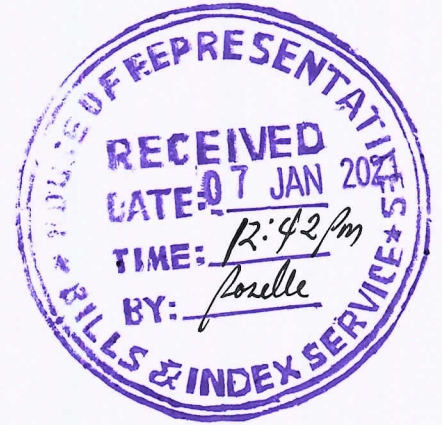


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8318



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The ongoing pandemic has pushed poverty incidence higher this last year. As a result, people from all walks of life are suddenly finding themselves thrust into poverty or finding themselves deeper into poverty.

Nobody wants to be poor. And a lot of individuals are more than willing to fight and get back on their feet. However, much as they would like to, they remain hindered by the basic necessities they need to start over.

With the establishment of the Momentary Support Centers/Feeding Centers in every legislative district, poor and low-income individuals can access food, find their office needs when preparing for their applications, and also access basic health services. With access to the aforementioned, poor and low-income individuals and senior citizens will have less matters to worry about and they can focus their energy for their personal and financial growth.

The establishment of these Momentary Support Centers/Feeding Centers will not only provide the above-mentioned things to those qualified to avail of the services and programs offered but will also receive guidance and support while going through their journey of rising up from poverty.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI
Representative
Third District, Bukidnon

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8318

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR ALL ASPECTS OF POVERTY THROUGH
THE CREATION OF MOMENTARY SUPPORT CENTER/FEEDING CENTER IN EVERY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT NATIONWIDE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the Poverty Support System Act of 2021.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good. It is also the declared policy of the state to promote social justice which shall include the commitment to create economic opportunities based on freedom of initiative and self-reliance.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of Momentary Support Center/Feeding Center.* – There is hereby established in every legislative district in the entire country a Momentary Support Center/Feeding Center which will serve as the following:

1. As a food bank which will provide free food to low-income adult and senior individuals;
2. A one-stop establishment for essential internet and office needs for a low-income individual in order to complete their documentary requirements in searching for jobs and loan applications;
3. A clinic and recreation establishment that will provide basic medical monitoring and checkups and health and wellness programs for low-income individuals.

The Momentary Support Center/Feeding Center shall also serve as office in order for Municipal and Barangay Health Workers to more effectively execute their respective functions.

The Momentary Support Center/Feeding Center shall also provide guidance and support to its clients as they go through their journey of rising up from poverty.

SECTION 4. *Concerned Agencies.* – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) together with the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) shall enact the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations that will:

1. Determine who may access the services mentioned in this Act;
2. Determine how poor and low-income individuals will be able to access the programs mentioned in this Act.

The National Food Authority shall provide rice, corn and such other food items to the Momentary Support Centers/Feeding Centers.

The Department of Health shall either augment or transfer Municipal or Barangay Health Workers to enable the Momentary Support Center/Feeding Center to execute its Clinic and Health and Wellness programs after in close cooperation with the Local Government Unit concerned.

The Local Government Unit or Units concerned shall provide the staff necessary for the operation and implementation of the three (3) pillar programs of the Momentary Support Center/Feeding Center.

SECTION 5. *Role of Local Government Units.* – Nothing in this Act prevents any Local Government Unit from putting up and operating its own Momentary Support Center/Feeding Center provided that who and how the services will be accessed by poor and low-income individuals shall be vetted by the DSWD.

SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the establishment of Momentary Support Centers/Feeding Centers shall be chargeable to the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the current year upon the approval of this Act.

The amount necessary for the operation of the Momentary Support Centers/Feeding Centers shall be taken from the current appropriations of the Department of Social and Welfare Development. Such other amounts necessary to completely accomplish the establishment of the Momentary Support Centers/Feeding Centers shall be included in the next appropriation of the concerned department and agency.

SECTION 7. *Staggered Construction of Momentary Support Centers/Feeding Centers.* – Establishment of the Momentary Support Centers/Feeding Centers shall be prioritized in areas where the poverty incidence is high as determined by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the DSWD in accordance with a published criterion.

SECTION 8. *Partnership with Private Entities.* – Private entities, People's organizations, Non-government organizations, and other charitable institutions may partner with Momentary Support Centers/Feeding Centers and support its programs.

Food and supplies donated by private entities and commercial establishments shall be exempt from taxes. Entities who donated food items shall not be liable for any damages. Personnel assigned in Momentary Support Centers/Feeding Centers shall double check the safety of the food items donated and delivered. Personnel assigned in the Momentary Support Center/Feeding Center shall also provide transparency in the inventory items donated.

An inventory of the items donated as declared by the donor and the inventory as curated by Momentary Support Center/Feeding Center personnel shall be posted by the door of the center for everybody to see.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All provisions of existing laws, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,

