

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5188



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

Explanatory Note

The State aims to ensure the prosperity of the nation and free the people from the cruel bondage of poverty through policies that will provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. Towards this end, the State shall provide employment assistance to a qualified head of family or an unmarried, single adult member of qualified poor households in rural areas identified by the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

As used in this Act, a "rural area" refers to a barangay which has a population size of less than two thousand five hundred (2,500) and which does not have any business establishment with twenty-five (25) or more employees, or five (5) or more establishments with a minimum of ten (10) employees, or five (5) or more facilities within a two (2) - kilometer radius from the barangay hall.

On the other hand, the "poor" refers to individuals and families whose income fall below the poverty threshold as defined by the government or those who cannot afford to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing and other essential amenities of life in a sustained manner or those who have been identified as poor by the NHTS-PR.

The DSWD shall establish and implement the Rural Employment Assistance Program (REAP), in coordination with the local government units (LGUs). REAP shall provide temporary employment to every qualified head of family or an unmarried, single adult member of qualified poor families in rural areas who volunteers to do unskilled manual work for a minimum of forty-five (45) days but not more than ninety (90) days in every calendar year. The DSWD, in close coordination with the LGUs and other concerned government agencies, shall conduct an assessment of all poor individuals and families in rural areas who signify interest to do unskilled labor to determine their eligibility to avail of the services and benefits under the REAP.

Thus, every head of family or an unmarried, single adult member of a poor family in the rural areas who qualifies to avail of the benefits and services under the REAP shall be entitled to receive for each day of work financial assistance equal to the applicable minimum wage set by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) in the region. They shall also be entitled to the coverage of mandatory social security benefits such as those extended by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG) and the Social Security System (SSS).

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


GARY C. ALEJANO

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR RURAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as "*Rural Employment*
2 *Assistance Act*".

3
4 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the declared policy of the State to promote
5 a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity of the nation and free
6 the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services,
7 promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life
8 for all. Towards this end, the State shall provide employment assistance to a qualified
9 head of family or an unmarried, single adult member of qualified poor households in
10 rural areas identified by the National Household Targeting System for Poverty
11 Reduction (NHTS-PR) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development
12 (DSWD).

13
14 **Sec.3. Rural Employment Assistance Program.-** The DSWD shall establish
15 and implement the Rural Employment Assistance Program (REAP), hereinafter
16 referred to as the Program, in coordination with the local government units (LGUs).
17 The Program shall provide temporary employment to every qualified head of family
18 or an unmarried, single adult member of qualified poor families in rural areas who
19 volunteers to do unskilled manual work for a minimum of forty-five (45) days but not
20 more than ninety (90) days in every calendar year.

21 As used in this Act, a "rural area" refers to a barangay which has a population
22 size of less than two thousand five hundred (2,500) and which does not have any
23 business establishment with twenty-five (25) or more employees, or five (5) or more
24 establishments with a minimum of ten (10) employees, or five (5) or more facilities
25 within a two (2) - kilometer radius from the barangay hall.

1 The “poor” refers to individuals and families whose income fall below the
2 poverty threshold as defined by the government or those who cannot afford to provide
3 their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing and other essential
4 amenities of life in a sustained manner or those who have been identified as poor by
5 the NHTS-PR.

6
7 **Sec.4. Assessment to Determine Qualification for Availment of Employment**
8 **Assistance.-** The DSWD, in close coordination with the LGUs and other concerned
9 government agencies, shall conduct an assessment of all poor individuals and families
10 in rural areas who signify interest to do unskilled labor to determine their eligibility to
11 avail of the services and benefits under the REAP.

12
13 **Sec.5. Rate of Assistance.-** Every head of family or an unmarried, single adult
14 member of a poor family in the rural areas who qualifies to avail of the benefits and
15 services under the REAP shall be entitled to receive for each day of work financial
16 assistance equal to the applicable minimum wage set by the Regional Tripartite
17 Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) in the region. They shall also be entitled to
18 the coverage of mandatory social security benefits such as those extended by the
19 Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Home Development Mutual
20 Fund (Pag-IBIG) and the Social Security System (SSS).

21
22 **Sec.6. Types of Works and Activities.-** The DSWD, in coordination with the
23 LGUs and other concerned government agencies, shall lead in the implementation of
24 the REAP, particularly in project identification and in the implementation and
25 monitoring of projects and activities. Projects and activities to be identified and
26 undertaken under the REAP should be of the type and nature that can be completed in
27 a specific period of time. These projects may include the following:

28 (a) Development, rebuilding/rehabilitation of agri-based livelihood assets
29 destroyed or lost due to natural disasters such as desilting of irrigation canals,
30 development of paddy dikes and rehabilitation of water impounding;

31 (b) Rehabilitation and or development of common service facilities which are
32 being shared and used by poor families as production or consolidation centers/units
33 such as post-harvest facilities and public markets;

34 (c) Development or rehabilitation of physical assets to open up access to
35 natural assets where the former is necessary to bring out the products of poor families
36 to the market such as farm-to-market roads, slope protection and bridges; and

37 (d) Protection of productive assets through mitigation measures such as
38 mangrove planting/rehabilitation and tree planting.

1 **Sec.7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.***- Within ninety (90) days after
2 the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall, in
3 consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, issue the
4 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

5
6 **Sec. 8. *Effectivity.***- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
7 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,