

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

17th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4531



Introduced by Representative DEOGRACIAS B. RAMOS, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Unless men and women in rural communities are given local job opportunities, many of them will flock to urbanized areas in and around the country to seek better life thereby fueling rapid urbanization which is already causing problems and challenges. Traffic jam in Metro Manila alone is bleeding the country at least P3 Billion a day according to NEDA in September 2015.

The purpose of this bill is to provide employment to poor rural folks by making them the preferred project employees in non-skilled jobs of infra projects funded by the government in their locality. This will entail no additional cost to the government compared to funding other lead agencies to hire them for the same purpose.

As the agency tasked to develop the country's infrastructure, this bill also enjoins the Department of Public Works and Highways to target unskilled locals in areas with infrastructure investment even if funded from other departments.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development will help in the determination of the poor rural folks who will qualify under the program.

Under the present administration, allotment for infrastructure asset will rise to six percent (6%) of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), upping the previous administration's allocation. With this so much money, this bill will create rural employment however temporary, and spread the wealth to poor Filipinos.

All considered, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


DEOGRACIAS B. RAMOS, JR.
Second District, Sorsogon

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR EMPLOYMENT
TO INDIGENTS IN RURAL AREAS**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This shall be known as Rural Employment for the Poor Act of 2016.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and improved quality of life for all.

SECTION 3. Rural Employment Program. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall implement the Rural Employment for the Poor Program, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The program shall provide temporary employment in rural areas to *a qualified head of family or single adult member of poor families, or out of school youth*, who agrees to do unskilled manual work for the duration of a government infrastructure project, or as long as the unskilled jobs are still needed as determined by private contractors.

The laborers, as qualified in the immediately preceding paragraph, shall make up a sizeable portion of the total unskilled workforce in a government infrastructure project. For this purpose, the DPWH shall see to it that private contractors fully comply with this requirement.

SECTION 4. Rural Areas. Rural areas are local government units that are not part of highly urbanized cities, independent component cities, or component cities.

SECTION 5. *Role of DSWD.* The DSWD shall make the determination of the poor who will qualify for this program.

For the purpose of this act, the poor shall refer to individuals and families whose income falls below the poverty threshold as defined by the government.

SECTION 6. *Rate of Assistance.* Every qualified individual shall receive the applicable minimum wage pay for the place of work, Philhealth, Pag-IBIG, and Social Security System (SSS) benefits.

SECTION 7. *Types of Works and Activities.* In all infrastructure projects of the National Government, qualified individuals shall be hired as project employees only.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* To implement this Act, the Secretary of DPWH, in consultation with the Secretary of the DSWD, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from approval of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,