each unit.  
31

32 The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), in  
33 consultation with relevant government agencies, local government units, civil society  
34 organizations, the private sector and the academe, within 180 days from the effectivity of this  
35 Act, harmonize existing national housing and urban development plans with this Act and  
36 formulate, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG),  
37 the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the PSA, a National Housing  
38 and Urban Development Sector Plan (NHUDSP) to operationalize the goals of this Act, taking  
39 into consideration the unique and evolving economic, social and institutional contexts of the  
40 country.  
41

42 The NHUDSP shall provide short, medium, and long-term strategic plans to achieve the  
43 goals of this Act.  
44

45 The NHUDSP shall also generate estimates and projections to determine present and  
46 future demand for infrastructures and services in urban areas, and shall identify policy and  
47 program interventions to address challenges to sustainable urban development, and specific  
48 periodic targets and indicators and investment requirements thereof.

1           **SEC. 5. *Targets and Indicators.*** – In preparing the NHUDSP, the DHSUD, NEDA,  
2 DILG, and the PSA shall be guided by the principles provided under Section 4 of this Act, as  
3 well as the targets and indicators set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  
4 and the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations:  
5

- 6           (a) Urban population living in slums - measured in terms of proportion of urban  
7           population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing;  
8
- 9           (b) Public transport access - measured in terms of proportion of population that has  
10           convenient access to public transport, by sex, age, income group, and persons  
11           with disability;  
12
- 13           (c) Sustainable urbanization rates - measured in terms of ratio of land consumption  
14           rate to population growth rate;  
15
- 16           (d) Urban planning and management - measured in terms of proportion of cities with  
17           a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management  
18           that operate regularly and democratically;  
19
- 20           (e) Protecting cultural heritage - measured in terms of total public and private  
21           expenditure per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of  
22           all cultural and natural heritage;  
23
- 24           (f) Deaths and injuries from disasters - measured in terms of number of deaths,  
25           missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000  
26           population;  
27
- 28           (g) Economic losses from disasters - measured in terms of direct economic loss in  
29           relation to global gross domestic product, damage to critical infrastructure and  
30           number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters;  
31
- 32           (h) Solid waste management - measured in terms of proportion of urban solid waste  
33           regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid  
34           waste generated;  
35
- 36           (i) Urban air quality - measured in terms of the annual mean levels of fine particulate  
37           matter;  
38
- 39           (j) Open spaces in cities - measured in terms of average share of the built-up area of  
40           cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with  
41           disability;  
42
- 43           (k) Safe spaces in cities - measured in terms of proportion of persons who are victims  
44           of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, persons with disability, and place  
45           of occurrence, in the previous 12 months;  
46
- 47           (l) Urban and regional planning - measured in terms of proportion of population  
48           living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating  
49           population projections and resource needs, by size of city;

- 1 (m) Integrated disaster risk management - measured in terms of adoption and  
2 implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies;  
3
- 4 (n) Local disaster risk management - measured in terms of adoption and  
5 implementation of local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national  
6 disaster risk reduction strategies;  
7
- 8 (o) Urban economy - measured in terms of percentage of the labor force in the  
9 education and Research and Development sectors, and unemployment rate and  
10 number of businesses;  
11
- 12 (p) Innovation-gearred education - measured in terms of the number of Science,  
13 Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics higher education degree programs  
14 being offered by an educational institution in the city;  
15
- 16 (q) Use of renewable energy - measured in terms of percentage of consumed energy  
17 from renewable sources;  
18
- 19 (r) Universal healthcare - measured in terms of number of in-patient hospital beds  
20 and physicians;  
21
- 22 (s) Food security - measured in terms of percentage of city budget spent on initiatives  
23 on urban agriculture;  
24
- 25 (t) Water and wastewater management - measured in terms of water consumption  
26 per capita, percentage of households with access to basic water supply,  
27 percentage of treated wastewater that is reused;  
28
- 29 (u) Access to ICT services - measured in terms of proportion of population that  
30 has access to fast, secure, stable, and affordable internet services to cater and  
31 accommodate online or digital transactions or services necessary for the conduct  
32 of daily activities in the modern society; and  
33
- 34 (v) Such other targets and indicators as determined by DHSUD, NEDA, DILG,  
35 and PSA consistent with the principles that guide sustainable cities and  
36 communities as provided in Section 4 of this Act: *Provided*, That at any time, but  
37 not more than once every five years, such targets and indicators may be reviewed  
38 or revised as the need arises to conform to changes and new developments  
39 brought about by the latest trends in institutionalizing sustainable cities and  
40 communities.  
41

42 **SEC. 6. Urban Planning and Development.** – The DHSUD shall, in coordination with  
43 NEDA, DILG, and Department of Public Works and Highways, provide technical  
44 assistance to local government units in the integration of the pertinent provisions of this Act,  
45 the National Urban Development and Housing Framework, and the NHUDSP in their Annual  
46 Development Plans, Annual Investment Plans, Physical Framework Plans, Development  
47 Master Plans, Comprehensive Land Use Plans, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management  
48 Plans, and similar plans.

1 National agencies and local government units shall ensure the genuine and adequate  
2 participation in urban, regional, spatial and environmental planning: *Provided*, That access to  
3 information, official records, public records and to documents and papers pertaining to official  
4 acts, transactions or decisions, and research data related to urban development to enable  
5 informed participation in the decision-making shall be made available pursuant to Section 7,  
6 Article III of the 1987 Constitution.

7  
8 **SEC. 7. *Incentives for Sustainable Cities.*** – The DILG and the Department of Budget  
9 and Management shall incorporate the annual targets set by DHSUD, DILG, and NEDA in  
10 the awarding of the Seal of Good Local Governance under Republic Act No. 11292, otherwise  
11 known as “The Seal of Good Local Governance Act of 2019”.

12  
13 **SEC. 8. *Public Participation.*** – National agencies and local government units shall  
14 ensure the genuine and adequate participation in urban, regional, spatial and environmental  
15 planning through the following:

16  
17 (a) Incentives for the private sector - the Department of Finance shall provide  
18 incentives to the participation of the private sector in the achievement of the goals  
19 identified under this Act, in accordance with Republic Act No. 10771, otherwise  
20 known as the “Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016”;

21  
22 (b) Capacity building for communities - the DHSUD shall provide technical  
23 assistance to homeowners’ associations, neighborhood associations, people’s  
24 organizations, and other local organizations to empower them as partners in  
25 achieving the goals of this act, and enable them to undertake community-level  
26 actions towards becoming sustainable communities; and

27  
28 (c) Informed participation - information, education and communication materials  
29 shall be developed to make the NHUDSP accessible to all. Every Filipino shall  
30 have access to information, official records, public records and to documents and  
31 papers pertaining to official acts, transactions or decisions, and research data  
32 related to urban development to enable informed participation in the decision-  
33 making process.

34  
35 **SEC. 9. *Report to Congress.*** – The DHSUD, NEDA, and DILG shall submit an annual  
36 report on the performance of their respective duties provided for under this Act and the  
37 compliance of cities and urban municipalities to the provisions of this Act to the Congress of  
38 the Philippines, through the Committee on Housing and Urban Development of the House of  
39 Representatives and the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement of the  
40 Senate.

41  
42 **SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within six (6) months from the  
43 effectivity of this Act, the DHSUD, in consultation with the NEDA, DILG, PSA, League  
44 of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, civil society  
45 organizations, the private sector and the academe, shall promulgate the implementing rules and  
46 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

47  
48 **SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act or a portion thereof is  
49 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall  
50 remain in force and effect.

1           **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts  
2 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
3 accordingly.

4

5           **SEC. 13. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in  
6 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,