



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4700**



Introduced by Representative Jose Enrique S. Garcia III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Eradicating poverty is conceivably the biggest continuing challenge we face as a nation. Although reduction of indigence is an indispensable requirement for sustainable growth, we still fail to implement a long-term and effective solution. There is an array of schemes that seek to help the poor nationwide, but the results are temporary and ineffectual. A standardized program with a uniform application in all regions and provinces is meager and insufficient because poverty does not have a singular identity with a universal solution. Poverty is multidimensional and complex, it stems from a range of factors such as geography, culture, population, availability of and access to resources, and so many other influences. What therefore becomes necessary is a localized and area-specific program that tackles poverty in a particular city or municipality to compliment a parallel nationwide process of creating change.

To wage a successful war against poverty, it is important to know who the poor are, where they are, and why they continue to remain poor – and create solutions that are based on the specific answers offered. However, there is very little regular, up-to-date, and disaggregated data available relating to the different dimensions of poverty, particularly at the city, municipal and barangay levels. The official poverty estimates are obtained from national surveys conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA.) Although the information provided from these surveys are useful as a starting point for studying poverty in the country, the data that can be gathered from these are unfortunately insufficient. Not only are the surveys conducted infrequently and at irregular intervals, but they have also been conducted in different time periods, making it impossible to compare and draw comprehensive conclusions for a specific point in time. Furthermore, the information generated from these surveys are presented in aggregates, or at most at the regional and provincial levels, making it even more difficult for local government units to diagnose and analyze the proper intervention needed for their particular territory.

This bill seeks to address this problem by making it mandatory for all barangays to establish and maintain a regular monitoring system that is

community based and area specific. The data collected shall form part of a nationwide databank that may be used by national government agencies and local government units in formulating and implementing focused and targeted poverty-alleviation and development programs, and in monitoring the impacts of these programs on the quality of life of the Filipino people over time. The end goal is to finally eradicate poverty in the country by executing programs that are truly responsive to the needs of the people.

This concept was initiated several years ago by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) with the goal of maximizing the use of government resources. A small working group was established consisting of representatives from the DBM, National Statistics Office (NSO,) National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA,) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD,) and the Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network of the De LaSalle University. The idea arose with two end goals in mind, first, is to reduce government spending on data gathering, and second is to streamline generation processes to produce official nationwide statistics.

During the previous years, DBM spent roughly two billion pesos for the conduct of data collection to come up with the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture. This was intended to come up with a list of farmers throughout the country, and was funded by DBM and implemented by the NSO, now the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA.) DSWD also spent more than two billion pesos for the National Household Targeting System to identify beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. Meanwhile, various local government units have been implementing CBMS using their own resources at costs of P100 to P120 per household. This double spending and duplication of practices on information gathering is easily avoidable through an updated and centralized data gathering method.

The institutionalization of CBMS is necessary to provide data on each and every household to be used by different program implementors at the national and local levels. It is very timely given the new Sustainable Development Goals which requires data to be disaggregated by geographic area, ethnicity, age group, gender and the like. A CBMS will be the most cost-efficient, yet effective way of updating and gathering information. Given the scale of data collection involved (census of the entire population,) it becomes a good strategy for the data collection to be done at the barangay level. This bill seeks to equip each barangay unit with such capacities, enabling each one to become active participants in nation building, leaving no man behind.

Support for this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. JOSE ENRIQUE S. GARCIA III
Second District, Bataan



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**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING COMMUNITY BASED MONITORING
SYSTEM IN ALL BARANGAYS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Community
2 Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Act of 2016.”

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Principles** – It is the policy of the State to
4 free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social
5 services, deliver a rising standard of living, promote full employment, and
6 make available an improved quality of life for all.

7 It is also the policy of the State to adopt focused and specific measures
8 that will ensure poverty reduction wherein every citizen shall have access to
9 the minimum basic needs.

10 It is likewise the policy of the State to adopt a system of public
11 spending that will warrant government allocation on areas and populaces that
12 are most wanting.

13 Towards this end, the State shall adopt a community based monitoring
14 system that shall be the basis of targeted poverty alleviation projects and
15 schemes.

16 **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms** – For purposes of this Act, the
17 following terms shall be defined as follows:

18 a. “Community Based Monitoring System” shall mean an organized
19 electronic system of collecting and processing data at the local
20 level. It shall include, but not be limited to the compendium of
21 localized facts and figures on the different dimensions of poverty
22 including health, nutrition, housing, water and sanitation, basic

1 education, income, employment, and peace and order;

2
3 b. "*Barangay*" shall mean the basic political unit as defined in Republic
4 Act 7160, otherwise known as "The Local Government Code";

5
6 c. "*DILG*" shall mean the Department of Interior and Local
7 Government;

8
9 d. "*DICT*" shall mean the Department of Information and
10 Communications Technology;

11
12 e. "*PSA*" shall mean the Philippine Statistics Authority.

13 **SECTION 4. *Mandatory Community Based Monitoring System*** – A
14 community based monitoring system (CBMS) is hereby established and
15 instituted in every barangay as an economic and social tool towards the
16 alleviation of poverty. The monitoring system shall collect and generate
17 pertinent and regular data from each locality that will enable government
18 institutions to implement projects that are specific, targeted, and responsive to
19 the basic needs of each sector of the community.

20 Each barangay unit shall be the primary data collecting authority within
21 its locality. For purposes of data collection, it shall have full access to the
22 resources of, and be supported by the municipal/ city government to which it
23 belongs. The PSA shall likewise, give the corresponding assistance and
24 technical reinforcement as may be needed by each barangay.

25 **SECTION 5. *Periodicity of Data Collection*** – Synchronized data
26 collection must be conducted every three (3) years or as often as viable to
27 maintain an updated databank.

28 **SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations / Role of DILG,***
29 *DICT and PSA* – The PSA and the DILG shall work together and issue the
30 implementing rules and regulations necessary for the enforcement of this Act
31 within ninety (90) days from its effectivity. The agencies shall work in
32 consultation with the necessary government offices and other stakeholders
33 from both the private and public sectors in the relevant fields as identified in
34 the immediately succeeding paragraph.

35 The PSA and the DILG shall ensure that the CBMS shall be as
36 comprehensive as practicable, taking into account the following key areas and
37 basic needs necessary for nationwide development:

- 38 a) Health;
39 b) Nutrition;
40 c) Housing;
41 d) Water and sanitation;

- e) Basic education;
- f) Income;
- g) Employment; and
- h) Peace and order.

The DILG shall ensure adequate capacity building of each barangay to guarantee proper data collection through intensive training, information dissemination, and constant monitoring of all barangay personnel. Towards this end, personnel re-organization may be directed.

The PSA shall be national repository of all CBMS data collected by the local government units.

The DICT, in coordination with the DILG, shall be given three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act to provide all barangays with the necessary equipment and training to implement the provisions of this Act. It shall endeavor to establish a user-friendly, automated local system, as well as provide the necessary hardware and digital connection necessary to maintain a national databank accessible to government agencies as identified in Section 6 hereof.

SECTION 7. Confidentiality of Data – The PSA, in coordination with the DILG and the local government units, shall collect all data gathered from the barangays and create a national databank of collated information. It shall take measures to ensure the safety of the information gathered against unnecessary leakage and access by unauthorized persons.

The barangay, municipalities, cities and provinces shall have access to its local and territory-specific data, and shall be allowed to maintain its own CBMS database for use for local level planning and program implementation.

Nationwide data may be released to national government offices upon the written order of the President, Vice-President, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives or Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Data collected through the CBMS may be released for purposes of formulating poverty-alleviating and other sustainable development projects only. However, CBMS data may also be combined with other government information for evidence-based decision-making.

SECTION 8. Guarantee of Privacy – The right to privacy of every citizen shall remain inviolable. Participation in all data collection activities shall be purely voluntary, and all who voluntarily partake may refuse to answer any question or reveal information about himself at any point, or terminate the activity with no further action needed. Data gathered shall be kept anonymous, and will only be available to the government officials as allowed in Section 7 of this Act.

1 **SECTION 9. *Appropriation*** – An initial amount of Two Billion Pesos
2 (PhP 2,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated and shall be made available
3 from the funds of the PSA, DILG and the DICT not otherwise appropriated for
4 the immediate implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be
5 necessary for the continued enactment of this Act shall be provided in the
6 yearly General Appropriation Act of the national government.

7 **SECTION 10. *Separability Clause*** – If, for any reason, any part or
8 provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts
9 or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

10 **SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause*** – All laws, presidential decrees,
11 executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the
12 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

13 **SECTION 12. *Effectivity*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
14 upon the approval and publication thereof.

15 *Approved.*