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MEMORANDUM

TO : All Bureau Directors

The Directors
Policy and Planning Service
Legal Affairs Service

FROM : The Assistant Secretary
Field Operations-Mindanao and Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT : **INVITATION FROM THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND WELFARE**

DATE : 08 March 2021

This pertains to the letter dated 08 March 2021, received by this Office late in the afternoon of the same day, from Rep. LEONADRO L. BABASA, JR., TWG Chairman, Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare, inviting the DENR to a TWG meeting on **09 March 2021, (Friday), 1:30PM via Zoom Video conferencing with Meeting ID: : 881 0091 0351 Password: : CVAWtwg39**, to discuss further the Substitute Bill to HBs 702, 1921 and 5841, entitled "*An Act Mandating the Use of Proceeds from the Development, Lease, Use, or Sale of Government Properties for Veterans Affairs and Welfare,*" introduced by Representatives Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, and Manuel DG Cabochan III, specifically Section 3 (b) which includes the former site of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) on Arroceros St., Ermita, Manila in the list of properties covered by the bill.

Kindly inform this Office the name/s and email address/es of your duly authorized representatives as requested and submit presentation, comments and/or position paper in hard and soft at the Legislative Liaison Office at telephone number 8920-1761 and e-mail address denrlegislative@yahoo.com, for our reference


JOAN A. LAGUNDA, D.M.D.P.A

MEMO NO. 2021 -- 210

/juo035



Congress of the Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND WELFARE

Governance Cluster 4, Committee Affairs Department

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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

DATE: 9 MARCH 2021, TUESDAY
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
TELECONFERENCE MEETING VIA ZOOM

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESOURCE PERSONS AND GUESTS
- IV. PRELIMINARY REMARKS OF TWG CHAIR, REP. LEONARDO L. BABASA JR.
- V. DELIBERATION ON SECTION 3 (b) OF THE SUBSTITUTE BILL TO HOUSE BILL NOS. 702, 1921 and 5841, entitled: "AN ACT MANDATING THE USE OF PROCEEDS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT, LEASE, USE OR SALE OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS AND WELFARE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," introduced by Reps. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, and Manuel DG. Cabochan III
- VI. OTHER MATTERS
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

House Bill No. _____
(In Substitution of HB Nos. 702, 1921 & 5841)

Introduced by Representatives **ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON, JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO, MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III, AND LEONARDO L. BABASA JR.**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE USE OF PROCEEDS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT, LEASE, USE,
OR SALE OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS
AND WELFARE

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide immediate and adequate care and benefits to veterans and their dependents by allotting the necessary funds to support the payment of their pension and non-pension benefits, to preserve and develop military shrines and battle monuments in order to perpetuate and memorialize their heroic deeds and sacrifices and inspire the youth to become future defenders, and to promote the veterans' welfare and well-being.

SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean as follows:

- a. **Heritage properties** shall refer to the lands proclaimed by law for the veterans and those given in recognition of veterans' heroic deeds and sacrifices, which have notable historical and cultural significance worthy of preservation, including the structures and other properties attached thereto;
- b. **Residual Assets** shall refer to the remaining properties of a dissolved veterans-related corporation;
- c. **Veterans-related corporation** shall refer to a public corporation created by law for the benefit of the veterans, including its subsidiary/ies.

SEC. 3. Coverage. This Act shall apply to the development, lease, use, or sale of the following properties of the government:

- a. Veterans Center in Taguig City under Presidential Proclamation No. 192;
- b. Former site of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) on Arroceros Street, Ermita, Manila;
- c. Residual assets of veterans-related public corporations dissolved by the Governance Commission on Government Owned or Controlled Corporations (GCG) such as, but not limited to, the Philippine Veterans Investment Development Corporation (PHIVIDEC), the Panay Railways, Inc., the Phividec Panay Agro-industrial Corporation, and other properties as may be identified by the Office of the President of the Philippines: Provided, That the sale of residual assets shall be concurred by Congress through a Joint Resolution; and
- d. Properties given by the Japanese government to the Philippine government under the Reparations Agreement, including the Roponggi, Nampeidai, Naniwa-cho, and the Obanoyama properties in Japan: Provided, that the heritage properties proclaimed for veterans and those given by or acquired from the Japanese Government shall not be subject to sale; Provided further, that with respect to the properties acquired under the Reparations Agreement, any use or development of said properties shall not entail nor result in any loss of possession of said properties or any part thereto by the Government of the Philippines under either Philippine or Japanese laws.

SEC. 4. Administration and Management of Properties. – The Secretary of National Defense is hereby authorized to direct, supervise and coordinate private sector participation and administer and manage the development, lease, use, or sale of the above properties and to perform the following:

- a. Execute and deliver, on behalf of the national government, the deeds, contracts and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to effect the development, lease, use, or sale or use of said properties;
- b. Engage external expertise whether public or private to ensure maximum utilization of the properties;
- c. Submit periodic reports to the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security and the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare on the status of private sector participation in the development, lease, use, or sale of said properties;
- d. Adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to effect the provisions of this Act; and
- e. Perform such other functions which are not inconsistent with this Act as are necessary for the effective exercise of the aforementioned functions.

SEC. 5. *The Veterans Welfare and Development Trust Fund.* – There is hereby created a Trust Fund, to be known as the *Veterans Welfare and Development Trust Fund*. The Trust Fund shall be funded out of the following:

- a. All proceeds from the development, lease, use, or sale of the properties mentioned in Section 2 hereof; Provided, That, in the case of the Veterans Center in Taguig City under Presidential Proclamation No. 192, the amount to be deposited to the Trust Fund shall be net of the Annual Operating Budget of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines: Provided, further, That in the case of properties given by the Japanese government under the Reparation Agreement as mentioned in Section 2 (d) hereof, ten percent (10%) of the revenues that may be raised shall accrue to the Trust Fund.
- b. Shares of the PVAO from the proceeds of the sale or lease of military camps provided for under RA 7227, as amended;
- c. Donations coming from local and foreign sources, specifically earmarked to be used for veterans' welfare; and
- d. All interest income of the Trust Fund.

Provided, That pension benefits shall continue to be funded from the General Appropriations Act: Provided, further, That any shortfall in payment of non-pension benefits to veterans and their authorized dependents shall continue to be assumed by the national government from other sources: Provided, finally, that all proceeds and receipts under this act, excluding operational expenses, shall be remitted directly to the Trust Fund account in an authorized government depository bank and administered by the Secretary of National Defense.

SEC. 6. *Trust Fund Utilization.* The Trust Fund shall be used exclusively, in the following order of priority:

- a. To augment the regularly appropriated funds for non-pension benefits such as educational benefits, burial assistance and other welfare benefits of veterans and their authorized dependents;
- b. To support the preservation and development of military shrines, war memorials and battle monuments, and propagation of the heroic deeds of veterans;
- c. To support other relevant programs to promote veterans affairs and welfare.

Provided, That no part of the Trust Fund shall be used for salaries and allowances and that all expenditures shall be subject to existing government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of National Defense, the Secretary of Budget and Management and the Secretary of Finance shall formulate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs shall be consulted in the formulation of rules and regulations affecting the properties given by the Japanese government under the Reparation Agreement.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other sections or provisions hereof, unaffected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,