

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1679

Introduced by

REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS (Gabriela Women's Party);
REPS. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, FERDINAND R. GAITE, EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
(Bayan Muna Partylist); REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO (ACT Teachers Partylist);
and REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Kabataan Partylist)

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ISSUANCE OF DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2021-031 WHICH LIFTS THE POSTPONEMENT OF DEMOLITION AND EVICTION ACTIVITIES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND STATE OF NATIONAL CALAMITY, AND TO RECOMMEND ITS IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL

WHEREAS, the right to adequate housing is a basic human right which is recognized as part of the right to adequate standard of living under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR);

WHEREAS, Section 10 Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution that "urban or rural poor dwellers shall not be evicted nor their dwellings demolished..." and that "no resettlement of urban or rural dwellers shall be undertaken without adequate consultation with them and the communities where they are to be relocated;"

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-2019) a global pandemic due to the rapid increase of COVID-19 throughout the world;

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed Presidential Proclamation No. 922 declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines due to COVID-19; the said proclamation shall remain in force until lifted;

WHEREAS, Presidential Proclamation No. 929 declared a State of Calamity throughout the country due to COVID-19 for a period of six (6) months;

WHEREAS, the State of National Calamity has been extended up to September 2021 by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 1021 series of 2020;

WHEREAS, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued Memorandum Circular No. 2020-068 last April 2, 2020 postponing all administrative and demolition activities, with respect to Section 28 (a) and (b) of the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA), except on conditions related to Section 4(s) of Republic Act No. 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act;

WHEREAS, demolition and eviction activities were still carried out in various communities amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including the eviction of at least 90 families in the riverside portion of Vitas, Katuparan Housing in Tondo, Manila to give way to the construction of a high-rise housing project and cockpit arena;

WHEREAS, the Duterte administration has expressed its strong push for the continuation of its Build, Build, Build (BBB) program amid the pandemic and despite the urgent demands of Filipino families for cash aid, free mass testing, and decent jobs;

WHEREAS, Filipino families currently face the worst economic crisis on record and nonstop price hikes, with more than 4 million Filipinos jobless based on the official and conservative government data, and with the daily COVID-19 positivity rate breaching the 14 percent peak last March 2020;

WHEREAS, the country is expected to face a massive housing backlog of 6.8 million units by 2022 amid the failure of private sector-led housing programs to address the shelter needs of poor Filipino families;

WHEREAS, local government units are reimposing restrictions on travel and mobility in view of the alarming spike in COVID-19 cases, hence the further need to stop the eviction and resettlement of informal settler families amid the pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the DILG issued Memorandum Circular No. 2021-031 lifting the postponement of administrative demolition and eviction activities as instructed under DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2020-068, citing the alleged construction of dwellings on several danger areas by informal settler families;

WHEREAS, such claim by the DILG was not substantiated in the signed memorandum circular, and is bereft of any proof;


WHEREAS, Memorandum Circular No. 2021-031 in effect authorizes the demolition and eviction of families using the "danger zones alibi" amid the lingering recession, massive homelessness, and continuing State of Public Health Emergency and State of National Calamity;

WHEREAS, the DILG must thoroughly explain the rationale behind the issuance of Memorandum Circular No. 2021-031 which reverses Memorandum Circular No. 2020-068;


WHEREAS, the Duterte administration must prioritize programs that will genuinely address the massive housing backlog instead of increasing the number of homeless families amid the pandemic;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Housing and Urban Development to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the issuance of DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2021-031 which lifts the postponement of demolition and eviction activities amid the COVID-19 pandemic and state of national calamity.

Adopted,



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