

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 9960



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2016, the Philippines reached Tier 1 on the U.S. State Department's Global Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report – an important recognition of the country's strong anti-trafficking efforts.¹ While the Philippines ranked the highest tier, it does not mean that our country is spared from human trafficking problems. It only indicates that our government has acknowledged the existence of human trafficking and made efforts to address the problem and complied with the international minimum standards.

Human trafficking continues to be a pervasive problem in our country. The Philippines remain as one of the largest known sources of child sex trafficking, where young girls and boys are exploited by their parents or relatives to foreign sexual predators.² Moreover, an estimated 10 million Filipinos work overseas – three percent of whom work without a contract and remain at risk of slavery as they attempt to provide financial support for their families.

¹ United States Department of State. 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report: Philippines. Information retrieved from <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/philippines/>

² The Jakarta Post. Philippines tops world for online child sex abuse: Study. Information retrieved from <https://www.thejakartapost.com/seasia/2020/05/21/philippines-tops-world-for-online-child-sex-abuse-study.html>. Dated May 22, 2020

To address these, we must educate our people about the perils of human trafficking. This bill, therefore, seeks to establish a Human Trafficking Preventive Education Program. The Program shall have a school-based component and a community-based component that will teach our youth about the dangers of human trafficking and thereby protect themselves from becoming victims.

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

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, positioned above the printed name.

MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

Representative

Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION EDUCATION
PROGRAM FOR THE YOUTH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Human Trafficking
2 Preventive Education Program Act”.

3
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*— It is hereby declared a policy of the State to
5 protect the youth from human trafficking and other crimes fundamentally detrimental
6 to their development and well-being. The State shall enhance the knowledge of the
7 youth of their basic rights and promote their vigilance against human traffickers by
8 providing preventive education to teach them about the dangers of human trafficking
9 in its various forms.

10
11 Sec. 3. *Preventive Education Program.*— The Inter-Agency Council Against
12 Trafficking herein referred to as Council, shall facilitate the establishment of a Human

1 Trafficking Preventive Education Program. The Program shall accomplish the following
2 objectives:

3 (a) Educate the youth about fundamental rights concerning labor and
4 employment, liberty, human security, as well as other essential rights;

5 (b) Orient the youth about the dangers of international and domestic human
6 trafficking in its various forms including but not limited to illegal
7 recruitment, unfair labor practices, involuntary servitude, internet
8 trafficking, sexual exploitation and prostitution, and child labor;

9 (c) Provide the youth with information on services provided by government
10 agencies and non-governmental organizations to aid and protect victims of
11 human trafficking, and;

12 (d) Identify members of the youth who have been or are currently victims of
13 human trafficking and refer them to the proper agency or organization for
14 protection and rehabilitation.

15 The Program shall have a school-based component and a community-based
16 component.

17
18 Sec. 4. *School-Based Program.*— The Council, in cooperation with the
19 Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, and the Technical
20 Education and Skills Development Authority, shall implement a School-Based Program
21 to accomplish the objectives stated in Section 3 of this Act. The School-Based Program
22 shall cover all students enrolled in junior high schools, senior high schools, colleges
23 and universities, and technical or vocational education programs.

24
25 The school principal, college or university president, or technical school head
26 shall be responsible for the following:

27 (a) Facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of the Program in
28 his/her educational institution;

29 (b) Assign guidance counselors or equivalent support staff to identify and
30 protect human trafficking victims and at-risk students, and;

1 (c) Establish a safe and proactive human trafficking reporting mechanism that
2 allows members of the school community to report suspected or confirmed
3 cases of human trafficking within the school.
4

5 Sec. 5. *Community-Based Program.*— The Council, in cooperation with the
6 Council for the Welfare of Children (CWO), shall implement a Community-Based
7 Program to accomplish the objectives stated in Section 3 of this Act. The Community-
8 Based Program shall cover all out-of-school youth in the Philippines and be
9 implemented at the barangay level.
10

11 The Chairman of the various Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children
12 (BCPC) of the CWC shall be responsible for the following:

- 13 (a) Facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of the Program in their
14 respective barangays;
15 (b) Assign guidance counselors, social workers, or equivalent staff to identify
16 and protect human-trafficking victims and at-risk out-of-school youth, and;
17 (c) Establish a safe and proactive human trafficking reporting mechanism that
18 allows barangay residents to report suspected cases of human trafficking
19 within the community.
20

21 Sec. 6. *Youth in Conflict-Afflicted Areas.*— The Council shall prioritize the
22 implementation of the Program in conflict-afflicted areas, with special emphasis on
23 human trafficking practices commonly perpetrated in conflict-afflicted areas.
24

25 Sec. 7. *Accountability Measures.*— The head of the educational institution and
26 the Chairman of the BCPC, as the case may be, shall submit to the Council a bi-annual
27 progress report on the implementation and outcomes of the Program in their
28 respective jurisdictions.
29

30 Failure to ensure faithful implementation of the Program consistent with the
31 provisions of this Act shall result in administrative sanctions for the Institution Head

1 or Chairman, as the case may be, subject to due process and the provisions of
2 applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

3
4 Sec. 8. *Appropriations.*– The amount of One Hundred Million Pesos
5 (P100,000,000.00) is hereby initially appropriated to implement the provisions of this
6 Act. Thereafter, such amount necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this
7 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

8
9 Sec. 9. *Civil Society Participation.*– The Council shall endeavor to utilize non-
10 governmental organizations (NGOs), community stakeholders, and other civil society
11 actors with knowledge and experience on human trafficking prevention and
12 suppression in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of the Program.

13
14 Sec. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*– Within sixty (60) days from
15 the effectivity of this Act, the Council, in coordination with the government agencies
16 and entities mentioned in the provisions of this Act, shall promulgate the
17 implementing rules and regulations as may be necessary to ensure the efficient and
18 effective implementation of this Act.

19
20 Sec. 11. *Separability Clause.*– Should any part of this Act be declared
21 unconstitutional, the rest of the provisions of this Act shall continue to be in effect
22 and subsisting.

23
24 Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.*– The provisions of other laws decrees executive
25 orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended,
26 or modified accordingly.

27
28 Sec. 13. *Effectivity Clause.*– This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
29 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers in general
30 circulation.

Approved,