

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3217



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

AN ACT
PROVIDING LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE FOR DISADVANTAGED WORKERS
AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT'S INTEGRATED LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XII, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution declares that “The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth” and that expanding productivity is the “the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.” In this regard, the government has introduced programs for job creation and poverty reduction.

Despite government initiatives, however, there are still 2.99 million families with incomes falling below the poverty threshold¹ and 2.03 million Filipinos who are unemployed.² These figures underscore the urgent need for sustained and institutionalized programs that build the economic resilience of disadvantaged workers. Although these workers may possess the initiative and willingness to work, they often struggle to start a livelihood or business due to a lack of essential resources and support.

One of the government’s initiatives to grant livelihood assistance is the Department of

¹https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/phdsd/2023%20FY%20Official%20Poverty%20Statistics%20Publication_15August2024.pdf

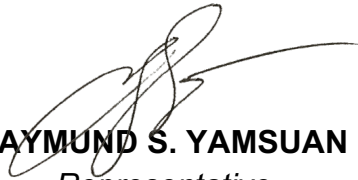
² <https://business.inquirer.net/534610/philippines-unemployment-rate-dropped-to-3-9-in-may>

Labor and Employment's (DOLE) Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP). The DILP provides beneficiaries with Livelihood Kits worth PhP10,000 to PhP30,000 to enable them to start their own businesses. It also assists existing livelihood undertakings to grow and expand into more viable businesses.

In the 2nd District of Parañaque, the DILP is locally implemented through the *Bigay Negosyo* Program, which provides each beneficiary who wishes to start a business with a *negosyo* package. These business packages include: *Tailoring Negosyo*, *Carinderia Negosyo*, *5 in 1 Food Cart Negosyo*, *Bigasan Package*, and *Barbecue Negosyo*. To date, the *Bigay Negosyo* Program has already helped over 500 Parañaqueños. One of the beneficiaries of the Bigasan Package is Mr. Arnel from Barangay San Antonio. Mr. Arnel, instead of selling the 19 sacks of rice he received, chose to use these to start his own *lugawan* business. He wasted no time and within just 2 days from receiving the Bigasan Package, already found a spot outside the City Hall to set up his business. This is just one of the many stories of how DILP can help uplift lives and empower families through livelihood support.

We aim to replicate the success of programs like the *Bigay Negosyo* by proposing this bill, which seeks to institutionalize the DILP and ensure consistent and regular funding through the General Appropriations Act. In doing so, the program's benefits will be extended to Filipinos across the country.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Representative
2nd District of Parañaque

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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 “Bigay Negosyo Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — The State shall promote inclusive growth, reduce poverty, and achieve a more equitable distribution of income and opportunities by strengthening the economic capacity of disadvantaged workers. The State shall provide support for self-employment and livelihood initiatives as a means to raise productivity and uplift the quality of life, especially among the underprivileged. To this end, the State shall institutionalize the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP) to extend livelihood assistance with the aim of fostering sustainable livelihoods and economic resilience.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. *Beneficiary* - refers to individual or group of individuals who are qualified to be recipients of assistance under the this Act;
- b. *Disadvantaged Workers* - refer to the vulnerable, marginalized and displaced workers, as follows:

- i. *Vulnerable* - refer to workers who are less likely to have formal work arrangements, decent working conditions, adequate social security, and whose employment is characterized by inadequate earnings, low productivity, and difficult conditions of work that undermine their fundamental rights;
- ii. *Marginalized* - refer to workers who have not benefited from education, health, employment, and other opportunities by reasons of poverty, geographical inaccessibility, culture, gender, among others;
- iii. *Displaced* - refer to workers in the formal and informal sectors who became unemployed, underemployed, or have lost or disrupted their livelihood as a result of closure of establishment, retrenchment, termination, economic crisis, natural and human-induced disasters/calamities, development efforts, and armed conflict.

SECTION 4. Eligibility. – All disadvantaged workers aged 18 years old and above are qualified beneficiaries of this Act, except for beneficiaries of the Pantawaid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and government employees regardless of the status of employment.

The following are also qualified beneficiaries:

- (a) Indigenous Peoples (IPs);
- (b) Parents of child laborers who have been profiled by the DOLE, regardless of being active 4Ps;
- (c) Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) graduates;
- (d) Micro-establishments' beneficiaries of National Wages and Productivity Commission's and Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards's Productivity trainings;
- (e) Labor organizations and workers' association under the Bureau of Labor Relations Workers Organization Development Program Plus; and
- (f) Micro-entrepreneur/micro-establishment under the Bureau of Working Conditions's Technical and Advisory Visits.

SECTION 5. Negosyo Package. – An individual beneficiary may avail of the Negosyo Package and/or Negosyo sa Kariton (Nego-Kart) in the amount ranging from Php 10,000.00 to Php 30,000.00, depending on the project requirement.

A group beneficiary may avail of grant assistance, depending on the project requirement, as follows:

- (a) For 15 - 25 members - a maximum of Php 500,000;
- (b) For 26 - 50 members - a maximum of Php 1,000,000;
- (c) For 51 or more members - a maximum of Php 1,500,000.

Eligible projects include undertakings that support the needs of workers and/or the development needs of the community taking into consideration the regional or local development priority such as off-farm/non-farm livelihood diversification in rural agricultural economy, and key employment generating sector (KEGS) - related projects.

SECTION 6. Periodic Assessment. — Every three (3) years after the effectivity of this Act, the DOLE shall conduct a mandatory review and determine whether the amounts of the negosyo packages shall be adjusted, with the primary objective of ensuring that the amount is sufficient and reflective of current market prices. The DOLE shall also determine additional livelihood incentives to support and stimulate microenterprise development.

The DOLE shall monitor the implementation of this Act and report its status at least once every three (3) years to the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Philippines.

SECTION 7. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DOLE of the year following its enactment into law. Thereafter, sums necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The DOLE, in consultation with relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,