



LEAGUE OF CITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Official Position Paper of the League of Cities of the Philippines on the Act Establishing Public Recreational Spaces in all Cities and Municipalities in the Country and its Integration in their respective Comprehensive Land Use Plans (House Bill No. 6047)

The League of Cities of the Philippines commends the intent of House Bill No. 6047, an act establishing public recreational spaces in all cities and municipalities in the country and its integration in their respective comprehensive land use plans, since it is in accordance with the “Green Green Green” initiative, a Local Government Support Fund (LGSF)- Assistance to Cities, of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). It promotes more livable and sustainable cities through the development of public open spaces, in which some of our cities have already been availing. Further, it complements with the national policy directives and adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 11.7 as well as the New Urban Agenda.

Similarly, the bill seeks to establish and maintain recreational spaces within cities and municipalities for public use. It aspires to produce recreational spaces that are not only attractive but are accessible as well, especially for families and senior citizens. It aims to enhance the overall quality of life for the citizens of the city or municipality and not serve as mere value-adding property. Also, it shall create an implementing body consisting of authorities tasked to oversee the development of recreational spaces and their corresponding comprehensive land use plans.

The League, however, expresses concern on the source of funding on the proposed recreational spaces. In terms of feasibility, not all Local Government Units (LGUs) have the fiscal capacity to establish such due to limited local sources. Moreover, this shall compromise the capability of local governments to prioritize programs because the bill requires all local governments to have their respective recreational spaces. Likewise, the provision of Appropriation under Section 7 of this bill is unclear. The coverage of the appropriation is not provided. In this regard the League seeks clarification on whether it covers the creation of the Recreational and Relaxation (R&R) Development Council or the establishment of the recreational spaces as integrated into the CLUP through zoning ordinances.

Hence, the League recommends providing an amount estimation in the provision and identify the source of funding to avoid unfunded mandates, as well as provide its coverage in the IRR. Other than that, the League sees the benefit of passing the bill and its benefits to the LGUs. It is an opportunity to institutionalize the “Green Green Green” initiative of the DBM and the appropriation thereof. Finally, it shall assist our local government units (LGUs) in making their communities more livable,



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sustainable, and well-connected through the development or enhancement of public open space.