

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9771



Introduced by:
HONORABLE CHERYL P. DELOS-O-MONTALLA
Representative, 2nd District, Zambales

***AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY,
EXTENDING ITS CORPORATE TERM, AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 757 (P.D. 757), "CREATING THE NATIONAL
HOUSING AUTHORITY AND DISSOLVING THE EXISTING HOUSING AGENCIES,
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As societies develop, economies grow to be more complex. But when one strips away all of the niceties, and really get down to it, sustainability is simply long-term survival. Early economies were based on these simple survival essentials – oxygen, water, food, shelter and sleep.¹

Shelter is a necessity as this is an adjunct to the thermoregulatory process of the human body. When a person is exposed to the elements, water loss is increased. Cold temperatures and high winds can strip away valuable moisture as quickly as high temperatures can cause sweat-related loss. A shelter should consist of a place to make fire to create heat as well as protection from the wind and rain. Without the ability to keep a constant temperature, a person runs the risk of hypothermia or heat stroke. Extreme temperature fluctuations can cause hallucinations and illogical behavior, which can cause a person to fail to take the proper steps to keep himself alive.²

At first glance, it might seem unusual that a subject such as housing would constitute an issue of human right. However, a closer look at international and national laws, as well as at the significance of a secure place to live for human dignity, physical and mental health and overall quality of life, begins to reveal some of the human rights implications of housing. Adequate housing is universally viewed as one of the most basic human needs.

With the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the right to adequate housing joined the body of international, universally-applicable and universally-accepted human rights law. Since that time, this right has been reaffirmed in a wide range of additional human rights instruments, each of which is relevant to distinct groups within society. No less than 12 different texts adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations explicitly recognize the right to adequate housing.³ The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has been ratified or acceded to by 108 States. This text contains perhaps the most significant foundation of the right to housing found in the entire body of legal principles which comprise international human rights law. Article 11.1 of the Covenant declares that:

¹ <https://economicdemocracyadvocates.org/2017/08/11/five-basic-survival-needs-of-human-beings/>

² <https://economicdemocracyadvocates.org/2017/08/11/five-basic-survival-needs-of-human-beings/>

³ <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/FactSheet21en.pdf>

“The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent.”

In addition to these two sources, both the United Nations Declaration on Social Progress and Development (1969) and the United Nations Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements (1976) recognize the rights of everyone to adequate housing.⁴

Fully cognizant of housing as a basic human right even prior to the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1966 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1966, the National Housing Authority (NHA) as it is now called today is the sole national agency mandated to engage in housing production for low income families in the Philippines. It traces its roots to the People’s Homesite Corporation (PHC), the first government housing agency established on 14 October 1938 and to the National Housing Commission (NHC) which was created seven years later, on 17 September 1945. These two agencies, the PHC and NHC, were eventually merged on 4 October 1947 into the People’s Homesite and Housing Corporation (PHHC).⁵ In the years that followed, six (6) more housing agencies were created to respond to separate and distinct shelter requirements, namely: the Presidential Assistant on Housing and Resettlement Agency (PAHRA); the Tondo Foreshore Development Authority (TFDA); the Central Institute for the Training and Relocation of Urban Squatters (CITRUS); the Presidential Committee for Housing and Urban Resettlement (PRECHUR); the Sapang Palay Development Committee (SPDC); the Inter-Agency task Force to Undertake the Relocation of Families in Barrio Nabacaan, Villanueva, Misamis Oriental.⁶

Eventually, on 15 October 1975, the National Housing Authority was organized as a government-owned and controlled corporation, by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 757 dated 31 July 1975. All other housing agencies were abolished by the said decree. The NHA took over and integrated the functions of the abolished agencies- the PHHC and the six (6) other housing agencies. The creation of the NHA is the second attempt of the government to integrate all housing efforts under a single agency, twenty-eight years after the merger under the PHHC.⁷ Three years later, the Ministry of Human Settlements (MHS) was created in 1978. The Ministry adopted the holistic approach to housing. The NHA was placed as an attached agency to the MHS.⁸

On 26 March 1986, Executive Order NO. 10 was issued placing the NHA as well as the other agencies attached to the abolished MSH, under the administrative supervision of the office of the President. Subsequently, Executive Order No. 90 was issued on 17 December 1986, rationalizing the housing structure in the government along lines of specialization and concentration. EO 90 identified the key housing agencies to implement the National Shelter Program and defined their respective mandates. The NHA was mandated to be the sole government agency to engage in housing production. Under the said Executive Order, NHA was placed under the policy and program supervision of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), the umbrella agency for shelter charged with the main function of coordination the activities of various government housing agencies engaged in production, finance and regulation.⁹

Executive Order No. 20 on 28 May 2001 reaffirmed mass housing as a centerpiece program in the poverty alleviation efforts of government. Said EO likewise reaffirmed HUDCC’s

⁴ <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/FactSheet21en.pdf>

⁵ <https://nha.gov.ph/about/history/>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

administrative supervision over the housing agencies including the NHA.¹⁰ On 14 February 2019, Republic Act (RA) 11201 was issued creating the Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development (DHSUD), under section 50 of said RA 11201 Executive Order (EO) 90 was released placing NHA and other attached agencies and corporation under the administrative supervision for purposes of policy and program coordination, monitoring and evaluation.¹¹

Today, housing remains a perennial problem of the country. Its demand continues to increase due to the growing population and the frequent onslaught of natural disasters and calamities. The housing backlog is now recorded at 3.9 million. The housing gap would persist and hit 6.5 million by 2030 even if housing production would average 200,000 per year until 2030. This is short of the housing sector's commitment to construct at least 250,000 housing units every year to which NHA shares the construction of 50,000 units per year.¹²

The NHA has implemented 35 resettlement projects in San Jose del Monte alone that benefitted more than 70,000 families from both formal and informal sectors, and under the Duterte Administration, the Authority has provided housing to more than 260,000 families. The projects are intended not only to address the increasing demand for housing but more importantly, to uplift the lives of the homeless Filipinos, saying, *"what we build are not just houses, what we build is liveable and sustainable communities"*.¹³

It must be remembered that Article 2:1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is of central importance in determining what governments must do and what they should refrain from doing in the process leading to the society-wide enjoyment of the rights found in the Covenant including the right to a livable and decent housing. This article reads as follows:

"Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to take steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures."

Three phrases in this article are particularly important in understanding the obligations of governments to realize fully the rights recognized in the Covenant, including the right to adequate housing: (a) **"undertakes to take steps . . . by all appropriate means"**; (b) **"to the maximum of its available resources"**; and (c) **"to achieve progressively"**.¹⁴

Anchored on these, NHA shall continue to function as a production and financing arm in housing and shall exercise all other functions based on its existing laws. However, this can only be possible if its corporate existence is allowed to continue by another law that will extended its corporate existence for another fifty years.

It is in this light that this bill is being filed. Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


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¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ <https://nha.gov.ph/about/history/>

¹² <https://nha.gov.ph/gm-escalada-seeks-congressional-support-for-budget-increase-of-the-housing-agencies/>

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/FactSheet21en.pdf>

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PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 757 (P.D. 757), “CREATING THE NATIONAL
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DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”**

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “National Housing Authority Act of 2021.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to ensure a continuing program of urban land reform and housing, which will make available at affordable cost, decent housing and basic services to underprivileged and homeless citizens, in order to guarantee freedom from poverty, rising standard of living, and improved quality of life for all.

The State, in partnership with the private sector, and its stakeholders shall also:

- (a) Expand people’s access to affordable, adequate, safe, and secure shelter in well-planned communities;
- (b) Enable informal settler families to live in resilient, vibrant, and connected urban communities;
- (c) Promote inclusive and integrated housing programs and projects that are culturally sensitive, responsive to local context and/or special needs, and in accordance with appropriate standards and designs;
- (d) Encourage and sustain investments in the housing and urban development sector by, among others, promoting partnerships, improving market linkages, simplifying government procedures and facilitating access to finance;
- (e) Improve affordability of housing programs and projects;
- (f) Promote climate change resilient housing and basic infrastructure; and,
- (g) Make land available and accessible for housing.

SECTION 3. Statement of Objectives. – The State shall integrate all laws relating to the National Housing Authority to effectively achieve the following objectives:

- (a) Develop integrated, sustainable, safe, affordable and resilient communities, particularly for the underprivileged and homeless as well as low-income households;
- (b) Implement innovative and alternative solutions in addressing the housing needs of informal settler families, the lower-income classes and the vulnerable sector;
- (c) As a government-owned and -controlled corporation, to generate income through the efficient utilization of existing and future assets to support the programs of the Authority;
- (d) Adopt viable land acquisition and management approaches; and,
- (e) Strengthen housing as a platform to reduce poverty, promote climate resilience and improve social outcomes.

SECTION 4. *Extension of Corporate Term; Effect.* – The corporate term of the government corporation known as the National Housing Authority, hereinafter, the “Authority”, created by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 757 (P.D. 757), is hereby extended for a period of Fifty (50) years, upon the approval of this Act.

The Authority shall continue to perform its mandates, exercise its powers and functions, and enjoy its incentives, as contained in P.D. 757, and in subsequent laws and issuances, unless expressly repealed herein. Likewise, it shall continue to enjoy all rights and assume all of the liabilities that pertain thereto.

SECTION 5. *Office.* – The Authority shall retain its principal office at the NHA Main Office, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1101, but may have such regional and district offices, agencies, or subsidiaries in other areas all over the country, as it may deem proper and necessary.

SECTION 6. *Powers and Functions of the Authority.* – The Authority, in line with its role as the sole government agency engaged in direct shelter production, and in pursuit of the foregoing policies and objectives, shall also exercise the following powers and functions:

(a) Housing Operations and Support Services

- (1) Develop and implement comprehensive and integrated housing and urban and rural development programs for citizens including, but not limited to:
 - i. programs for the improvement of blighted urban areas;
 - ii. direct shelter production and disposition primarily for informal settler families and the underprivileged and homeless;
 - iii. relocation of families that are subject of court-ordered eviction;
 - iv. housing programs for government employees and armed personnel, such as: members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and Bureau of Corrections (BuCor).

Housing projects and programs implemented by the Authority for the above-named beneficiaries shall be considered as socialized housing regardless of the cost of said house or unit.

- v. any other housing program or project for the underprivileged, underserved, homeless as well as low income households that the Authority may deem proper and appropriate.
- (2) Prescribe guidelines and standards for the reservation, conservation and utilization of public lands identified for housing and resettlement;
 - (3) Design and implement sustainable livelihood programs which are responsive to the needs of its housing community, in coordination with the concerned local and national government agencies and, whenever practicable, with participation of civil society organizations and the private sector: *Provided, That*, such programs shall be fully funded by the national government;
 - (4) Develop and undertake other urban and rural development projects including basic community facilities, by itself or through joint venture agreements or other arrangements with public and private entities;
 - (5) Improve, redevelop, or revitalize completed but not yet turned-over NHA housing projects by constructing therein additional community structures, or whenever necessary, demolishing previously erected structures similar in nature, subject to existing laws, rules and regulations;
 - (6) Provide technical and other forms of assistance to local government units in the implementation of their own housing programs, or private developers undertaking low-cost housing projects, subject to the policies of the Authority;
 - (7) Undertake financing of housing programs initiated by local government units or local communities; and,
 - (8) Extend shelter services to victims of calamities, natural or man-made, as declared by the President: *Provided, That*, the Authority shall be given sufficient leeway by the other government agencies to expedite the process.

(b) Asset Management and Business Development

- (1) Exercise the right of eminent domain, purchase, sell, lease and/or exchange lands for purposes of housing development, resettlement and other related services and facilities;
- (2) Issue bonds or contract loans, credits, or indebtedness, including suppliers' credit or any deferred payment arrangements with any person or entity, domestic or foreign, for the implementation of its housing programs;
- (3) Invest its funds, as it may deem proper, in bonds and securities issued and guaranteed by the government or by the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, and to invest, own or otherwise participate in equity in any establishment, firm or entity; to form, organize, invest in or establish and maintain a subsidiary or subsidiaries in relation to any of its purposes;
- (4) Ensure the collection and recovery of all indebtedness, liabilities and/or accountabilities, due from all obligors, whether public or private; to demand payment of the obligations referred to herein, and in the event of failure or refusal of the obligor or debtor to comply with the demand, to initiate and institute the necessary or proper actions or suits, criminal, civil

administrative or otherwise, before the courts, tribunals, commissions, boards or bodies of proper jurisdiction: *Provided, however,* That the Authority may compromise or release, in whole or in part, any interest, penalty or civil liability to the Authority in connection with the collection or amortizations, under such terms and conditions as prescribed by the Board of Directors: *Provided, further,* That the Board may, upon recommendation of the General Manager, deputize any member of the Authority's legal staff to act as special sheriff in foreclosure cases, in the sale or attachment of the debtor's properties, and in the enforcement of court writs and processes in case involving the Authority. The special sheriff of the Authority shall make a report to the proper court after any action taken by him, which shall treat such action as if it were an act of its own sheriffs in all respects; and,

- (5) Generate sources and formulate schemes for financing, with due delineation of government and private sector participation.

(c) Management Services

- (1) Formulate and enforce general and specific policies for housing and resettlement;
- (2) Monitor and/or discharge all responsibilities of the government as may arise from treaties, agreements, and other commitments on housing and resettlement to which it is a signatory, including the determination of forms of assistance for housing development to be extended through multilateral or bilateral assistance programs;
- (3) Serve as central repository of database and census list of households/families along waterways, danger areas, government infrastructure project site and government owned lands in Metro Manila and all regions nationwide, which shall be used for subsequent government interventions with housing and resettlement component; and,
- (4) Approve restructuring proposal for the payment of unpaid amortizations under such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors may prescribe.

(d) General Powers

- (1) Have the power of succession; to sue and be sued; and to adopt and use a seal which shall be judicially noticed;
- (2) Enter into contracts, whenever necessary, under such terms and conditions as it may deem proper and reasonable;
- (3) Acquire property rights and interests, and encumber or otherwise dispose the same as it may deem appropriate;
- (4) Borrow funds from any source, private or government, foreign or domestic;
- (5) Receive donations, grants, bequests and fund transfers from other branches of the government, and utilize the same for the attainment of its objectives. Such donations, grants and bequests shall be exempt from the payment of transfer taxes and be fully deductible from the gross income of the donor or grantor for income tax purposes;

- (6) Maintain a provident fund, which shall consist of contributions made by both the Authority and its officers and employees and their earning, for the payment of benefits to such officials and employees or their heirs under such terms and conditions as it may prescribe; and,
- (7) Perform such other acts not inconsistent with this Act, as may be necessary to effect the policies and objectives herein declared.

SECTION 7. *The Board of Directors; Its Composition.* — The Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is hereby reconstituted and shall have a maximum of thirteen (13) members, consisting of the following:

- (a) Eleven (11) *ex officio* members, namely:
 1. Secretary of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development;
 2. Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways;
 3. Secretary of the Department of Finance;
 4. Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry;
 5. Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment;
 6. Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
 7. Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government;
 8. Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management;
 9. Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority;
 10. Executive Secretary; and,
 11. General Manager of the Authority.
- (b) Two (2) expert panel members with expertise in housing, urban planning and development who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines. The expert panel members shall be:
 - (i) Filipino citizens and of good moral character;
 - (ii) be of recognized probity and independence and must have distinguished themselves professionally in public, civic or academic service;
 - (iii) be in the active practice of their professions for at least seven (7) years; and
 - (iv) not be appointed within one (1) year after losing in the immediately preceding elections, whether regular or special.

Furthermore, they shall have also been qualified under the Fit and Proper Rule, as defined in Republic Act 10149 or the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) Law. They shall serve for one (1) year, unless sooner removed for cause. However, they shall continue to hold office until their successors are appointed.

The Secretary of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development shall be the *ex officio* Chairperson of the Board.

The Board shall meet regularly at least once a month but special meetings may be called either by the Chairperson or by seven (7) members of the Board when necessary. Seven (7) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum and all decisions of the Board shall require the concurrence of at least seven (7) members.

SECTION 8. *Powers and Duties of the Board.* — The Board shall have the powers and functions specified in this Act and the usual corporate powers:

- (a) Formulate, prescribe, and promulgate the implementing rules and regulations required by this Act;
- (b) Promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper for the effective exercise of the powers and functions, as well as the discharge of the duties and responsibilities of the Board, its officers and employees;
- (c) Act upon the annual budget and such supplemental budgets of the Authority submitted by the General Manager: *Provided*, That the Board may reduce but may not increase any item proposed by the General Manager;
- (d) Approve the Authority's organizational and administrative structures and staffing pattern, and to establish, fix, review, revise and adjust the appropriate compensation package of its officers and employees as submitted by the General Manager;
- (e) Design, formulate, negotiate, and implement financial or investment schemes;
- (f) Enter into such contract or agreement as may be necessary for the attainment of the purposes and objectives of this Act;
- (g) Enter into and execute memoranda of agreements, joint ventures, long-term leases and management contracts with private sector entities, to include real estate developers or construction companies with dependable repute and proven track record in developing and managing real estate ventures;
- (h) Condone or compromise, in whole or in part, penalties, interests or civil liabilities imposed on beneficiaries with delinquent accounts who, for justifiable reasons prescribed by the Board, failed to pay on time any obligation due to the Authority;
- (i) Render annual reports to the President and such special reports as may be requested; and,
- (j) Exercise all the powers necessary or incidental to the attainment of the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 9. Duties of the General Manager. – The General Manager shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) Execute and administer the policies and resolutions approved by the Board of Directors and prepare its agenda;
- (b) Direct and supervise the operations, management and internal affairs of the Authority. The General Manager may delegate certain of his administrative responsibilities to other officers of the Authority, subject to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board;
- (c) Subject to the approval of the Board, to fix the number and salaries of and appoint, the subordinate officers and personnel of the Authority and to remove, or otherwise discipline, for cause, any such officer or employee in accordance with Civil Service Commission rules on discipline;
- (d) Represent the Authority in all dealings with other offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Government and with all persons and entities, public or private, domestic or foreign;

- (e) Act, in the conduct of the business of the Authority, on all matters that are not by this Act specifically reserved to the Board;
- (f) Solely confer lot awards to the eligible beneficiaries;
- (g) Decide, to the exclusion of courts and any other government agencies, cases filed questioning the propriety of lot awards granted to the Authority's beneficiaries; for this purpose, the General Manager may create a body for the investigation and adjudication of such cases;
- (h) Report and submit to the Board as soon as possible after the close of each fiscal year, if applicable, a complete report of the operations of the Authority for the preceding year, and the state of its affairs; and,
- (i) Exercise such other powers and duties as may be vested in him by the Board.

SECTION 10. *Assistant General Managers.* – The General Manager shall be assisted by three (3) Assistant General Managers, who shall be appointed by the President, upon the recommendation of the General Manager: *Provided*, That at least one (1) Assistant General Manager shall be a career officer. The General Manager shall delineate and assign other functional areas or responsibilities of the Assistant General Managers.

SECTION 11. *Qualifications and Appointment.* – No person shall be appointed General Manager and Assistant General Manager of the Authority unless he or she is a citizen and resident of the Philippines, of good moral character, of proven integrity, competence and expertise in housing, urban planning and development.

SECTION 12. *Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.* – Subject to the approval of the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG), the Board shall determine the Authority's organizational structure, and create new divisions or units, as it may deem necessary in accordance with civil service laws, rules and regulations.

Subject to the approval of the Board, the General Manager shall likewise determine the rates of allowances, honoraria and such other additional compensation which the Authority is hereby authorized to grant to its officers, technical staff and consultants, including the necessary detailed personnel.

SECTION 13. *Exemption from Taxes and Regulatory Fees.* – All laws to the contrary notwithstanding, the Authority, its assets and properties, and all accruals thereto and income or investment earnings therefrom, as well as supplies, equipment, papers or documents shall be exempt from any tax, assessment, fee, charge, or customs or import duty, of any kind, whether imposed by local or national entities.

The exemption includes, but is not limited to: income tax, real property tax, capital gains tax, transfer tax, value added tax, donor's tax and similar taxes; and building permit fee, fire inspection permit fee, ECC fees and other regulatory fees. Similarly, the Authority shall be exempt from the payment of documentary stamp tax and registration fees, including fees required for the issuance of transfer certificates of titles.

In order to promote the policy of improving housing affordability, projects of the National Housing Authority, in cooperation with local government units, the private sector and other entities, shall also enjoy the exemptions enumerated above.

SECTION 14. *Lands for Authority Projects; Management, Conversion and Classification.*— Lands identified and designated for Housing and Urban and Rural Development,

pursuant to Section 24 of Republic Act No. 11201, shall be assessed by the Authority for program or project feasibility. Once feasible, the said lots shall forthwith be transferred to the Authority.

This shall not, however, preclude the Authority from pursuing its continuing mandate of identifying, acquiring and managing lands for the immediate and future needs of its beneficiaries. In pursuit thereof, the Authority shall consider, among others, the degree of availability of basic services and utilities, access to modes of transport, proximity to economic opportunities and the preservation of the social capital of beneficiaries.

All lands acquired by the Authority, for any of its programs and projects, shall be automatically converted and/or re-classified, in order to facilitate its immediate development. The Authority, in coordination with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Agrarian Reform shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement this provision.

SECTION 15. *Designation of the National Housing Authority (NHA) as Lead Agency in the Disposition Program.* – The Authority, under the supervision of the DHSUD, shall take the lead in the disposition activities of the lands in the preceding section: *Provided*, That disposition activities shall include the preliminary stages of identification and evaluation of lands suitable for disposition under this Act.

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development shall submit immediately an updated list of government-owned lands suitable for socialized housing purposes within thirty (30) days after the effectivity of this Act.

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development shall make recommendation for the President relative to the disposition of the lands subject hereof.

SECTION 16. *Completed Projects: Management or Disposition.* – The Authority shall determine, establish and maintain the most feasible and effective program for the management or disposition of specific housing or resettlement projects. Unless otherwise decided by the Board, completed housing or resettlement projects shall be managed and administered by the Authority until it has been turned over to the local government unit concerned or to other public or private entity concerned, as the case may be.

SECTION 17. *Issuance of Bonds.* - Subject to the approval of the Secretary of Finance, after consultation with the Monetary Board of the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, the Authority is hereby authorized to issue bonds and other securities to finance the implementation of its housing programs: *Provided*, That only so much of such bonds or securities shall be issued and sold as the annual project implementation would require: *Provided, further*, That no bonds or securities shall be issued unless eighty per cent (80%) of those already issued had been sold: *Provided, finally*, That the total amount of the bonds or securities issued shall in no case exceed ten times its paid up capital and surplus.

The Authority, in consultation with the Secretary of Finance and the Monetary Board, shall prescribe the form, the rate of interest, and denominations, maturities, negotiability, call or redemption features and all other terms and conditions of the bonds and securities to be issued.

In the promotion of the sale bonds or securities, the Authority shall adopt the lottery scheme enunciated under Republic Act No. 1000, as amended.

The bonds and securities issued under this Act, including the income thereof, shall be exempt from all kinds of taxes and from attachment, execution and seizure which facts shall be stated on the face thereof.

A sinking fund shall be established by the Authority in such manner that the total annual contribution thereto, accrued at such rate of interest as may be determined by the Secretary of Finance in consultation with the Monetary Board, shall be sufficient to redeem at maturity the bonds or securities issued pursuant to this Act. The sinking fund shall be under the custody and administration of the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* which may invest the same in *Bangko Sentral* Certificates of Indebtedness and similar financing schemes subject to the approval of the Authority in consultation with the Secretary of Finance: *Provided*, That the proceeds from such scheme shall accrue to the Authority.

SECTION 18. *Guarantee by the Government.* – The Republic of the Philippines hereby guarantees the payment of both the principal and the interest of the bonds, debentures, collaterals, notes or such other obligations issued or incurred by the Authority by virtue of this Act, and shall pay such principal and interest in case the Authority fails to do so. In such event, the Republic of the Philippines shall succeed to all the rights of the holders of such bonds, debentures, collaterals, notes or other instruments to the extent of the payment made, unless the sum so paid by the Republic of the Philippines shall be refunded by the Authority within a reasonable time.

SECTION 19. *SSS and GSIS Participation.* – Notwithstanding any provision of the respective charters to the contrary, the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) shall absorb all or part of the bonds or securities issued by the Authority in such proportion as may be determined by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and approved by the President.

SECTION 20. *Reports.* – The Authority shall submit an annual report to the Office of the President, copy furnished to the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, indicating, among others, the housing program being implemented, the stage of implementation, and the financial position of the Authority. It shall likewise submit such periodic or other reports as may be required from time to time.

SECTION 21. *Audit.* – The Chairperson of the Commission on Audit (COA) shall act as the *ex-officio* auditor of the Authority, and accordingly, is empowered to appoint a representative and other subordinate personnel to perform and report on such audit duties, responsible to and removable only by the COA Chairperson, without prejudice, however, to the power of the Board of Directors to contract for another mode of independent audit service, in addition to what is provided for by COA as provided for under Presidential Decree No. 1445, otherwise known as the Government Auditing Code of the Philippines.

SECTION 22. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The implementing rules and regulations to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act shall be adopted by and promulgated by the Board of Directors of the Authority, not later than ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act.

The Departments, charged with crafting the implementing rules and regulations to effectively carry out Section 14 hereof, are given thirty (30) days after the approval of the Act to enact the same.

SECTION 23. *Suppletory Application of the Revised Corporation Law.* – The provisions of the Revised Corporation Code, in so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions and policies in this Act, shall suppletorily apply to the Authority.

SECTION 24. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 25. *Repealing Clause.* – Section 2 of Presidential Decree No. 757 is hereby amended accordingly. All others laws, decrees, executive orders, rules or issuances or parts thereof

which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act or its purposes are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 26. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.