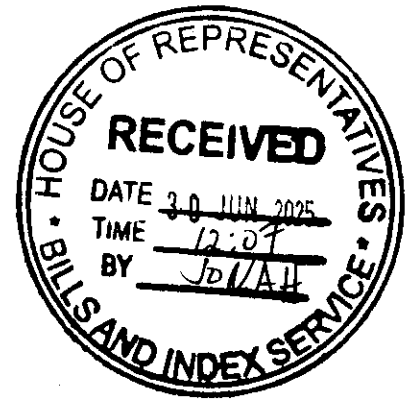


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 67



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

“Those who have less in life should have more in law.” - President Ramon Magsaysay

This bill is being refiled following its importance and the legislative progress it achieved in the 19th Congress, having been approved on Second Reading in the House of Representatives. Several similar measures have also been filed in the Senate, demonstrating broad recognition of the bill’s relevance and potential impact across both chambers.

The proposed legislation seeks to institutionalize the Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach as a core national and local development strategy. It addresses the absence of an enabling policy framework that empowers poor, vulnerable, and marginalized communities to meaningfully participate in the local development process.

The CDD approach reinforces the principles of participatory governance and strengthens the intent of the Local Government Code (LGC) by expanding mechanisms for citizen engagement beyond mere representation in local development councils and special bodies. While Article 63 of the LGC mandates that civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, and similar groups comprise at least 25% of the membership of Local Special Bodies, participation is still largely limited to organizational representation. CDD provides a tested and inclusive platform that allows even unaffiliated individuals to actively engage in community planning, decision-making, and implementation of development initiatives.

Since 2003, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has implemented the CDD approach through the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan – Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHÍ-CIDSS) Program. This model, internationally recognized for its effectiveness, puts citizens at the heart of development. It enables communities to identify priorities, design solutions, and manage projects in a transparent and accountable manner, thereby fostering a strong sense of ownership and civic responsibility.

Institutionalizing CDD will solidify the gains of KALAHÍ-CIDSS and ensure its continuity and scale under a formal legal framework. It will further deepen the devolution process, strengthen participatory governance, improve access to basic services, and promote inclusive and sustainable development.

Key Provisions of the Bill:

- Establish CDD as a participatory approach that empowers communities to lead development processes, make decisions, and allocate resources—treating people as partners in governance.
- Institutionalization of CDD
- Recognizes and formalizes CDD as a strategic development approach at both the national and local levels.
- Assigns the DSWD, through its KALAHI-CIDSS National Program Management Office, the responsibility to mainstream and implement the provisions of this Act as part of its regular operations.
- Capability Building
- Directs the DSWD Social Welfare and Development Learning Institute (or DSWD Academy) to institutionalize CDD-related training programs for national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), civil society organizations, and other development stakeholders.

The proposed measure supports the realization of equitable, community-led progress and contributes meaningfully to national development goals. For all the foregoing reasons, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO

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HOUSE BILL NO. 67

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT APPROACH
AS NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SOCIAL
PROTECTION, 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 the “Institutionalization of
2 the Community-Driven Development (CDD) Approach Act.

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policies.*** – It is the policy of the State to uplift the standard
5 living and quality of life of the poor and provide sustained opportunities for growth and
6 development. The State also recognizes that the right of the people and their organizations
7 to effective and reasonable participations at all levels of social, political and economic
8 decision-making shall not be abridged. The State shall facilitate the establishment of
9 adequate consultation mechanism.

10
11 To this end, and in pursuit of good governance, sustainable and inclusive growth, and
12 poverty reduction, the State shall enact programs that provide opportunities for community
13 members particularly the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized to effectively participate in
14 designing, planning, budgeting, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating community
15 programs, activities, and projects.

16
17 Further, the State shall provide capability building opportunities for local government
18 units, civil society organizations, and communities to ensure the proper use of the CDD
19 approach in implementing local programs, projects, and activities.

20
21 **SEC.3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

22
23 (a) *Basic sectors* refer to the disadvantaged sectors of Philippine society including farmer-
24 peasant, fisherfolk, workers in the formal sector, migrant workers, workers in the informal sector,
25 indigenous peoples and cultural communities, women, persons with disability, senior citizens,
26 victims of calamities and disasters, youth and students, children, urban poor, and members of
27 cooperatives;

28
29 (b) *Community-based programs* refer to programs, activities, or projects that are designed,
30 planned, organized and implemented locally by community members or group to address
31 community-identified plans and needs;

32
33 (c) *Community-driven development (CDD)* refers to an approach that gives control over
34 the development process, decision-making, and resources to community members or group and
35 treats people as assets and partners in the development process while building on their institutions

1 and resources; and

2
3 (d) *Community empowerment* refers to a process of enabling groups to increase control
4 over the factors and decisions that shape their lives, including assets and attributes, partners,
5 networks, and voice.

6
7 **SEC. 4. *Elements of CDD.*** – The CDD approach, through the principles of participation,
8 transparency, and accountability, has the following elements:

9
10 (a) *Community focus* wherein programs or projects put primacy on a group of people living
11 in a particular locality or geographical area such as a barangay, ancestral domain, or specific
12 subsets thereof, where interventions are implemented;

13
14 (b) *Participatory planning* wherein the process directly involves the community members,
15 leaders, and other stakeholders in diagnosing local problems and designing a course of action to
16 resolve those problems, and aims to harmonize views among all of participants and provide
17 opportunities for the engagement especially of the marginalized groups;

18
19 (c) *Community control of resources* wherein the utilization and management of the
20 resources by the community members or groups are based on community-identified plans and
21 needs;

22 (d) *Community-managed implementation* wherein the execution, monitoring, and contract
23 management of community - identified projects are performed by community members or groups,
24 with assistance from the local government units (LGUs) and other local partners;

25
26 (e) *Participatory monitoring and evaluation* wherein the process through which members
27 at various levels of the community engage in monitoring and evaluating a program or policy, share
28 control over the content, the process and the results of the monitoring and evaluation activity, and
29 participate in identifying and making corrective actions; and

30
31 (f) *Operation and Maintenance, and Sustainability* wherein the community participates in
32 the operation and maintenance of the community - identified project, ensuring sustainability not
33 only of the project itself but also of the elements and principles of the CDD approach.

34
35 **SEC. 5. *Institutionalization of the CDD Approach.*** – National government agencies
36 (NGAs) and departments, including their attached agencies, offices, bureaus, other government
37 instrumentalities, and LGUs shall adopt the CDD approach in their community - based programs
38 to promote participation and empowerment of poor, vulnerable, disadvantaged, and marginalized
39 groups within communities.

40
41 **SEC. 6. *Operationalization of the CDD Approach.*** – NGAs and LGUs in community -
42 based programs shall be responsible for:

43
44 (a) Developing policies for enhancing participatory governance practices, tapping
45 community organizations particularly the basic sectors, and responding to community needs;

46
47 (b) Providing information on government intervention, technical assistance and support to
48 partner communities for more effective community - driven planning and implementation;

49
50 (c) Enabling community members to meaningfully participate in the whole process;

51
52 (d) Ensuring that community members are prioritized, to the extent possible, in receiving
53 employment opportunities brought about by project implementation at the communities;

54
55 (e) Ensuring that identified community priorities are sufficiently funded;

56
57 (f) Ensuring participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) as partners in organizing
58 and strengthening communities, and implementing community - based programs, activities, and
59 projects, and

1 (g) Creating a Community - Driven Development team that shall ensure full
2 operationalization of the CDD approach within their respective agencies and LGUs.

3
4 **SEC. 7. *Role of Civil Society Organizations and the Academe.*** Accredited CSOs and
5 academic institutions are encouraged to participate in community activities, specifically by:

- 6
7 (a) Facilitating the community empowerment processes;
8
9 (b) Providing continuous capability building and technology transfer to LGUs and
10 communities;
11
12 (c) Conducting third party monitoring and evaluation of capability building and
13 empowerment of LGUs and communities; and
14
15 (d) Providing additional funding or collaborating with partners or donors to implement
16 capacity building and empowerment of LGUs and communities.
17

18 For purposes of this section, the *CDD community of practice* refers to a community of
19 CDD practitioners composed of agencies, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), academic and
20 research institutions, and individuals, that share the commitment and passion for CDD, and
21 together strive to advance its practice through regular and purposive interaction.
22

23 **SEC. 8. *Incentives.*** – The exemplary use of the CDD approach by NGAs and LGUs shall
24 be considered as a significant criterion for the recognition given to LGUs such as the Seal of Good
25 Local Governance by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other
26 similar awards and recognitions granted by NGAs.
27

28 **SEC. 9. *Advisory Council.*** – An Advisory Council on CDD Institutionalization is created
29 to develop policies relative to the implementation of this Act.
30

31 The Advisory Council is composed of the following:

- 32
33 (a) Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, as chairperson;
34
35 (b) Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, as co - chairperson;
36
37 (c) Representatives from the National Anti - Poverty Commission (NAPC), National
38 Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF),
39 National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Budget and Management
40 (DBM), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of
41 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Health (DOH), Department of
42 Education (DepEd), and Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD);
43
44 (d) National Presidents of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), League of
45 Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), and Liga ng mga Barangay as members.
46

47 The representatives include the secretaries of the agencies as the officially designated
48 permanent members and designated undersecretaries as alternate representatives.
49

50 The Advisory Council shall have, as additional members, representatives of reputable and
51 accredited CDD NGOs which shall constitute not less than one-fourth (¼) of the members of the
52 Advisory Council, and shall be appointed by the Advisory Council to serve for three (3) years
53 from the date of their appointment. Thereafter, the representatives shall be selected from and
54 appointed by the CDD community of practice.
55

56 Advisory councils at the regional levels are also established with the regional directors of
57 the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and DILG, as chairperson and co -
58 chairperson, respectively, and representatives from the regional offices of NAPC, NCIP, NCMF,
59 NEDA, DBM, DA, DAR, DENR, DOH, DepEd, DHSUD, LMP, LCP, Liga ng mga Barangay,

1 and from accredited NGOs, as members.

2
3 **SEC. 10. *Functions of Advisory Council.*** – The Advisory Council shall have the following
4 functions:

5
6 (a) Meet regularly to promote coordination among agencies to enhance and promote the
7 use of the CDD approach;

8
9 (b) Formulate and issue relevant policies to ensure the effective and efficient
10 implementation of CDD and its principles;

11
12 (c) Implement an incentives program to enhance and promote the use of the CDD approach
13 by NGAs and LGUs;

14
15 (d) Implement a grievance redress mechanism that accepts and resolves complaints
16 pertaining to the implementation of this Act;

17
18 (e) Provide the monitoring and assessment report on the implementation of this Act, post
19 the same on the DSWD website, and submit an annual report to the Joint Congressional Oversight
20 Committee; and

21
22 (f) Recommend to the President of the Philippines measures and policies for the responsive
23 delivery of commitments under this Act and integration into the general poverty reduction strategy
24 of the National Government.

25
26 **SEC. 11. *Implementing Agencies.*** –

27
28 (a) ***DSWD as lead agency.*** – As lead agency for the implementation of this Act, the DSWD
29 shall serve as the central coordinating, capability building, technical assistance, and monitoring
30 agency for this Act.

31
32 The DSWD shall, through the Kapit - bisig Laban sa Kahirapan - Comprehensive and
33 Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI - CIDSS) National Program Management Office,
34 integrate in their regular operations the following functions:

35
36 i) Ensure effective compliance and implementation of this Act;

37
38 ii) Facilitate support to empower community members to participate in the local
39 development processes and to strengthen community capabilities to engage LGUs,
40 NGAs, and other stakeholders to support community - identified priorities; and

41
42 iii) Provide technical assistance and resource augmentation including but not
43 limited to ensuring integration of municipal development plans into provincial
44 development plans.

45
46 The DSWD, through its existing facility referred to as the DSWD Social Welfare and
47 Development Learning Institute/DSWD Academy and in coordination with the DSWD KALAHI
48 - CIDSS National Program Management Office, shall:

49
50 i) Lead the research, development, and implementation of new and improved CDD
51 mechanisms to adapt to the ever - changing needs of communities;

52
53 ii) Institutionalize capability building and learning on CDD for NGAs, CSOs,
54 private sector institutions, and other partners; and

55
56 iii) Establish the CDD resource pool, a group of experts on CDD principles and
57 implementation who possess expertise in CDD to co - develop the certification and
58 accreditation programs and other learning and development requirements of the
59 staff, partners, and other stakeholders.

1 Further, the DSWD shall also accredit CSOs to become partners in the use of CDD
2 approach.

3
4 (b) ***DILG as a key partner in capability building.*** – The DILG shall support the capability
5 building of LGUs and communities. The DILG shall also ensure the horizontal and vertical
6 alignment and linkages of barangay and city or municipal development plans.

7
8 (c) ***NAPC as a key partner in mobilizing the basic sectors.*** – The NAPC shall be a key
9 partner agency in the development of policies and measures to ensure meaningful representation
10 and active participation of the basic sectors in their local development.

11
12 (d) ***Support from relevant government agencies.*** – All relevant bureaus, offices, agencies,
13 and instrumentalities of the government shall render the necessary support to the implementation
14 of this Act.

15 The various government agencies identified under this Act and the concerned LGUs shall
16 implement this Act using the whole - of - government approach, which provides a logical and
17 systematic convergence of efforts of NGAs and LGUs to respond to the identified community
18 needs, issues, concerns, and priorities.

19
20 **SEC. 12. *Regular Monitoring and Reporting.*** – The DSWD shall, through the Advisory
21 Council, conduct quarterly monitoring of the implementation of this Act and submit an annual
22 report of its status to the Office of the President and to the Joint Congressional Oversight
23 Committee. The report must also be regularly posted on a dedicated DSWD website and updated
24 for the public's information. A process assessment shall be conducted by DSWD once every three
25 years, the results of which shall be utilized to stimulate more program lessons exchange,
26 experience sharing, public dialogues, policy discussions and generating inputs for program design
27 works on CDD. Mechanisms for promoting third - party monitoring and evaluation of this Act by
28 NGOs and CSOs, together with community members and LGUs, shall also be established.

29
30 **SEC. 13. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.*** – A Joint Congressional Oversight
31 Committee, hereafter referred to as the Oversight Committee, is hereby constituted. The Oversight
32 Committee shall set the overall framework to review the implementation of this Act. It shall also
33 determine the inherent weaknesses in the law and recommend the necessary remedial legislation
34 or executive measures.

35
36 The Oversight Committee is composed of fourteen (14) members, with the chairpersons
37 of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on
38 Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development of the Senate as co - chairpersons; and six (6)
39 members with representation from the minority of both Houses, to be designated by the Speaker
40 of the House of Representatives and the Senate President, respectively.

41
42 The review of the implementation of this Act must include a systematic evaluation of its
43 impact, accomplishments of the program, and performance of its implementing agencies. The
44 Oversight Committee shall conduct the review every three (3) years reckoned from the effectivity
45 of this Act, or whenever deemed necessary by a majority of the members of the Oversight
46 Committee.

47
48 **SEC. 14. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this
49 Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Department s and agencies
50 concerned. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

51
52 **SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within six (6) months from the
53 effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall, in coordination
54 with national government agency members of the Human Development and Poverty Reduction
55 Cluster, with the participation of the league of barangays, cities, municipalities, and provinces,
56 and relevant stakeholders, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective
57 implementation of this Act.

1 **SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

3
4 **SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations,
5 and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are
6 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

7
8 **SEC. 18. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
9 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,