

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

**TWENTIETH (20<sup>th</sup>) CONGRESS**  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House Bill No. **2057**



---

**Introduced by**  
**Rep. ROBERT NAZAL**

---

**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8425, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL**  
**REFORM AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

On November 4, 2000, then President Joseph Estrada signed Republic Act 8972, otherwise known as the Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000, which formally recognized solo parent families as an integral part of Philippine society. The law included provisions that will protect and uplift solo parent families including promotion of their overall welfare.

On June 4, 2022, before the end of the term of then President Rodrigo Duterte, Republic Act 11861, otherwise known as the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2022, lapsed into law, allowing for more inclusivity and enhanced protection mechanisms and programs for solo parent families.

According to the DSWD Listahanan, which is the Departments' system for identifying poor families, there are 26,211 solo parent families in the database from Metro Manila alone. If this is the state of solo parent families in Metro Manila, what more for those living in the provinces and far-flung areas of our country?

We pass laws in this country that are often neglected or never revisited to ensure that it still serves the purpose for which it was initially crafted for. Through this representation, we aim to align the older RA 8425 with the more recent and substantial RA 8972 and RA 11861.

Republic Act No. 8425, known as the "Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act," was established to tackle poverty and enhance social welfare among marginalized and disadvantaged groups in our society. In light of the changing social dynamics and the distinctive challenges that various family structures face today, it is imperative to amend this law to explicitly include solo parents within the basic sector framework.

One of the most compelling reasons is there is a need to acknowledgment diverse family units in Philippine society today. Despite the passage of law 25 years ago, many solo parent families still have to confront discrimination and trauma in the community and the workplace. The rise in solo parent households is a reflection of our evolving society. By formally recognizing solo parents as part of the basic sector, we validate their vital contributions to both the family and the community, fostering inclusivity that is essential for social progress.

This amendment likewise addresses the unique challenges of solo parent families through the inclusion of a sectoral representative to the NAPC. Solo parents experience a myriad of challenges, including financial instability, overwhelming childcare responsibilities, and limited access to essential support services. These hurdles frequently lead to higher incidences of poverty and social isolation. Including solo parents within this framework will enable the government to implement tailored interventions that mitigate these issues and enhance their well-being.

The proposed amendment aligns with international commitments to uphold the rights and welfare of diverse family structures, as outlined by global organizations such as the United Nations. This alignment underscores our nation's dedication to social justice and equity, reinforcing the importance of supporting every family type in our society.

By amending RA 8425 to encompass solo parents, we can facilitate the provision of specialized social services that address their unique needs, such as financial aid, childcare support, and healthcare access. This focused approach will empower solo parents, enabling them to make meaningful contributions to both their families and the economy.

Finally, amending RA 8425 to include solo parents in the basic sector is not just important, it is vital and timely for promoting social equity and addressing the specific challenges this group faces daily. This amendment represents our unwavering commitment to supporting all family structures and ensuring that no family is left behind in our quest for social reform and poverty alleviation. By taking this essential step, we can cultivate a more inclusive society that values and uplifts the significant contributions of solo parents.

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

  
**Rep. ROBERT NAZAL**  
Bagong Henerasyon Party-List

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

**TWENTIETH (20<sup>th</sup>) CONGRESS**  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House Bill No. **2057**

---

**Introduced by**  
**Rep. ROBERT NAZAL**

---

**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8425, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL**  
**REFORM AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

*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 “Amended Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act.”

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

It is the declared policy of the State to uphold social justice and human dignity by promoting an equitable distribution of wealth and resources, ensuring inclusive growth, and empowering the basic sectors of society. The State recognizes the urgent need to institutionalize a comprehensive, integrated, and sustainable social reform and poverty alleviation program that strengthens the capacity of the basic sectors to participate meaningfully in governance, development, and nation-building.

Towards this end, the government shall adopt a rights-based, pro-poor, and participatory approach to poverty alleviation, placing at the forefront the voices and needs of the disadvantaged and marginalized. It shall prioritize programs and services that are

responsive to the distinct conditions of the basic sectors, including but not limited to the farmer-peasant, artisanal fisherfolk, formal and informal workers, indigenous peoples, women, senior citizens, differently-abled persons, solo parents, youth and students, children, urban poor, and victims of calamities and disasters.

The State likewise affirms its commitment to decentralization by strengthening the role of local government units in implementing the National Anti-Poverty Action Agenda, in partnership with duly accredited representatives of the basic sectors and civil society.

### **SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS.**

As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- A. Basic sectors - refer to the disadvantaged sectors of Philippine society, namely: farmer-peasant, artisanal fisherfolk, workers in the formal sector and migrant workers, workers in the informal sector, indigenous peoples and cultural communities, women, differently-abled persons, senior citizens, victims of calamities and disasters, youth and students, children, urban poor, and solo parent families
- B. Solo Parent - refers to an individual who qualifies as a solo parent under Republic Act No. 11861 and its implementing rules and regulations
- C. Micro-enterprise – refers any economic enterprise with a capital of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P150,000) and below. This amount is subject to periodic determination of the Department of Trade and Industry to reflect economic changes
- D. Youth - refers to persons fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years old

**SECTION 4.** Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8425 is amended to read as follows:

“The SRA shall focus on the following sector-specific flagship programs:

- 1. For farmers and landless rural workers – agricultural development;
- 2. For the fisherfolk - fisheries and aquatic resources conservation, management and development;
- 3. For the indigenous peoples and indigenous communities - respect, protection and management of the ancestral domains;
- 4. For workers in the informal sector - workers' welfare and protection;
- 5. **FOR SOLO PARENT FAMILIES - PROPER IMPLEMENTATION AND EASY ACCESS TO BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS OUTLINED UNDER RA 8972 AND RA 11861;**
- 6. For the urban poor - socialized housing; and

7. For members of other disadvantaged groups such as the women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and victims of natural and man-made calamities – the Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services (CIDSS).

**SECTION 5.** Section 7 of Republic Act No. 8425 is amended to read as follows:

- a. SEC. 7. Powers and Functions. – The NAPC shall exercise the following powers and functions:

X X X

8. **ASSIST BASIC SECTORS IN THE FILING OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THOSE WHO VIOLATE THEIR RIGHTS AS PROVIDED BY LAW;**
9. **MONITOR THE ACTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO ENSURE THAT MEANINGFUL REPRESENTATION AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE BASIC SECTORS IS UPHELD.**

X X X

**SECTION 6.** Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8425 is amended to read as follows:

“Section 8. Principal Office. – The NAPC shall establish its principal office in Metro Manila and **SHALL** [~~may~~] establish such branches within the Philippines **SUPPORTED BY THE** [~~as may be deemed necessary by the~~] President of the Philippines to carry out the powers and functions of the NAPC.”

**SECTION 7.** Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8425 is amended to read as follows:

“Section 10. The People's Development Trust Fund. – The People's Development Trust Fund (PDTF) is hereby established, which shall be monitored by the NAPC.

The Trust Fund in the amount of **SEVEN BILLION PESOS (P7,000,000,000)** [~~Four billion and five hundred million pesos (P4,500,000,000)~~] shall be funded from the earnings of the PAGCOR in addition to appropriations by Congress, voluntary contributions, grants, gifts from both local and foreign sources as may be accepted or decided on by the NAPC. Any additional amount to the Trust Fund shall form part of the corpus of the Trust Fund, unless the donor, contributor or grantor expressly provides as a condition that the amount be included in the disburseable portion of the Trust Fund.

X X X

**SECTION 8.** Section 12 of the same Act is likewise amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12. The Role of Local Government Units (LGUs). – The local government units, through the local development councils of the province, city, municipality, or barangay shall be responsible for the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Anti-Poverty Action Agenda in their respective jurisdictions, **PROVIDED THAT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS HAVE A REPRESENTATION OF BASIC SECTORS, WHICH ARE CATEGORIZED AS NGOS OR PEOPLE’S ORGANIZATIONS THAT FUNCTION WITH AUTONOMY FROM THE LGU.**

The LGUs together with basic sector representatives shall:

x x x

- d. Coordinate and submit progress reports to the National Anti-Poverty Commission **AND TO CONGRESS** regarding their local action programs.

x x x

**SECTION 9.** Section 14 of the same Act is likewise amended to read as follows:

SECTION. 14. People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC). – The People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC), a government-controlled corporation registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and created in accordance with Administrative Order No. 148 and Memorandum Order No. 261, shall be the vehicle for the delivery of microfinance services for the exclusive use of **THE BASIC SECTORS** [pøøø]. As a government-owned and controlled corporation, it shall be the lead government entity specifically tasked to mobilize financial resources from both local and international funding sources for microfinance services for the exclusive use of the poor.

**SECTION 10.** Section 16 of the same Act is likewise amended to read as follows:

SECTION. 16. Special Credit Windows in Existing Government Financing Institutions (GFIs). – The existing government financial institutions shall provide for the savings and credit needs of the poor. The GFIs such as the Land Bank of the Philippines, Philippine Postal Bank, Al Amanah Bank, OFW Bank, and the Development Bank of the Philippines are hereby mandated to coordinate with NAPC and PCFC in setting up special credit windows and other arrangements, such as the servicing of Small Savers Instruments (SSIs), that will promote the microfinance program of this Act.

The private financing institutions may also provide the savings and credit requirements of the poor by setting up similar credit windows and other arrangements to promote the savings component of the microfinance program of this Act.

Special credit windows [~~for the poor shall, as far as practicable,~~] shall include an allocation for the basic sectors, as defined in this Act, particularly those living in the rural areas, agrarian reform communities, and women in the countryside.

#### **SECTION 11. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.**

If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

#### **SECTION 12. REPEALING CLAUSE.**

All laws, executive orders, proclamations, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

#### **SECTION 13. EFFECTIVITY.**

This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*