

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH (20th) CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House Bill No. **2059**



Introduced by
Rep. ROBERT NAZAL

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11861, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT
GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO SOLO PARENTS, OR THE EXPANDED
SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

During the campaign period for the 2025 midterm elections, the Bagong Henerasyon Party-List had the chance to consult face-to-face with a number of solo parents, solo parent organizations, and LGUs across the country. With these interactions, it became increasingly clear that amendments to Republic Act No. 11861, otherwise known as the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2022, must be a part of the priority legislative agenda of the 20th Congress.

Despite the existence of RA 8972 and RA 11861, there are persistent challenges encountered by the sector particularly in the areas of implementation and interpretation. These proposed amendments are designed to confront these challenges and align legislation with the current needs of solo parent families to ensure relevance and effectiveness of the law.

We have laid the crucial foundation for solo parent families to enjoy protection and empowerment from the government. However, feedbacks from stakeholders demonstrate significant shortcomings that prevent solo parent families from experiencing the full potentials of the law.

To date, many solo parents and their children still do not enjoy the benefits of full scholarship, housing, medical care programs, and discounts. Only a handful of the barangays nationwide have implemented the Barangay Solo Parent Help Desk. Verily, the establishment of the Solo Parent Office in cities and Solo Parent Division in municipalities has been found lacking.

In fact, we received reports of some barangay officials and local chief executives exerting undue influence in the selection of solo parent officers and leaders in their jurisdiction. Considering that solo parent organizations fall under the category of NGOs/CSOs or People's Organization, these meddling are in violation of Section 16, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution that provides for the right of the people and organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making;

It likewise goes against the intentions of Executive Order 31 of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., which institutionalizes the Philippine Open Government Partnership (OGP) where the Philippines is one of the eight founding members of a broad international

partnership that includes members from national and local governments, and civil society organizations (CSOs).

In addition, the rampant misinformation and misinterpretation of the law has created not only confusion, but alienation of legitimate solo parents that prevent them from receiving the benefits and protection of the law.

It took 22 years to make corrective measures to RA 11861. We should not wait another 22 years to ensure that proper implementation of RA 11861 must be achieved. With the passage of these amendments, we are confident that there will be greater clarity and accessibility in the law, empowering stakeholders to fully understand and comply with its provisions.

With the empowerment of solo parent families and solo parent organizations come their increased effectiveness and contribution to nation-building. These amendments are intended to create a proactive approach to the issues faced by solo parent families and the implementation challenges encountered by national agencies and LGUs as a whole.

These amendments to RA 11861 are not mere cosmetic revisions; they represent a pivotal step forward in creating a more responsive and effective legislative environment. As we work together to elevate our legislative framework and better serve our community, we owe it to the solo parent sector to ensure that they truly benefit from the laws that we pass on their behalf.

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



Rep. ROBERT NAZAL
Bagong Henerasyon Partylist

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 11861, entitled “Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act.”, is amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 1. TITLE. – This Act shall be known as the “Enhanced Benefits and Help for Solo Parent Families Act.”

SECTION 2. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 11861 is amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. – As used in this Act:

X X X

- (G) **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION (CSO) – REFERS TO A NON-PROFIT, NON-STATE ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO IMPROVING SOCIETY AND THE HUMAN CONDITION. CSOS ARE INDEPENDENT ENTITIES THAT OPERATE OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THEY CAN INCLUDE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS), PEOPLE’S ORGANIZATIONS, COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER GROUPS THAT WORK TOWARDS SHARED GOALS AND INTERESTS;**
- (H) **CO-PARENTING – REFERS TO THE SHARING OF PARENTAL AUTHORITY, PROVISION OF FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL SUPPORT BY A PERSON NOT RELATED UP TO THE FOURTH CIVIL DEGREE OF AFFINITY OR CONSANGUINITY TO THE SOLO PARENT OR THE CHILD OR DEPENDENT;**
- (I) **PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY – REFERS TO THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PARENTS AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 220 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 209, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, WITHOUT**

REGARD WHETHER ANY RELATIVE UP TO THE FOURTH CIVIL DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY IS PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT;

- (J) PERSONS WITH DISABILITY – REFER TO THOSE DEFINED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT 7277 AND REPUBLIC ACT 10754, AS EVIDENCED BY A PWD ID;**
- (K) PSA CERTIFICATION – REFERS TO A PRINTED OR DIGITAL DOCUMENT DULY AUTHENTICATED BY THE PSA ESTABLISHING THE ELIGIBILITY OF AN APPLICANT TO BE ISSUED A SOLO PARENT ID;**
- (L) SINGLE PARENTS – REFER TO THOSE WHO ARE SOLO PARENTS BUT WITH DEPENDENTS OR CHILDREN WHO ARE WITHIN THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF A YOUTH, BUT ARE OLDER THAN TWENTY-TWO (22) YEARS OLD, AND ARE STILL STUDYING, OR IN THE PROCESS OF SECURING EMPLOYMENT, OR ESTABLISHING A MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD. PROVIDED, THAT ONLY SPECIFIC BENEFITS CAN BE AVAILED TO ALLOW THE YOUTH TO FINISH STUDY, GAIN LIVELIHOOD, OR SECURE HOUSING;**
- (M) SOLO PARENT HELP DESK – REFERS TO A SYSTEM ESTABLISHED IN ALL BARANGAYS TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO ALL SOLO PARENT FAMILIES WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION. THE HELP DESK SHALL BE MANNED BY THE KAGAWAD-IN-CHARGE OF THE GAD OR THE COMMITTEE ON FAMILY TOGETHER WITH THE SOLO PARENT PRESIDENT OR OFFICER IN THE BARANGAY;**
- (N) SOLO PARENT EMPLOYEE – REFERS TO ANY SOLO PARENT PAID TO PERFORM SPECIFIC DUTIES EITHER IN THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR REGARDLESS OF DESIGNATION, RANK, OR EMPLOYMENT STATUS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THOSE IDENTIFIED AS JOB ORDERS, CONTRACT OF SERVICE, AND OTHER SIMILAR POSITIONS THAT MAY BE DESIGNATED NOW OR IN THE FUTURE;**
- (O) SOLO PARENT ORGANIZATION OFFICERS – REFER TO SOLO PARENTS WITH A VALID SOLO PARENT IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED BY THE LGU SOLO PARENT OFFICE OR SOLO PARENT DIVISION WHERE THE SOLO PARENT RESIDES;**
- (P) SOLO PARENT ORGANIZATIONS OR ASSOCIATIONS – REFER TO CSOS THAT HAVE A PRESENCE IN THE BARANGAY OR LGU WHERE SOLO PARENT MEMBERS RESIDE;**
- (Q) SOLO PARENT SUPPORT FUND – REFERS TO AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OPEN TO ALL LGUS TO AUGMENT THEIR FINANCIAL CAPABILITY IN ORDER TO HELP THEM IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS AND AFFORD THE BENEFITS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT 8972, REPUBLIC ACT 11861, AND THIS ACT;**

(R) YOUTHS ARE THOSE DEFINED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT 8044, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE YOUTH IN NATION-BUILDING ACT.

SECTION 3. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11861 is hereby amended and a new provision is inserted to read as follows:

“SECTION 4. CATEGORIES OF SOLO PARENT. – A solo parent refers to any individual who falls under any of the following categories:

X X X

- (a) A parent who provides sole parental care and support of the child or children due to –

X X X

- (4) Physical or mental incapacity of the spouse as certified by a public or private medical practitioner; **PROVIDED, THAT THE INCAPACITY IS SUBSTANTIAL ENOUGH TO PREVENT PROPER EXECUTION OF PARENTAL AUTHORITY;**

X X X

- (e) Any relative within fourth (4th) civil degree of consanguinity or affinity of the parent or legal guardian who assumes parental care and support of the child or children as a result of the death, abandonment, disappearance or absence of the parents or solo parent for at least six (6) months: Provided, That in cases of grandparents, **WHO MAY OR MAY NOT BE MARRIED**, who are senior citizens but who have the sole parental care and support over their grandchildren who are unmarried, or unemployed and twenty-two (22) years old or below, or those twenty-two (22) years old or over but who are unable to fully take care or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition, they shall be entitled to the benefits of this Act in addition to the benefits granted to them by Republic Act No. 9257, otherwise known as the ‘Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003’; **PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT PWDS WHO QUALIFY AS SOLO PARENTS SHALL LIKEWISE BE ENTITLED TO THE BENEFITS OF THIS ACT IN ADDITION TO THE BENEFITS GRANTED TO THEM BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10754;**

SECTION 4. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11861 is amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 5. COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES. – A comprehensive package of social protection services for solo parents and their families shall be developed by the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in coordination with the heads of the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Department of Justice (DOJ), National Housing Authority (NHA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department

of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), local government units (LGUs) and other concerned nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) with recognized credentials in providing services for solo parents.

The DSWD shall coordinate with the concerned agencies the implementation of the comprehensive package of social protection services for solo parents and their families. The package shall initially include:

(a) x x x;

(b) x x x;

(c) x x x ;

(d) x x x; and

(e) Targeted interventions for individuals in need of protection which include temporary shelter, counseling, legal advice and assistance, medical care, self-concept or ego-building, crisis management, spiritual nourishment, **OSAEC AND CYBER SAFETY PROGRAMS, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS, FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION.**”

SECTION 5. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 11861 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 8. PARENTAL LEAVE – In addition to leave privileges under existing laws, a forfeitable and noncumulative parental leave of not more than seven (7) working days with pay every year shall be granted to any solo parent employee, regardless of employment status, **INCLUDING JOB ORDERS, CONTRACT OF SERVICE, AND ANY OTHER EXISTING TITLE OR THAT MAY BE CREATED IN THE FUTURE**, who has rendered service of at least six (6) months: Provided, That the parental leave benefit may be availed of by the solo parent employees in the government and the private sector, **IN ANY CALENDAR YEAR, AND CANNOT BE DENIED AS LONG AS PROPER NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE EMPLOYER: PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE PARENTAL LEAVE BENEFIT MAY BE AVAILED BY THE QUALIFIED SOLO PARENT WITHOUT NEEDING TO STATE THE REASON FOR ITS USAGE.**”

SECTION 6. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 11861 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 8. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS. – The DepEd, CHED, and TESDA shall provide scholarship programs for solo parents and a full scholarship for one (1) child of a solo parent in public and private institutions of basic, higher and technical vocational skills education: *Provided*, That DepEd, CHED, and TESDA shall set scholarship standards based primarily on their status as solo parents or children of solo parents before any academic requirements: *Provided, further*, That the other children, if any, of a solo parent shall be given priority in the education programs under Republic Act No. 10687, otherwise known as the ‘Unified Student Financial Assistance System for

Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Act’, Republic Act No. 10931 otherwise known as the ‘Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act’, and other laws relating to education programs of the government. Non-formal education programs appropriate for solo parents and their children may, likewise be provided.

SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN SHALL BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN AVAILING OF REPUBLIC ACT 11509, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “DOCTOR PARA SA BAYAN ACT”, AND OTHER EDUCATION RELATED ACTS THAT MAY BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FUTURE.

SOLO PARENTS AND CHILDREN OF SOLO PARENTS STUDYING IN ALL STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES SHALL BE GIVEN PRIORITY TO ANY DORMITORY PRIVILEGES OFFERED BY THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.

OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WITH EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE OR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS SHALL ALLOCATE 10% OF ALL AVAILABLE SLOTS FOR SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN.

LGUS SHALL ALLOT 10% OF ALL SCHOLARSHIPS AND EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ALL QUALIFIED SOLO PARENTS AND SINGLE PARENTS WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION.

For purposes of this section, the children OR DEPENDENTS MUST BE RELIANT ON THE SOLO PARENT FOR SUPPORT, UNMARRIED, UNEMPLOYED, AND TWENTY-TWO (22) YEARS OF AGE OR BELOW, OR ARE CATEGORIZED AS YOUTHS.

~~[The DepEd, CHED, and TESDA shall promulgate rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this program.]~~

IN CASE THE SOLO PARENT OR SINGLE PARENT NO LONGER BECOMES ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP, THE CHILD OR DEPENDENT SHALL BE ALLOWED TO COMPLETE THE EDUCATION WITHIN THE ALLOTTED TIMEFRAME OF THE COURSE PLUS A GRACE PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.

SECTION 7. Section 15 of Republic Act No. 11861 is amended to read as follows:

“Section 15. Additional Benefits is hereby amended as follows:

X X X

- (F) SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN SHALL ENJOY 20% DISCOUNT ON ALL MEDICAL SERVICES INCLUDING DENTAL, DIAGNOSTIC, AND OTHER MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS: FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE SOLO PARENT IDENTIFICATION CARD AND SOLO PARENT BOOKLET MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT WHERE THE DISCOUNT WILL BE AVAILED;**
- (G) AN ADDITIONAL 10% DISCOUNT SHALL BE GIVEN TO SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN ON THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ANY AND ALL TRANSACTIONS/PURCHASES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO UTILITY BILLS, TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED**

COSTS, TUITION FEES, AND OTHERS, UPON PRESENTATION OF A VALID SOLO PARENT IDENTIFICATION CARD ONLY.

BUSINESSES, CORPORATIONS, AND OTHER ENTITIES PROVIDING SUCH DISCOUNTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION SHALL BE ALLOWED TO CLAIM THESE AS BUSINESS EXPENSE SUBJECT TO PROPER RECORDING AND DOCUMENTATION. IN INSTANCES WHERE ESTABLISHMENTS PROVIDE A HIGHER DISCOUNT, THE HIGHER DISCOUNT SHALL PREVAIL.

- (H) IN ORDER TO LESSEN THE TRAUMA AND DISCRIMINATION EXPERIENCED BY THOSE ABANDONED AND SEPARATED, AND MINIMIZE INSTANCES OF CHILDREN OUT OF WEDLOCK, SOLO PARENTS UNDER THIS CATEGORY AND ISSUED A SOLO PARENT IDENTIFICATION CARD FOR AT LEAST THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS SHALL BE ALLOWED TO FILE FOR A NULLITY OF MARRIAGE WITH THE PROPER COURTS OR GOVERNMENT BODY FREE OF CHARGE, NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVAL, BUT TO LEGALIZE THE STATUS OF THEIR MARRIAGE AS ANNULLED AND ALLOW FOR PROPER DIVISION OF PROPERTIES, IF ANY, AND DEFINITIVE EXTENT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHILDREN.**

WOMEN COVERED BY THIS PROVISION SHALL BE ALLOWED TO IMMEDIATELY USE THEIR MAIDEN SURNAME UPON RELEASE OF THE ORDER OF DECLARING THE MARRIAGE ANNULLED FROM THE COURT OR GOVERNMENT BODY.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACT, SUCH ORDER DECLARING THE MARRIAGE NULL AND VOID MUST BE RELEASED WITHIN A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF FILING AND SHALL BE FINAL AND EXECUTORY.

- (I) ANY AND ALL DEROGATORY ACTS TOWARDS CHILDREN OF SOLO PARENTS EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY SHALL BE COVERED BY THE PROVISIONS OF RA 7610 AND OTHER PERTINENT LAWS INTENDED FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.**

WHEN THE OFFENDER IS A MINOR, CUSTODY SHALL BE REMANDED TO THE DSWD FOR COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN THIRTY DAYS.

WHEN THE OFFENDER IS THE PARENT AND/OR RELATIVE OR ANY OTHER ADULT, THE PENALTY SHALL BE ONE DEGREE HIGHER THAN WHAT IS PRESCRIBED IN THE APPROPRIATE LAW.

- (J) CHILDREN OR DEPENDENTS OF SOLO PARENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SHALL BE GIVEN PRIORITY ATTENTION IN ALL GOVERNMENT-RUN HOSPITALS OR CENTERS FREE OF CHARGE. IN INSTANCES WHEREIN SPECIALIZED TREATMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT AVAILABLE, PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDERS SHALL GIVE AT LEAST 30% DISCOUNT ON THE TOTAL BILL INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL FEES, IF ANY;**

(K) ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ESTABLISHMENTS AND AGENCIES SHALL INCLUDE A PRIORITY LANE FOR SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN TO FACILITATE WHATEVER TRANSACTIONS THEY MAY HAVE;

(L) ONE PERCENT OF THE MANDATORY FIVE PERCENT ALLOCATED FROM THE GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT FUND OF THE BARANGAY, CITY, MUNICIPALITY, PROVINCE, AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SHALL BE ALLOCATED EXPLICITLY FOR SOLO PARENT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS LIKE THE CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL SOLO PARENTS WEEK AND NATIONAL SOLO PARENTS DAY AS PRESCRIBED UNDER RA 11861.

SECTION 8. Section 16 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

“SECTION 16. LIMITATION AND TERMINATION OF THE BENEFITS OF A SOLO PARENT. – Only a solo parent exercising sole parental care and support of the child or children is entitled to claim the benefits of solo parent under this Act: Provided, That a solo parent shall not lose his or her status as solo parent if the other parent or any other relative up to the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity provides any amount of financial support: Provided, further, That the absence of a valid and legal marriage between the mother and father of a child or dependent does not automatically entitle either individual to the benefits under this Act if the factual circumstances demonstrate that parental care and support are shared.

~~[When a solo parent, as defined under this Act, ceases to be such by reason of change of status and circumstances, the said solo parent shall be ineligible to avail of the benefits under this Act.]~~

ONLY ONE PARENT SHALL BE ALLOWED TO APPLY AS A SOLO PARENT REGARDLESS WHETHER THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILDREN IS DIVIDED AMONG THEM.

WHEN A SOLO PARENT, AS DEFINED UNDER THIS ACT, CEASES TO BE SUCH BY REASON OF:

- 1. REMARRYING OR COHABITING WITH ANOTHER PERSON, INCLUDING THOSE WITH THE SAME SEX; OR**
- 2. THERE ARE NO ELIGIBLE CHILDREN OR DEPENDENTS AS DEFINED UNDER THIS ACT; OR**
- 3. CO-PARENTING AS DEFINED UNDER THIS ACT EXISTS.**

THE SAID SOLO PARENT SHALL BE INELIGIBLE TO AVAIL OF THE BENEFITS UNDER THIS ACT. FURTHERMORE, IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO BE DISQUALIFIED AS A SOLO PARENTS OUTSIDE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED REASONS.”

SECTION 9. Section 17 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

“SECTION 17. THE SOLO PARENTS OFFICE OR DIVISION. – There shall be established a Solo Parent Office (SPO) in every province and city and a

Solo Parent Division (SPD) under the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office in every municipality.

The head of the SPO must be a licensed social worker and the head of the SPD must possess a bachelor's degree.

The head of the SPO and SPD shall hold permanent position with at least a Salary Grade 12 and Salary Grade 10, respectively, and shall be appointed by the governor or mayor, as the case may be.

The SPO shall have at least five (5) staff members while the SPD shall have at least three (3) staff member. **STAFF MEMBERS PREFERABLY SHOULD BE SOLO PARENTS.**

The offices of the governor, mayor or social welfare office, as the case may be, shall exercise supervision over the SPO or SPD relative to their plans, programs and activities. The SPO or SPD shall establish linkages and work together with accredited civil society and nongovernmental organizations, political organizations, and the barangays in their respective areas.

x x x

IN CASE THERE IS A LACK OF QUALIFIED EMPLOYEE, THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY SHALL DESIGNATE AN OFFICER-IN-CHARGE TO ACT AS HEAD OF THE SPO OR SPD: PROVIDED, THAT SUCH APPOINTEE HAS AT LEAST FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH SOLO PARENT FAMILIES. PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT SUCH APPOINTEE MUST BE VETTED BY THE EXISTING SOLO PARENT ORGANIZATIONS OR FEDERATION WITHIN THE JURISDICTION.

ALL SPO AND SPD HEADS OR OFFICER-IN-CHARGE INCLUDING SOCIAL WORKERS TASKED TO HANDLE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT 8972, REPUBLIC ACT 11861, AND THIS ACT ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND A 3-DAY IN-HOUSE TRAINING AT THE DSWD ACADEMY, AT THE EXPENSE OF THE RESPECTIVE LGUS, TO ENSURE THE UNIFORM, ACCURATE, AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL LAWS AFFECTING SOLO PARENT FAMILIES. REPRESENTATIVES OF CSOS FOCUSED ON SOLO PARENTS MAY BE INVITED TO ATTEND THE SAME TRAINING PROGRAM AT THE EXPENSE OF THE DSWD."

SECTION 10. Section 19 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 19. Documentary Requirements. – For purposes of registration and issuance of SPIC and booklet, **A PSA CERTIFICATION SHALL BE ISSUED TO THE SPO OR SPD WHERE THE SOLO PARENT RESIDES ONLY DURING THE INITIAL APPLICATION:**

- (1) BIRTH CERTIFICATE/S OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN;**
- (2) MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE;**
- (3) DEATH CERTIFICATE OF THE SPOUSE;**
- (4) CERTIFICATE OF NO MARRIAGE (CENOMAR).**

TO LESSEN THE EXPENSES OF SOLO PARENT APPLICANTS, THE SPO OR SPD SHALL SEND A COMMUNICATION TO THE PSA TO VERIFY WHETHER THE BATCH OF SOLO PARENT APPLICANTS HAVE

THE AUTHENTICATED INFORMATION OF THE FOREGOING IN THE DATABASE. A PSA CERTIFICATION SHALL BE TRANSMITTED BACK TO THE REQUESTING SPO OR SPD WITHIN THREE WORKING DAYS TO ALLOW THE APPLICATION OF THE SOLO PARENTS TO MOVE FORWARD.

The additional documentary requirements must be submitted by the solo parent applicant:

(a) For the solo parent with child or children as a consequence of rape falling under Section 4(a)(1) of this Act:

- (1) Complaint affidavit;
- (2) Medical record on the incident of rape;
- (3) Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the children are under the parental care and support of the applicant solo parent;
- (4) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent has the sole parental care and support of the child or children at the time of the execution of affidavit: *Provided*, that for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, **REQUIREMENT NUMBERS (3) AND (4) SHALL BE SUBMITTED EVERY YEAR. PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT IF THE RAPE IS NOT RECENT, THE SWORN AFFIDAVIT INDICATING THE INCIDENCE OF RAPE WILL SUFFICE.**

(b) For the solo parent on account of the death of the spouse falling under Section 4(a)(2) of this Act:

- ~~[(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;~~
- ~~(2) Marriage certificate;~~
- ~~(3) Death certificate of the spouse; and]~~

- (1) **AFFIDAVIT OF A BARANGAY OFFICIAL ATTESTING THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE BARANGAY AND THAT THE CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT;**
- (2) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has the sole parental care and support of the child or children: *Provided*, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, all requirements under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.

(c) For the solo parent on account of the detention or criminal conviction of the spouse falling under Section 4(a)(3) of this Act:

- ~~[(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;~~
- ~~(2) Marriage certificate;]~~

- (1) Certificate of detention or a certification that the spouse is serving sentence for at least three (3) months issued by the law enforcement agency having actual custody of the detained spouse, or commitment order issued by the court pursuant to a conviction of the spouse;
- (2) **AFFIDAVIT OF A BARANGAY OFFICIAL ATTESTING THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE BARANGAY AND THAT**

THE CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT;

- (3) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: Provided, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, all requirements under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.

(d) For solo parent on account of physical or mental incapacity of the spouse falling under Section 4(a)(4) of this Act:

- (1) AFFIDAVIT OF COHABITATION, IF NOT MARRIED;**
- (2) MEDICAL RECORD OR MEDICAL ABSTRACT EVIDENCING THE PHYSICAL OR MENTAL STATE OF THE INCAPACITATED SPOUSE ISSUED NOT MORE THAN THREE (3) MONTHS BEFORE THE SUBMISSION, OR A VALID PWD ID;**
- (3) AFFIDAVIT OF A BARANGAY OFFICIAL ATTESTING THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE BARANGAY AND THAT THE CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT;**
- (4) SWORN AFFIDAVIT THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS NOT COHABITING WITH A PARTNER OR CO-PARENT, AND HAS SOLE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN: PROVIDED, THAT FOR PURPOSES OF ISSUANCE OF SUBSEQUENT SPIC OR BOOKLET, REQUIREMENT NUMBERS (2), (3), AND (4) UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE SUBMITTED EVERY YEAR.**

(e) For the solo parent on account of legal or de facto separation of spouse falling under Section 4(a)(5) of this Act:

~~[(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;~~

~~(2) Marriage certificate;]~~

- (1) Judicial decree of legal separation of the spouses or, in the case of de facto separation, an affidavit of two (2) disintegrated persons attesting to the fact of separation of the spouses;
- (2) AFFIDAVIT OF A BARANGAY OFFICIAL ATTESTING THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE BARANGAY AND THAT THE CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT;**
- (3) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: Provided, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, all requirements under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.

(f) For the solo parent on account of declaration of nullity or annulment of marriage falling under Section 4(a)(6) of this Act:

~~[(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;~~

~~(2) Marriage certificate;]~~

- (1) Judicial decree of nullity or annulment of marriage or judicial recognition of foreign divorce;

(2) **AFFIDAVIT OF A BARANGAY OFFICIAL ATTESTING THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE BARANGAY AND THAT THE CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT;**

(3) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: *Provided*, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, requirement numbers (2) and (3) shall be submitted every year.

(g) For the solo parent on account of abandonment by the spouse falling under Section 4(a)(7) of this Act:

~~[(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;~~

~~(2) Marriage certificate or affidavit of the applicant solo parent;]~~

(1) Affidavit of two (2) disinterested persons attesting to the abandonment of the spouse;

(2) Police or barangay record of the fact of abandonment;

(3) **AFFIDAVIT OF A BARANGAY OFFICIAL ATTESTING THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE BARANGAY AND THAT THE CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT;**

(4) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: *Provided*, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, only sworn affidavit shall be submitted every year

(h) For the spouse or any family member of an OFW falling under Section 4(b) of this Act:

~~[(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;~~

~~(2) Marriage certificate;]~~

(1) Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC) or its equivalent document;

(2) Copy of passport stamps showing continuous twelve (12) months of overseas work;

(3) Employment Contract;

(4) **AFFIDAVIT OF A BARANGAY OFFICIAL ATTESTING THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE BARANGAY AND THAT THE CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT;**

(5) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: *Provided*, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, all requirements under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.

(i) For the unmarried father or mother who keeps and rears the child or children falling under Section 4(c) of this Act:

~~[(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;]~~

(1) Certificate of No Marriage (CENOMAR);

- (2) **AFFIDAVIT OF A BARANGAY OFFICIAL ATTESTING THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE BARANGAY AND THAT THE CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT; AND**
- (3) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: *Provided*, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, all requirements under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.
- (j) For the solo parent who is a legal guardian, adoptive or foster parent falling under Section 4(d) of this Act:

~~[(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;]~~

- (1) Proof of guardianship, foster care or adoption;
- (2) **AFFIDAVIT OF A BARANGAY OFFICIAL ATTESTING THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE BARANGAY AND THAT THE CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT; AND**
- (3) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: *Provided*, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, requirement numbers (2) and (3) under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.
- (k) For any relative within the fourth (4th) civil degree of consanguinity or affinity of the parent or legal guardian who assumes parental care and support of the child or children falling under Section 4(e) of this Act:

~~[(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;]~~

- (1) Death certificate of the parents or legal guardian, or police or barangay records evidencing the fact of disappearance or absence of the parent or legal guardian for at least six (6) months;
- (2) **AFFIDAVIT OF A BARANGAY OFFICIAL ATTESTING THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE BARANGAY AND THAT THE CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT; AND**
- (3) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: *Provided*, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, requirement numbers (2) and (3) under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.
- (l) For the solo parent who is pregnant woman falling under Section 4(f) of this Act:

- (1) Medical record of her pregnancy;
- (2) Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the children are under the parental care and support of the applicant solo parent; and
- (3) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children.

(M) FOR THE SINGLE PARENTS DEFINED UNDER SECTION 12(B) OF THIS ACT:

- (1) AFFIDAVIT OF A BARANGAY OFFICIAL ATTESTING THAT THE SINGLE PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE BARANGAY AND THAT THE CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT, AND ARE EITHER STILL STUDYING OR SEEKING EMPLOYMENT; AND**
- (2) SWORN AFFIDAVIT DECLARING THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS NOT COHABITING WITH A PARTNER OR CO-PARENT, AND HAS SOLE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN, AND THAT THE CHILDREN OR BENEFICIARIES ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING OR SEEKING EMPLOYMENT: PROVIDED, THAT FOR PURPOSES OF ISSUANCE OF SUBSEQUENT SPIC OR BOOKLET, ALL REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE SUBMITTED EVERY YEAR.**

(N) FOR THE SOLO PARENT AVAILING SUBSIDY AND DISCOUNTS PROVIDED FOR UNDER SECTION 15, PARAGRAPHS (1) AND (2) OF THIS ACT, ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS SHALL BE SUBMITTED:

- (1) Affidavit of no employment;**
- (2) Income Tax Return (ITR);**
- (3) Social case study issued by the LSWD; or**
- (4) Any verifiable proof of income.**

Custodians of the documents, records, data or information shall ensure the utmost confidentiality of the same, in compliance with Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the 'Data Privacy Act of 2012'."

SECTION 11. Section 21 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

"Section 21. National Solo Parents Day and Week. – To commemorate the role and significance of every solo parent in the Philippines, the third week and third Saturday of April of every year are hereby declared as Solo Parents Week and National Solo Parents Day, respectively.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND ITS INSTRUMENTALITIES, PROVINCES, CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES, AND BARANGAYS MAY CHARGE THE EXPENSES FOR THE CELEBRATION TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GAD BUDGETS."

SECTION 12. Section 22 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 22. ABUSED, ABANDONED, OR NEGLECTED SOLO PARENTS OR SOLO PARENTS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. – In cases where a solo parent has been abused, abandoned, or neglected by his or her co-parent, he or she may seek the help of the DSWD, which, in turn, shall coordinate with the respective barangay officials and/or police officers assigned in the nearest Philippine National Police station where the abused, abandoned, or neglected parent resides, in order to provide immediate assistance. If the co-parent is gainfully employed, the abused, abandoned, or neglected parent shall have the right to retain a portion of the former's income, to be agreed upon by both parents or by a valid order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction, for the support of the child.

THE PAO SHALL PRIORITIZE REPRESENTATION FOR THE SOLO PARENT VICTIM EVEN IF THE DEFENDANT WAS THE FIRST TO REQUEST FOR PAO LEGAL ASSISTANCE.”

SECTION 13. Section 23 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 23. Special Protections for Special Case Solo Parents

- (a) Adolescent Solo Parents. – In addition to the provisions of this Act, adolescent solo parents, including victims of child marriages, shall also be provided with assistance from the DSWD and the DOH which may include counseling and psycho-social services, and from the DepEd, CHED, and TESDA in the form of home-based, in-school, or technical education, as warranted.
- (b) **SINGLE PARENTS. – FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ACT, THOSE PROVIDING SOLE PARENTAL AUTHORITY WITH CHILDREN OR DEPENDENTS WHO ARE OVER 22 YEARS OLD BUT STILL CONSIDERED AS YOUTHS MAY AVAIL OF SCHOLARSHIPS, LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, PRIORITY EMPLOYMENT, OR HOUSING TO ALLOW THEM TO PROVIDE FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR THEIR CHILDREN OR DEPENDENTS.”**

SECTION 14. Section 24 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 24. Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee. – An Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee (IACMC) is hereby established and is composed of the following:

- (a) Chairperson – Secretary of the Social Welfare and Development;
- (b) Vice-Chairperson – Secretary of the Interior and Local Government;
- (c) Members:
 - (1) Secretary of Finance;
 - (2) Secretary of Health;
 - (3) Secretary of Education;
 - (4) Secretary of Labor and Employment;
 - (5) Secretary of Trade and Industry;
 - (6) Secretary of Justice;
 - (7) Secretary of DMW;
 - (8) SECRETARY OF DHSUD;**
 - (9) Chairperson of CHED;
 - (10) Chairperson of CSC;

(11) Chairperson of PCW;

(12) Director General of NEDA;

(13) Director General of TESDA;

(14) General Manager of NHA;

(15) President of PhilHealth;

(16) Representative of ULAP;

~~[(16) Representative of civil society and nongovernmental organizations with recognized credentials in providing services to solo parents to be appointed by the Secretary of the DSWD.]~~

(17) CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION;

(18) CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS;

(19) CHAIRPERSON OF THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE;

(20) CEO OF PAGCOR; and

(21) THREE (3) REPRESENTATIVES OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH ACCREDITATION FROM RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO SOLO PARENTS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE DSWD AND SHALL SERVE AS PART OF THE IACMC SECRETARIAT. PREFERENCE SHALL BE GIVEN TO THOSE THAT HAVE DOCUMENTED PREVIOUS PARTNERSHIPS WITH DSWD ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS.

The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and members of the IACMC shall meet quarterly and shall submit a report to Congress on the implementation of this Act every ~~three (3)~~ **TWO (2)** years from the establishment of the IACMC. They may designate their respective representatives who must have at least a rank of Assistant Secretary or its equivalent.

The IACMC shall accurately gather demographic data on the solo parents and their children, by utilizing the Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS) under Republic Act No. 11315, otherwise known as the 'Community-Based Monitoring Systems Act'. The PSA shall conduct every four (4) years an updated demographic survey on solo parents and their children."

THE IACMC SHALL ENSURE THAT ALL BARANGAYS ACCREDIT ALL SOLO PARENT ORGANIZATIONS IN THEIR JURISDICTIONS AS PART OF THE BARANGAY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. THE IACMC SHALL LIKEWISE ENSURE THAT ALL LGUS FACILITATE THE ORDERLY ESTABLISHMENT OF SOLO PARENT ORGANIZATIONS AND FEDERATIONS IN THEIR LOCALITY AND SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AND FEDERATIONS REMAIN AS NGOS, CSOS, OR PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE FREE FROM THE INFLUENCE AND

MEDDLING OF LGUS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT BODY OR AGENCIES. LGUS ARE REQUIRED TO ASSIST SOLO PARENT FEDERATIONS TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CITY/MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND OTHER REGIONAL SPECIAL BODIES.

THE IACMC SHALL BE EMPOWERED TO ACT ON COMPLAINTS OF NON-ISSUANCE OF SOLO PARENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS, NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF BENEFITS, AND OTHER VIOLATIONS THAT MAY NOT BE ACTED UPON BY THE SPO, SPD, OR IN INSTANCES WHERE THE LGU IS THE OFFENDING PARTY. THE IACMC SHALL ASSIST THE SOLO PARENT IN FILING THE COMPLAINT WITH THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCY.

SECTION 15. Section 25 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 25. JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON SOLO PARENTS. – The Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Solo Parents (JCOCSP), shall monitor the implementation of all relevant Solo Parent Acts. The JCOCSP shall set the overall framework for reviewing the implementation of this Act, determining inherent vulnerabilities in the law, and recommending the necessary legislative or executive measures. THE JCOCSP SHALL BE CONVENED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OPENING OF CONGRESS.

The JCOCSP shall be composed of five (5) senators and five (5) representatives to be appointed by the Senate President and House Speaker, respectively, AND THREE (3) MEMBERS OF NGOS/CSOS WITH PROVEN TRACK RECORD AND RECOGNITION WITH THE SOLO PARENT SECTOR. INCLUSION OF THE NGO/CSO MEMBERS SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE PH-OGP FRAMEWORK EMBODIED UNDER EO 31 SERIES OF 2023.

THE JCOCSP SHALL BE CO-CHAIRLED BY THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON REVISIONS OF LAWS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY OF THE SENATE.”

SECTION 16. SOLO PARENT SUPPORT FUND.

Under this Act is created the Solo Parent Support Fund (SPSF) pooled from 10% of PCSO earnings and 10% of PAGCOR earnings for the purpose of supporting LGUs that lack the financial capability to implement solo parent programs and benefits.

The SPSF shall be managed by the IACMC, which will process the request for funding of LGUs and released based on existing accounting and auditing guidelines of the NEDA, DBM, COA, and other related government agencies.

The SPSF shall prioritize 5th Class Municipalities and those belonging to the 500 poorest municipalities in the Philippines.

SECTION 17. Section 26 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

“SECTION 26. PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES. – (a) Any person, corporation, entity or agency that refuses, fails to provide the benefits granted

to the solo parent, or **ATTEMPT TO MEDDLE OR INFLUENCE WITH THE INTERNAL PROCEDURES OF SOLO PARENT ORGANIZATIONS OR FEDERATIONS**, in violation of this Act shall suffer the following penalties:

(1) For the first violation – a fine of not less than **FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00)** but not more than **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00)** or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

(2) For any subsequent violation – a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than two (2) years, or both at the discretion of the court.

If the offender is a corporation, partnership, organization or any similar entity, the officials and employees who directly participated in the violation/s shall be held liable.

The proper authorities may, after due notice and hearing, also cause the cancellation or revocation of the business permit, permit to operate, franchise and other similar privileges granted to any business that fails to abide by the provisions of this Act.

If the offender is a foreigner, the foreigner shall be deported immediately after service of sentence without further deportation proceedings.

(b) Any person who misrepresents status or falsifies any document to avail of the benefits, or cause another person to avail or be denied of the benefits provided under this Act, or any person who abuses the privileges and benefits granted herein shall be punished with a fine of not more than **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00)** and imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

When the offender or the person responsible for the offenses punishable under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section is a public officer or employee as defined in Executive Order No. 292, or the 'Administrative Code of 1987', and the offense was committed in the exercise of official duties, such officer or employee shall suffer the penalty of removal from office and perpetual disqualification from holding public office, in addition to the penalty provided in the preceding paragraph.

The penalties under this Act shall be without prejudice to the imposition of higher penalties existing under other laws."

SECTION 18. Section 28 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 28. APPROPRIATIONS. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the concerned government agencies in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Government agencies and LGUs shall utilize at least 10% of their respective GAD budget to implement this Act anchored on the guidelines issued by the Department of Budget and Management, NEDA and PCW.

ALL LGUS SHALL INCLUDE IN THEIR ANNUAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (AIP) THE NECESSARY FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT SOLO PARENT SUBSIDY AND OTHER PROGRAMS THAT MAY BE NEEDED TO EMPOWER AND UPLIFT THE OVERALL WELL-BEING OF SOLO PARENT FAMILIES IN THEIR JURISDICTIONS.”

SECTION 20. REPEALING CLAUSE.

All laws, decrees, executive orders, administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 21. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.

If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 22. EFFECTIVITY.

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

Approved,