Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6674

Introduced by HON. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR
Third District, Bohol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The COVID-19 pandemic plaguing the entire Philippines, with most cases concentrated in highly urbanized areas, has become a wake-up call to decongest the highly urbanized cities.

Through the past decades and under various national government administrations since the Commonwealth Era, housing and rural-to-urban migration have beset the country. Many attempts have been made to address the plight of the local migrants, but have essentially failed. Trickle down economic policies and resettlement programs have been unable to produce lasting impact.

In 2018, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) the first baseline National Migration Survey (NMS). Some 45,000 households and 45,000 respondents participated in this historic study. Results of the 2018 NMS were released on January 28, 2020.

According to the PSA, the following are among the key findings of the 2018 NMS:

1. NCR and CALABARZON are the top lifetime migrant destination regions in the country, followed by Central Luzon, Davao Region, and Central Visayas.

2. Lifetime migrants are defined as those who are now residing in a place different from the usual residence of their mother at the time of their birth. About four in ten Filipinos are lifetime migrants. The change in residence most commonly involved movement from one region to another (23%), followed by movement from one city/municipality to another within the same province (12%).

3. In contrast to lifetime migration, only 15 percent of Filipinos migrated in the past five years, of which 13 percent moved within the country (internal migrants), while two percent moved to/from another country (international migrants).

4. For inter-regional migration in the past five years, NCR and CALABARZON remained the most common destination regions but at the same time, also registered the largest number of out-migrants in the same period.

5. CALABARZON, NCR and Central Visayas were the top local intended destinations of the 14 percent of Filipinos who intended to move in the next five years.

6. About 55 percent of Filipinos age 15 and over have ever moved to or resided in another city/municipality, province, region or country for three months or more since birth. Forty-nine percent (49%) moved within the country (internal migrants), three percent moved to/from another country (international migrants), and four percent were both internal and
international migrants. For each type of migration, there are slightly more female than male migrants. Non-migrants, i.e., those who never moved is estimated at 45 percent.

7. In terms of period migration, 15 percent of Filipinos changed their residence over the past five years, of which 13 percent were internal migrants. Moreover, over half of these internal migrants were less than 30 years old.

8. On average, recent migrants were better educated than non-migrants with more of them having reached college or tertiary level. Furthermore, international migrants were better educated than internal migrants, but those who have both internal and international migration experience in the last five years had the highest proportion with college education among all migrant types.

This bill draws from the lessons learned from the 2018 NMS. It addresses the major reasons or motivations for migrating from rural to urban areas.

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE BALIK PROBINSYA PUBLIC HOUSING AND RELOCATION PROGRAM, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Balik Probinsya Public Housing and Relocation Act".

Chapter One
Database on Informal Settlers

SEC. 2. Role of the Philippine Statistics Authority. The Philippine Statistics Authority shall, not later than ninety days from the effectivity of this Act, design and conduct detailed surveys and inventory of every urban poor household residing in informal settler communities in the National Capital Region, Metropolitan Cebu, and Metropolitan Davao. These studies shall, consistent with data privacy law and regulations, gather economic, social, and personal data necessary for implementing the Balik-Probinsya Relocation Program.

These studies shall be completed not later than one hundred and fifty (150) days from the effectivity of this Act. Data gathered from these surveys and inventory of informal settlers shall comprise key components of a National Database on the Urban Poor and shall guide the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and other government agencies on crafting and implementing economic and social policies.

SEC. 3. Authority of PSA to Hire Personnel and Acquire Equipment. The PSA is hereby authorized to hire, on a project-based contract of service or job order basis, the necessary full complement of personnel for field data gathering, for designing and building the database, and for data analysis. For long-term database maintenance, the DILG is hereby authorized to create new regular plantilla positions for the hiring of new personnel, with hiring priority given to the personnel who participated in designing and building the database.

The PSA is also hereby authorized to procure, install, operate, and maintain the necessary equipment for the National Database on the Urban Poor.
Chapter Two
Free Beneficiaries Registration for Public Services

SEC. 4. Access to Public Services. Parallel to the implementation of the National Database
on the Urban Poor studies, free of charge, one-stop-shop registration for the following public
services shall also be conducted:

1. National ID System;
2. PhilHealth universal health care;
3. Clearances from law enforcement agencies (National Bureau of Investigation,
   Philippine National Police, Bureau of Immigration);
4. Social Security;
5. PAG-IBIG Fund;
6. Driver's License;
7. Senior citizen;
8. Person with Disability;
9. Solo Parent;
10. 3Ps (Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-asenso);
11. 4Ps (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program); and
12. Subsidized Microinsurance

Chapter Three
Balik Probinsya Public Housing and Communities

SEC. 5. Lead Implementor. The Department of Human Settlements and Urban
Development shall take the lead in implementing the Balik Probinsya Program with public housing
communities as the core program component in accordance with Republic Act 11201, otherwise
known as the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Act. The DHSUD may
involve other departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of government to ensure the effective
implementation of this Act. The DHSUD and other implementors of this Act shall be guided by
the PSA surveys and census, including the National Migration Survey.

SEC. 6. Relocation Sites. DHSUD shall identify and designated Balik Probinsya Public
Housing relocation sites on a regional basis and in accordance with Republic Act 11201. The
sites shall be located in the outskirts of the city or municipality identified to host the Balik
Probinsya Public Housing Communities.

SEC. 7. Authority to Purchase Lands. The DHSUD is hereby authorized to acquire by
purchase the lands on which it shall build the relocation sites.

SEC. 8. Assurance of Employment of Relocates. The DHSUD shall bid out the design
and construction of the relocation sites, provided that seventy (70) percent of the construction
workforce shall be sourced from the Balik Probinsya beneficiaries.

shall be designed by the DHSUD in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment
for each head of the family of the relocatees considering carefully the employment potentials of
the beneficiaries.

SEC. 10. Community Development. Each relocation site shall be designed as
ecologically-sustainable communities with utility services for electricity, water, waste
management and sanitation, telecommunications, transportation and roads. Each relocation site
shall have access to public schools, hospitals and health centers, public markets, worship centers, police stations, public parks, commercial centers, and other community facilities. Each community shall have solar energy electrical installation with power generation capability enough to sustain the entire community.

The DHSUD, Board of Investments, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, and Tourism Investment and Economic Zone Authority shall jointly identify and develop portions of commercial areas within Balik Probinsya Public Housing Communities as special investment areas in accordance with their respective charters. Local government units may also designate commercial areas within and surrounding the Balik Probinsya Public Housing Communities as Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise business districts with economic incentives in accordance with the Local Government Code.

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises established and operating in Balik Probinsya Public Housing Communities shall be exempt from value-added taxes in their first three years of operation, provided that all such MSMEs shall comply with all pertinent business registration and taxpayer registration laws, regulations, and procedures during the period such enterprises are being established.

No relocation site for Balik Probinsya Public Housing Communities shall be built on any area within or on the periphery of hazard zones and of protected areas.

SEC. 11. **Home Financing.** DHSUD shall design and implement a home financing scheme specifically for the Balik Probinsya Program with concessional rates and payment terms. Community home mortgage programs and other home financing means shall be applied to lighten the financial burdens of residents of Balik Probinsya Public Housing Communities.

SEC. 12. **Funding.** The funds needed for the implementation of this Act shall be from the annual appropriations and augmented as may be deemed necessary with funds from other relevant sources and dividend remittances of government owned or controlled corporations to the National Treasury;

SEC. 13. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development and other implementing agencies shall issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act not later than sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 14. **Repealing Clause.** - All laws, executive orders, and administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 15. **Separability.** - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 16. **Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the online version of the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or with established internet website presence.

Approved,