

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **11176**



Introduced by Representative Christopherson “Coco” M. Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP) has been a crucial initiative of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in providing immediate financial assistance to low-income individuals and families during this time of rising inflation. This bill aims to institutionalize AKAP, ensuring its continuity and enhancing its effectiveness in addressing the needs of vulnerable populations.

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic challenges have highlighted the importance of having a responsive and flexible social protection program that can quickly provide support to those most in need. AKAP has proven to be an effective mechanism for delivering such assistance, and its institutionalization will strengthen the government's capacity to respond to future crises.

By institutionalizing AKAP, this bill aims to create a more responsive social protection system in the Philippines, capable of addressing quickly and effectively the needs of ordinary Filipinos during times of immediate need. It represents a significant step forward in the government's efforts to alleviate poverty and promote social justice.

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


CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE AYUDA SA KAPOK ANG KITA
PROGRAM (AKAP) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
AND DEVELOPMENT

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

3 SECTION 1. ***Short Title*** - This Act shall be known as the "Ayuda sa Kapok
4 ang Kita Program (AKAP) Act."

5 SEC. 2. ***Declaration of Policy*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
6 to ensure equitable access to quality social services that respond to the diverse
7 and evolving needs of vulnerable populations. The State recognizes that the
8 advancement of social welfare is fundamental to national development and
9 human dignity. Towards this end, the state shall enact measures providing
10 sustainable social protection mechanisms and assistance that empower
11 individuals, families, and communities.

1 SEC. 3. *The Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP)* - The Ayuda sa
2 Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP) provides financial aid to low-income
3 individuals whose income does not exceed the statutory minimum wage and are
4 severely affected by the rising inflation.

5 SEC. 4. *Modalities in Providing Assistance under the Program* – The
6 Program shall be implemented through the Department of Social Welfare and
7 Development (DSWD) and through the Local Government Units (LGUs) subject
8 to the guidelines hereunder:

9 ***A. Implementation through the DSWD*** – AKAP beneficiaries may avail
10 of the following assistance:

11 1. Food assistance – this is an outright cash assistance provided to meet the
12 need for food and other nutritional requirements for sustenance;

13 2. Medical Assistance – this is an outright cash or Guarantee Letter
14 provided to cover hospitalization expenses and professional fees, cost of
15 medicines and other medical treatment or procedures, such as implants, common
16 laboratory tests, and diagnostic imaging for any illness or condition, including
17 postpartum complications. This assistance does not extend to other healthcare
18 expenses that are unrelated to medical treatment or aftercare;

19 3. Funeral Assistance – this is an outright cash or Guarantee Letter
20 provided to cover funeral and other related expenses including, but not limited to,
21 transporting the deceased individual's remains to their residence or hometown,

interment, cremation, and/or burial site, adhering to the customary practices of the family, particularly among Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Moros;

4. Cash relief assistance – this is an outright cash assistance provided to qualified beneficiaries for reasons other than for food, medical or funeral expenses, which upon the assessment of the DSWD social worker, may appear to be directly related to the effects of high inflation (i.e., difficulty in paying for house rental, electricity and water expenses, etc.).

Financial assistance may be in the form of outright cash ranging from one thousand pesos (Php 1,000.00) to fifteen thousand pesos (Php 15, 000.00) subject to the assessment of the DSWD social worker. For assistance above fifteen thousand pesos (Php 15,000.00) a Guarantee Letter approved by the DSWD Secretary or his representative shall be given.

B. Implementation through the LGUs – AKAP beneficiaries under this modality may avail of the financial assistance properly called as “rice assistance” to be used for the purchase of rice.

The amount of rice assistance that can be given to qualified beneficiaries shall be equivalent to half of the cost of twenty-five (25) kilograms of rice based on the suggested retail price from the Department of Agriculture. Further, the amount of each transfer to the LGU shall not exceed thirty million pesos (Php 30,000,000.00).

1 The financial assistance under the AKAP may complement any support
2 provided by the LGU, government agencies, and non-government organizations.
3 Further, a beneficiary who has received rice assistance through the LGU may still
4 qualify to receive medical, funeral, or cash relief assistance from the DSWD,
5 subject to the requirements under this Act and professional assessment of the
6 DSWD social worker.

7 SEC. 5. ***Appropriations*** - The amount necessary for the initial
8 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's
9 appropriations of the DSWD. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the
10 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General
11 Appropriations Act.

12 SEC. 6. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations*** - Within ninety (90) days
13 from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD shall promulgate the necessary rules
14 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

15 SEC. 7. ***Separability Clause*** - If any provision of this Act is declared
16 invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full
17 force and effect.

18 SEC. 8. ***Repealing Clause*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
19 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
20 modified accordingly.

1 SEC. 9. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
3 Approved,