

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 513



Introduced by **Representative Jaime R. Fresnedi**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to protect senior citizens from abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect by institutionalizing a national legal framework that defines, prohibits, and penalizes all forms of elder abuse and domestic violence against senior citizens. It recognizes that the elderly are not merely passive recipients of care but are human beings with dignity, rights, and histories of selfless contribution to our families, communities, and nation.

Elder abuse and domestic violence against senior citizens remain largely invisible, unreported, and unaddressed. In 2023, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) revealed a worrying rise in elder abuse complaints, ranging from physical harm and abandonment to financial exploitation by family members or caretakers¹. However, the true scale of the crisis remains obscured by shame, fear, and the silent suffering of victims. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), one (1) in six (6) people aged sixty (60) and above experienced abuse in community settings in the past year, yet only a fraction of cases ever come to light².

The lack of a comprehensive law that directly addresses elder abuse fails to recognize the unique vulnerability of the elderly and the specific dynamics of abuse committed against them. Most cases are prosecuted under general criminal laws and age, in many instances, is merely seen as an aggravating circumstance and not the basis of a specific crime. This glaring legal gap endangers thousands of our *lolos* and *lolas*, many of whom suffer quietly in their own homes or in institutional care.

This proposed measure directly responds to this urgent human rights issue. It defines various forms of elder abuse including physical, psychological, financial, material, sexual abuse, abandonment and neglect. This bill also prohibits and penalizes these acts with appropriate sanctions and provides mechanisms for redress, protection, and rehabilitation. It

¹ Inputs of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines on violence, abuse, and neglect of older persons to inform the forthcoming report of the Independent Expert on human rights of older persons, Ms. Claudia Mahler, to the 54th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/cfi/subm_2023-07/subm-violence-abuse-neglect-nhri-commission-on-human-rights-philip.pdf)

² Abuse of older people (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/abuse-of-older-people#:~:text=Key%20facts,are%20experiencing%20rapidly%20ageing%20populations.>)

also ensures that the vulnerability of age is legally recognized in the same manner we protect children and women from abuse.

No elderly person should spend their twilight years in fear, humiliation, or abandonment. They have nurtured families, built communities, and helped shape our nation. Now, as age renders them more fragile, it is a solemn duty to repay that debt with compassion, dignity, and justice. This legislative measure pushes us to act now and not wait for another viral news and video of abuse or a tragic case of neglect.

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



JAIME R. FRESNEDI
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 513

Introduced by **Representative Jaime R. Fresnedi**

AN ACT
PROTECTING SENIOR CITIZENS FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DEFINING
ELDER ABUSE, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Senior Citizens Anti-Violence and Abuse Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to uphold and protect the dignity of senior citizens and guarantee full respect for human rights. The State recognizes the need to protect senior citizens from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and coercion, and other acts deleterious to their personal safety and security.

Towards this end, the State shall establish measures to ensure that all senior citizens are empowered to fully participate in safe communities and protected from domestic violence and abuse.

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

a) Domestic violence against a senior citizen refers to any act of abuse, violence or threat of violence committed upon the person of a senior citizen by the current or former spouse of the senior citizen, a person related by blood or marriage to, cohabiting with, or a person who has a common child with or who is in or has a romantic and intimate relationship with the senior citizen victim;

b) Elder abuse refers to a single or repeated act, acts of omission, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship or interaction by any person which causes serious harm or severe distress to a senior citizen, including any act or series of acts committed by any person against a senior citizen within or outside the family abode, that result or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological or emotional, financial or material abuse, or neglect or abandonment;

c) Neglect refers to the refusal or failure of a legally-appointed person with fiduciary responsibilities to fulfill any part of the fiduciary obligations or duties to a senior citizen, including an in-home service provider to provide necessary care to a senior citizen;

d) Safe place or shelter refers to any home or institution maintained or managed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) or any other suitable facility that is willing to accommodate the aggrieved senior citizen; and

e) Senior citizen refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old as defined under Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the “*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010*.”

SEC. 4. *Domestic Violence and Abuse against Senior Citizens.* – The crime of domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse is committed through any of the following punishable acts that cause serious harm or severe distress to a senior citizen:

a) Physical abuse or infliction of pain or injury with the use of physical force resulting in bodily injury, physical harm, pain or impairment, suffering or distress;

b) Psychological, mental or emotional abuse which may involve threats, verbal assault, humiliation and ridicule causing mental or emotional suffering or distress;

c) Material exploitation through illegal or improper use of funds or resources of the senior citizen and economic or financial abuse through deprivation or threat of deprivation of financial resources, controlling the senior citizen’s own resources and other acts that render the senior citizen financially dependent or cause financial damage to them; and

d) Neglect, abandonment or desertion by leaving a senior citizen unattended for a considerable length of time that may likely endanger the health and welfare of a senior citizen, by an individual who has assumed responsibility for providing care for the senior citizen, or by a person with custody of the senior citizen.

SEC. 5. *Rights of Senior Citizens against Abuse.* – In addition to those provided under existing laws, a senior citizen shall, during the pendency of the case involving domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse have the following rights:

a) Avail of protection and legal assistance from the Public Attorney’s Office (PAO) of the Department of Justice (DOJ) or any public legal assistance office;

b) Be entitled to support services from the DSWD and the local government unit (LGU);

c) Be entitled to all legal remedies as provided for under the Family Code;

d) Be informed of the rights and services available to all senior citizens from the Senior Citizen Help Desk established under this Act, including the right to apply for a Protection Order (PO) from the *Punong Barangay*, *Lupong Tagapamayapa*, or the Court; and

e) Be entitled to actual, compensatory, moral and exemplary damages.

SEC. 6. *Mandatory Programs and Services.* – The National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) and the DSWD, in coordination with the LGUs, shall provide a victim of domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse the following:

- a) A safe place or temporary shelter, such as a senior housing or nursing home or other suitable facility, when appropriate, as emergency short-term shelters;
- b) Counseling, healing, livelihood programs, and recovery and rehabilitation services; and
- c) Programs to ensure the personal safety and security of victims or survivors of domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse and other similar acts.

The DOH shall provide medical assistance to the victims.

SEC. 7. *Response to Request for Assistance.* – The *barangay* official or law enforcement officer responding to a request for assistance from a victim of domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse shall exercise the following duties:

- a) Respond immediately to a call for help or request for protection of the victim and, with prior consent or demand from the aggrieved senior citizen, enter the senior citizen victim's dwelling, if necessary, for the purpose of removing therefrom or transferring the victim's custody pursuant to this Act whether or not an offender is within plain view;
- b) Confiscate any harmful object in the possession of the offender, or one which is within plain view;
- c) Transport the victim to a *barangay* hall, safe space or shelter, clinic or hospital;
- d) Assist the victim in removing personal belongings from the dwelling;
- e) Ensure the enforcement of the Protection Order issued by the *Lupong Tagapamayapa*, the *Punong Barangay* or the Court;
- f) Arrest the offender even without a warrant or effect a citizen's arrest in accordance with Rule 113, Section 5 of the Revised Penal Code when any of the acts of violence defined in this Act is occurring, or with personal knowledge that an act of violence has been committed, and there is imminent danger to the life or limb of the senior citizen; and
- g) Immediately report the call for assistance to the DSWD, the LGU or accredited non-government organization (NGO).

SEC. 8. *Philippine National Police Protocol.* – The Philippine National Police (PNP) shall adopt a written protocol establishing the guidelines and procedures for law enforcement officers while responding to request for assistance and calls related to domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse.

SEC. 9. *Education and Training Programs.* – All persons involved in responding to cases of domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse, or any threat to the personal safety

and security or any discriminatory act committed against a senior citizen, shall be required to undergo education and training.

The law enforcement agencies, in coordination with the DILG and LGUs, NCSC and the DSWD shall establish education and training programs to assist law enforcement officers and *barangay* officials to enable them to properly handle cases of domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse, and acquaint them with the following:

- a) Nature, extent, and causes of domestic violence against senior citizens or elder abuse;
- b) Legal rights of, and remedies available to victims;
- c) Services and facilities available to victims or survivors;
- d) Duties imposed on law enforcement officers in making lawful arrest and offering protection and assistance; and
- e) Necessary techniques to be employed in handling incidents of domestic violence against a senior citizen to minimize the likelihood of injury to the officer and promote the safety of the victim or survivor.

SEC. 10. *Mandatory Reporting.* – All health care providers and government officers and employees who have actual knowledge or reasonable suspicion of the incident involving domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse and to whom said abuse or violence was reported or revealed in the course of the performance of official duty, shall immediately report the incident to any law enforcement agency within forty-eight (48) hours from knowledge of the same. Investigation shall immediately follow.

The DSWD shall assign a social worker to verify incidents of domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse and file a petition for PO as provided under Section 15 of this Act, if warranted.

SEC. 11. *Establishment of Senior Citizen Help Desk.* – The NCSC, in coordination with the DILG, shall establish a Senior Citizen Help Desk in every *barangay* and police station which shall provide immediate assistance to victim-survivors of domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse.

The Senior Citizen Help Desk may be manned by representatives of the senior citizen sector or by members of a local senior citizen organization designated and authorized by the *Barangay* Council or *Punong Barangay*.

SEC. 12. *Special Prosecution Units.* – The DOJ shall establish special units to handle complaints of domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse, and the prosecution thereof.

SEC. 13. *Venue.* – The Regional Trial Court (RTC) designated as a Family Court shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over cases of domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse. In the absence of such in the place where the offense was committed, the complaint may be filed at any RTC where the offense or any of its elements was committed at the option of the complainant.

SEC. 14. *Protection Orders.* – A Protection Order (PO) is an injunction under this Act that may be requested or issued to prevent further acts of domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse as provided under Section 4 of this Act, and to grant other necessary reliefs. The provisions of the PO shall be enforced by law enforcement agencies. The PO that may be issued under this Act are *Barangay* Protection Order (BPO), Temporary Protection Order (TPO), and Permanent Protection Order (PPO).

The PO issued under this Act may include any or all of the following reliefs:

a) Prohibition of the respondent or offender from threatening to commit, personally or through another, any of the acts enumerated under Sec. 4 of this Act;

b) Whenever applicable, issuance of an order to the respondent or offender to immediately leave the domicile or residence of the petitioner. If personal effects must be removed from the residence, the Court shall direct a law enforcement officer to accompany the respondent to the residence until such time that respondent has gathered all belongings, and to escort the respondent from the residence: Provided, that the victim or the aggrieved party shall likewise be accorded the same protection contemplated herein;

c) Issuance of an order to the respondent to stay away from the petitioner at a distance to be determined by the Court: Provided, That the order shall ensure the physical safety of the petitioner in the residence, place of work and such other places frequented by the petitioner;

d) Prohibition of the respondent from directly or indirectly communicating or contacting the petitioner;

e) Issuance of an order to the proper law enforcement offices to enforce the provisions of this Section;

f) Issuance of an order to the DSWD and the Social Welfare Development Office (SWDO) of the LGU concerned to provide therapy, counseling and other support services to the aggrieved party or parties;

g) Issuance of an order for the restitution for actual damages caused by the violence inflicted, including damage to property, medical expenses, and loss of income; and

h) Other reliefs deemed necessary by the Court for the protection of the petitioner and such other persons who may be in need of the same.

SEC. 15. *Application Process for PO.* – The application for A PO must be in writing, signed and verified under oath by the applicant. If the applicant is not the victim, the application must be accompanied by an affidavit of the applicant attesting to the circumstances of the disclosure of the violence or abuse suffered by the victim and the circumstances of consent, or lack thereof, given by the victim for the filing of the application.

If the disclosure of the address of the aggrieved senior citizen poses danger to that person's life, the applicant shall attest in the application that the victim is residing in the municipality or city over which the Court has territorial jurisdiction, and shall provide a mailing address for the service of the court processes.

The standard application form for PO shall include the following information:

- a) Names and addresses of petitioner and respondent;
- b) Description of relationship between petitioner and respondent, in the case of domestic violence against a senior citizen within the context of Section 4 of this Act;
- c) A statement of the circumstances and the nature of violence or abuse;
- d) Description of the reliefs requested by the petitioner as specified in Section 14 of this Act;
- e) Request for counsel and reasons for such request;
- f) Request for waiver of application fees until hearing; and
- g) Attestation that there is no pending application for a PO in another Court.

Barangay officials and court personnel shall assist applicants in the preparation of the application. Law enforcement officers shall also extend assistance in the application for protection orders in cases brought to their attention.

SEC. 16. *Who May File.* – The following persons may file the petition for a PO:

- a) The offended party;
- b) Any member of the family or household of the victim;
- c) Local social welfare development officers or any accredited social welfare organization;
- d) Law enforcement officer or agent;
- e) Lawyer, counselor, therapist or healthcare provider of the petitioner; and
- f) Any concerned responsible citizen of the community who has personal knowledge of the offense committed.

The filing of application for a PO shall be at no cost to the applicant. An application for a PO filed with the court shall be considered an application for both a TPO and a PPO.

SEC. 17. *Transfer of Residence.* – A petitioner previously granted a BPO under this Act and who desires to relocate to a new residence outside the original city or municipality of residence must apply for a new BPO.

When a court of competent jurisdiction issues a PO and the petitioner transfers to a location outside the issuing court's jurisdiction, such petitioner may seek enforcement of the PO in the new location by submitting a petition for enforcement to the court which has territorial jurisdiction over the place of residence where the petitioner has transferred. The

petition to enforce the order shall include a copy of the previously obtained PO. The respondent shall be notified of the issuance of a new PO.

SEC. 18. *Legal Representation of Applicant for a PO.* – If the petitioner for the PO is requesting for the appointment of a counsel because of lack of economic means to hire a counsel, the Court shall immediately direct the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) who has jurisdiction over the case to represent the petitioner in the hearing on the application sought. The applicant who cannot afford to hire the services of a private counsel or lacks access to family or conjugal resources such as when the same are controlled by the offender spouse, shall qualify for legal representation by the DOJ, the Public Prosecutors Office or the PAO. However, a private counsel offering free legal service is not barred from representing the petitioner with the consent of the petitioner, and with the leave of Court.

SEC. 19. *Barangay Protection Order.* – A *Barangay Protection Order (BPO)* is issued by the *Lupong Tagapamayapa* and the *Punong Barangay*.

The issuance of a BPO or the pendency of an application for a BPO shall not preclude the petitioner from applying for the Court from granting a TPO or PPO. Application for a BPO shall follow the Rules on venue under the Local Government Code of 1991 and its implementing rules and regulations.

A *Punong Barangay* who receives application for a BPO shall issue the PO to the applicant on the date of filing after *ex parte* determination of the basis of the application. If the *Punong Barangay* is unavailable to act on the application for a BPO, the application shall be acted upon by any available *Barangay Kagawad*: *Provided*, That if the BPO is issued by a *Barangay Kagawad*, the order must be accompanied by an attestation by the *Barangay Kagawad* that the *Punong Barangay* is unavailable at the time for the issuance of the BPO. A BPO issued by the *Punong Barangay* and *Barangay Kagawad* covers the relief provided in Section 14 of this Act and is effective for fifteen (15) days. Immediately after the issuance of an *ex parte* BPO, the *Punong Barangay* or *Kagawad* shall personally serve copy of the same to the respondent, or direct any barangay official to personally serve the order.

Within forty-eight (48) hours of issuance of an *ex parte* BPO, the *Punong Barangay* or *Barangay Kagawad* must refer the case to the *Lupong Tagapamayapa*.

Notice of the hearing shall be given to both parties. Subsequent to a hearing on the merits of the application, the *Lupong Tagapamayapa* may extend a BPO for a period of six (6) months. The issuance of a BPO shall not preclude any applicant from applying or receiving a subsequent BPO concerning the same matter.

SEC. 20. *Temporary Protection Order.* – A Temporary Protection Order (TPO) may be issued by a Court prior to the issuance of a Permanent Protection Order (PPO) and shall be based on an application under Section 15 of this Act. Any application for TPO or PPO must be made with the RTC, Metropolitan Trial Court, Municipal Trial Court or Municipal Circuit Trial Court with territorial jurisdiction over the place of residence of the offended family or the senior citizen victim who suffered violence described under Section 4 of this Act: *Provided*, That if a Family Court exists in the place of residence of the person for whom the application is made, the application shall be filed with that Court.

Upon receipt of an application for a PO, the court shall:

a) Issue a TPO on the date of the filing of the application for ex parte determination that such order shall be issued;

b) Schedule a hearing on the issuance of a PPO prior to or on the date of expiration of the TPO; and

c) Order the immediate service of the TPO to the respondent by the court sheriff who may obtain the assistance of law enforcement officers for the purpose.

The TPO shall include a notice of hearing on the merits of the issuance of PPO and shall be effective for thirty (30) days.

SEC. 21. *Permanent Protection Order.* – A Permanent Protection Order (PPO) may be issued only by the Court after due notice and hearing.

Any application for TPO or PPO must be made with the RTC, Metropolitan Trial Court, Municipal Trial Court or Municipal Circuit Trial Court with territorial jurisdiction over their place of residence of the offended family or the abused senior citizen who suffered violence described under Section 4 of the Act: Provided, That if a Family Court exists in the place of residence of the person for whom the application is made, the application shall be filed with that Court.

Respondent's non-appearance despite proper notice, or lack of a lawyer, or the non-availability of respondent's lawyer shall not be a ground for rescheduling or postponing the hearing on the merits of the issuance of a PPO. If the respondent appears without counsel on the date of the hearing on the PPO, the Court shall appoint a lawyer for the respondent and immediately proceed with the hearing. In case the respondent fails to appear despite proper notice, the Court shall allow *ex parte* presentation of the evidence by the applicant and render judgment on the basis of the evidence presented. The Court shall allow the introduction of any history of abusive conduct of a respondent even if the same was not directed against the applicant or the person for whom the application is made.

The court shall, to extent possible, conduct the hearing on the merits of the issuance of a PPO in one (1) day. Where the court is unable to conduct the hearing within one (1) day and the TPO issued is due to expire, the court shall continuously extend or renew the TPO for the duration of the case until final judgment is issued: *Provided, however,* That the PPO may be modified by the Court accordingly to address the needs of the applicant.

The Court may grant any, some, or all of the reliefs provided in the PPO under Section 15 of this Act. A PPO shall be effective until revoked by a Court upon application of the person in whose favor the order was issued. The Court shall ensure immediate service of the PPO on respondent.

Issuance of a PO may not be denied on the basis of the lapse of time between the act of domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse, and the filing of the application.

Regardless of the conviction or acquittal of the respondent, the Court must determine whether or not the PPO is final. Even in a dismissal, a PPO may still be granted as long as there is proof that the act or acts complained of still exist.

Failure to act on an application for a PO within the period specified in the previous sections without justifiable cause shall render the *Lupong Tagapamayapa*, the *Punong Barangay* or the *Barangay Kagawad*, the Official or Judge administratively liable.

SEC. 22. *Priority Action on PO Application.* – Hearings on applications for a PO under this Act shall have priority over all other proceedings. *Barangay* officials, *Lupong Tagapamayapa* and the courts shall schedule and conduct hearings on applications for a PO under this Act above all other business and, if necessary, suspend other proceedings in order to hear applications for a PO. Respondents shall be notified of the issuance of a PO.

SEC. 23. *Prohibited Acts.* – It shall be unlawful for a *Lupong Tagapamayapa*, *Punong Barangay*, or the court hearing an application for a PO to order, direct, force or in any way influence the applicant of a PO in the application of a PO or to compromise or abandon any of the reliefs sought in the application. Violation of this Section shall render the concerned individuals, official or Judge administratively liable.

SEC. 24. *Violation of Protection Order.* – A complaint on the violation of a BPO issued under this Act shall be filed directly with any Municipal Trial Court, Metropolitan Trial Court, or Municipal Circuit Trial Court that has territorial jurisdiction over the *barangay* that issued the BPO. Violation of a BPO shall be punishable by imprisonment of thirty (30) days without prejudice to any other criminal or civil action that the offended party may file for any of the acts committed under Section 4 of this Act.

A judgment on a violation of a BPO may be appealed in accordance with the Rules of Court. During trial and upon judgment, the trial court may *motu proprio* issue a PO as it deems necessary without need of an application.

A violation of any provision of a TPO or a PPO issued under this Act shall constitute as contempt of Court punishable under the Rules of Court, without prejudice to any other criminal or civil action that the offended party may file for any of the acts committed in accordance with Section 4 hereof.

Any violation of a PO issued under this Act shall constitute an offense punishable by imprisonment of thirty (30) days, without prejudice to any criminal or civil action that the offended party may file against a person who has committed any acts described in Section 4 of this Act.

The complainant may file a complaint on a PO violation directly with the Court that issued the order, or with that Court in the place of residence of the complainant, if the former is not practicable. A criminal case for violation of a PO shall be tried and resolved by the Court within sixty (60) days from the date the complaint was filed. The Court, upon determination of probable cause, shall cause the arrest of the accused who may post bail in the interim in an amount to be determined by the Court.

A judgement on a violation of a PO may be appealed according to the Rules of Criminal Procedure. During trial and upon judgement, the Court may *motu proprio* issue a PO as it deems necessary.

SEC. 25. *Hold Departure Order.* – A hold departure order shall be issued immediately by the Court against the respondent in cases prosecuted under this Act.

SEC. 26. *Penalties.* – Acts falling under Section 4 (a) constituting attempted, frustrated or consummated parricide or murder or homicide shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Penal Code.

Acts falling under Section 4 resulting in mutilation shall be punishable in accordance with the Revised Penal Code: *Provided*, That acts resulting in:

- a) Serious physical injuries shall be punishable with the penalty of *prision mayor*;
- b) Less serious physical injuries shall be punishable by *prison correccional*; and
- c) Slight physical injuries shall be punishable by *arresto mayor*.

All other acts enumerated in Section 4 shall be punishable by *prison correccional* and a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00).

In addition to these penalties, a person found guilty of any of the acts enumerated in Section 4 of this Act shall be required to undergo mandatory psychological counseling or psychiatric treatment and shall report compliance therewith to the court.

A *Barangay* Official or law enforcement officer who fails to respond to any request for assistance or protection from or on behalf of a victim of domestic violence against a senior citizen or elder abuse under this Act shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment not less than six (6) months but not more than one (1) year, at the discretion of the Court and pay a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00), but not more than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00), without prejudice to the institution of applicable administrative charges.

Any person who has personal knowledge or has witnessed the commission of the offense described in Section 4 of this Act and fails to report the same shall be liable for a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00), without prejudice to the institution of applicable administrative charges.

SEC. 27. *Programs and Interventions.* – To ensure that the rights and welfare of senior citizens are protected, the NCSC shall develop and implement the following:

- a) Establish a clear advocacy or information programs to increase public awareness and minimize risks of neglect, domestic violence and elder abuse against senior citizens;
- b) Include training on the prevention, detection and management of social problems of senior citizens among healthcare professionals and law enforcement officers, specifically on the handling of elder abuse cases;
- c) Encourage the development and utilization of resources that provide in-home services, respite care, and stress reduction with high-risk families;

d) Prioritize the enactment of measures that provide social protection to the elderly and reduce their socio-economic and political disparities;

e) Initiate or enhance existing programs and services for senior citizens that are gender-responsive, rights-based, and culture-sensitive to ensure that specific needs and concerns of senior citizens are identified and addressed: and

f) Review school curricula and teaching modules through the DepEd and CHED to highlight the importance of family values, filial piety, and respect for the elderly.

SEC. 28. *Counseling and Treatment of Offenders.* – The NCSC and the DSWD shall provide rehabilitation counseling and treatment of offenders towards learning constructive ways of coping with anger and emotional outburst. The offender shall be ordered by the Court to submit to psychiatric treatment or confinement when necessary.

SEC. 29. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DSWD in coordination with the Chairperson of the National Commission on Senior Citizens, Secretaries of Justice, the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Health shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 30. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the departments or agencies concerned. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The LGUs concerned may provide the necessary funds for purposes under this Act charged against its respective local fund.

SEC. 31. *Suppletory Application.* – For purposes of this Act, the Revised Penal Code and other applicable laws, shall have suppletory application.

SEC. 32. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 33. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, ordinances, administrative order, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 34. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,