

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3785**



---

**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ, MNSA**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

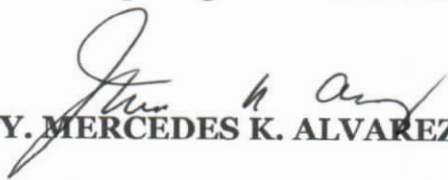
The Sustainable Livelihood Program (“SLP”) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development has been a significant support system for members of the marginalized sector who aspire to establish small yet impactful businesses.

Over the years, the SLP has served as a capacity-building initiative for identified poor, vulnerable, and marginalized households and communities. It provides strategic interventions and necessary resources to help participants improve their socio-economic conditions, acquire essential assets, and sustain viable livelihood ventures.

In the 6th District of Negros Occidental, the benefits of the SLP have been consistently felt, empowering communities to flourish in their chosen livelihoods.

However, as a program, its sustainability remains uncertain. Hence, this measure seeks to legislate and institutionalize the SLP, ensuring that marginalized sectors have continued access to sustainable livelihood opportunities as they work toward self-reliance.

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

  
**ATTY. MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ, MNSA**

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3785**

---

**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ, MNSA**

---

**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM**  
**OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1       Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as “The Sustainable Livelihood  
2 Program Act”.

3  
4       Sec. 2. Declaration of Policies. – The State shall promote livelihood  
5 development and entrepreneurship to achieve sustainable development.

6       Pursuant to this policy, the State recognizes the need to alleviate the socio-  
7 economic conditions of the poor and vulnerable, especially those households enrolled  
8 in the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* (“4Ps”), and individuals, groups, or  
9 communities who are classified as poor under the National Household Targeting  
10 System for Poverty Reduction (“NHTS-PR”) *Listahanan*, and Republic Act No. 11291,  
11 otherwise known as the Magna Carta of the Poor (“RA 11291”).

12       It is likewise the policy of the State to uplift the socio-economic conditions of  
13 the poor and vulnerable through the provision of market intervention and livelihood  
14 development through microenterprise development in facilitating and supporting  
15 basic employment.

1 Towards this end, the State shall respect and strengthen Filipino households,  
2 individuals, groups or communities by providing assistance that may be utilized  
3 through such inherent skills to achieve positive livelihood outcomes through  
4 community mobilization and community-driven enterprise development.

5  
6 Sec. 3. Coverage. – Existing 4Ps beneficiaries, individuals, Filipino households,  
7 groups or communities identified as poor by the NHTS-PR *Listahanan* and RA No.  
8 11291, shall be covered as a program participant of the Sustainable Livelihood Program  
9 (“DSWD SLP”). Moreover, the SLP participants shall also cover households identified  
10 as poor based on the system for targeting of beneficiaries used by the Department of  
11 Social Welfare and Development.

12  
13 Sec. 4. Definition of Terms. – For purpose of this Act, the following terms are  
14 defined, as follows:

- 15 a) *Cash for Building Livelihood Assets Fund (“CBLAF”)* shall refer to an  
16 allowance or stipend provided to program participants who have  
17 rendered work for labor-intensive projects to build, re-build, or protect  
18 natural and physical assets necessary for more profitable, self-  
19 sustaining, and resilient micro-enterprises;
- 20 b) *Certificate of Accreditation (“COA”)* shall refer to a certification issued  
21 by the Standards Unit of the Field Office (“SUFO”) to the SLP  
22 Association (“SLPA”) after the issuance of the Certificate of Eligibility  
23 (“COE”) by the SLP Regional Program Management Office (“SLP  
24 RPMO”). The COA shall be a requisite prior to the release of funds to the  
25 SLPAs under the Micro-Enterprise Development Track;
- 26 c) *Certificate of Eligibility* shall refer to a certification signed by the  
27 Regional Program Coordinator of SLP Regional Program Management  
28 Office (“SLP-RPMO”) certifying that the SLPA or Employment  
29 Facilitation (“EF”) program participants have passed the eligibility  
30 requirements and complied with the processes of SLP. The COE is a  
31 requisite for the approval and obligation of the *Mungkahing Proyekto*  
32 and shall be the basis of the SUFO in issuing the COA to the SLPAs, EF  
33 participants and individual referrals;

- 1 d) *Employment Assistance Fund (“EAF”)* shall refer to a track of the SLP  
2 that provides assistance to qualified member/s of poor households who  
3 preferred employment rather than engaging in micro-enterprise;
- 4 e) *Employment Facilitation* shall refer to a track of the SLP that provides  
5 assistance to qualified member/s of poor households who preferred  
6 employment rather than engaging in micro-enterprise;
- 7 f) *Micro-Enterprise Development Track (“MD Track”)* shall refer to a  
8 track of the SLP which focuses on the establishment of micro-enterprise  
9 through the provision of financial capital, enhancement of skills, and  
10 building/re-building physical and natural assets;
- 11 g) *National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction* shall refer  
12 to the information management system that uses empirical methods to  
13 compile a database of who and where the country’s poor are. The NHTS-  
14 PR is also often referred to as the “*Listahanan*”;
- 15 h) *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* shall refer to the national  
16 poverty reduction strategy and a human capital investment program that  
17 provides conditional cash transfer to poor households for a maximum  
18 period of seven (7) years, to improve the health, nutrition, and education  
19 aspect of their lives. The National Advisory Council may recommend a  
20 longer period under exceptional; circumstances;
- 21 i) *Poor* shall refer to individuals or families whose income falls below the  
22 poverty threshold as defined by the National Economic and  
23 Development Authority and/or who cannot afford in a sustained manner  
24 to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education,  
25 housing, or other essential amenities of life, as defined under Republic  
26 Act No. 8425, otherwise known as the Social Reform and Poverty  
27 Alleviation Act;
- 28 j) *Program Participants* shall refer SLP associations, EF participants,  
29 individual referrals, or other recipients of the modalities of assistance  
30 provided by the program;
- 31 k) *Seed Capital Fund (“SCF”)* shall refer to a start-up grant for SLP  
32 association or individual, used to purchase small tools, raw materials,  
33 and common service facilities such as machinery, equipment, and plant

needed in starting or expanding a micro-enterprise. The SCF is only provided once per program participant;

l) *System for Targeting of Beneficiaries* shall refer to a system for identifying who and where the poor households are through the generation of a socio-economic database of poor households that is adopted by national government agencies and implemented by the DSWD;

m) *Sustainable Livelihood Program Association* shall refer to an association with five (5) to thirty (30) members organized by the DSWD, through the SLP, which is issued with a COA making them eligible recipients of assistance of SLP under the MD Track;

n) *SLP National Program Management Office ("SLP NPMO")* shall refer to an office of the DSWD Central Office responsible for managing the implementation of SLP, setting the overall direction, and issuing policies and guidelines, among others; and

o) *SLP Regional Program Management Office* shall refer to an office of the DSWD FO responsible for the management of SLP at the regional level providing technical assistance, supervision, and management of all SLP provincial offices.

Sec. 5. The Sustainable Livelihood Program. – The SLP by the DSWD is a livelihood capability-building program for the identified poor, vulnerable, and marginalized households and communities that provides assistance in the form of micro-enterprise development and employment facilitation to qualified SLP program participants. This livelihood assistance is to ensure that program participants are continuously capacitated towards entrepreneurship, employment and association's self-governance to have access to external resources such as additional credit, insurance, capacity building, and market linkages.

Sec. 6. Modalities of Assistance. – The SLP shall have two (2) major tracks mainly: (i) MD Track that provides support for the establishment of micro-enterprise livelihoods; and (ii) EF Track that provides support in securing and maintaining gainful employment.

1           The modalities under the MD Track are the SCF, STF, and CBLAF whereas the  
2 modalities for the EF Track are EAF and STF.

3  
4           Sec. 7. Eligibility Requirements. – Filipino households, individuals, and those  
5 in disadvantaged communities or groups such as Indigenous People, Persons with  
6 Disabilities, and Solo Parents are qualified program participants of the SLP: *Provided,*  
7 *That* the DSWD shall select qualified program participants of the program using the  
8 NHTS-PR *Listahanan: Provided further, That* to be eligible to the program, the  
9 qualifications of program participants must be followed:

- 10           a) MD Track must be at least sixteen (16) years old, with written legal  
11 consent from the parents or legal guardians;  
12           b) EF Track must be at least eighteen (18) years old upon employment,  
13 following legal employment standards;  
14           c) Filipino families classified as poor under RA No. 11291;  
15           d) Classified as a poor household based on the system for targeting of  
16 beneficiaries; and  
17           e) The target program participants must be willing to comply with the  
18 conditions stipulated in this Act and its Implementing Rules and  
19 Regulations (“IRR”).

20  
21           Sec. 8. Livelihood Sustainability Matrix. – The SLP shall utilize as its main key  
22 result areas, the developed SLP Livelihood Sustainability Matrix, which is a graduated  
23 or tiered manner of providing livelihood assistance grants, capability building  
24 activities, coaching and mentoring, and technical assistance for livelihood  
25 development and organizational building. The matrix includes a set of performance  
26 standard indicators that pertains to the major aspect of livelihood development and  
27 association management, mainly:

- 28           a) Technical Operations  
29           b) Financial Strength;  
30           c) Organizational Development and Management; and  
31           d) Community Impact.

32           Served SLP participants shall be measured on the four performance standards  
33 on an annual basis starting with Year 2 implementation and shall be assessed through

1 the use of annual assessment tools, to establish viability of participants for additional  
2 grants and capacity building through successive years.

3  
4 Sec. 9. Sustainable Livelihood Program Implementation Stages and  
5 Operational Guidelines. – The SLP shall operate in a five (5)-year cycle, mainly:

- 6 a) Year 1 *Punla* is the first round of implementation of the program and  
7 shall consist of the Pre-Implementation, Social Preparation, Resource  
8 Mobilization, and Project Implementation;  
9 b) Year 2 *Usbong* shall consist of the monitoring activities, coaching and  
10 mentoring, second round of capability building activities/ training.  
11 Under this Year, the SLP shall provide Product Diversification and  
12 Development Grant;  
13 c) Year 3 *Sibol* shall consist of continuing monitoring activities, capacity  
14 building, technical assistance, coaching and mentoring. During this  
15 implementation year, the SLP shall provide Formalization Support  
16 Grant to SLP associations and participants able and willing to undergo  
17 formal government licensing and accreditation;  
18 d) Year 4 *Yabong* shall consist of continuing monitoring activities,  
19 capability building, coaching and mentoring, partnership building and  
20 external linkages of SLP to regular markets and institutional partners;  
21 and  
22 e) Year 5 *Ani* shall consist of the official graduation of SLP associations that  
23 have achieved all the technical, financial, organizational, and community  
24 impact indicators, from the Program. Graduating SLP associations who  
25 have managed to sustain their livelihood and association can be eligible  
26 for a SLP Graduation Grants, subject to assessment and evaluation.

27  
28 Sec. 10. Institutional Arrangement. – The DSWD shall serve as the lead agency  
29 for Central Coordinating, Planning, Implementing, and Monitoring body on the  
30 program's overall management. The SLP-NPMO shall have the steering and oversight  
31 functions and tasks while the SLP-RPMO shall take charge in the implementation of  
32 the program stages.

1       The program shall assign Implementing Project Development Officers that  
2 shall serve as the community facilitator who is responsible for identifying, organizing,  
3 capacitating the new program participants and shall validate the utilization of grants  
4 to ensure that the approved project has been duly implemented, *Provided* that the field  
5 monitoring shall be conducted through the Monitoring Project Development Officers  
6 that shall ensure that the modalities of assistance are sustained by the participants  
7 through the conduct of regular monitoring visits and assessments.

8  
9       Sec. 11. Functions of the Sustainable Livelihood Program National Program  
10 Management Office. – The DSWD SLP NPMO shall perform and implement the  
11 following:

- 12           a) Enhancing and developing of program policies, tools, and guidelines;
- 13           b) Setting of performance standards and compliance monitoring;
- 14           c) Planning and coordinating national program;
- 15           d) Human resource management and capacity building for national and  
16           regional program personnel;
- 17           e) National program budget management;
- 18           f) National program monitoring and evaluation such as program  
19           milestones, accomplishments, results monitoring, and evaluation of  
20           program outcomes; and
- 21           g) Other related tasks as required and necessary for the management.

22  
23       Sec. 12. Functions of the Sustainable Livelihood Program Regional Program  
24 Management Office. – The DSWD SLP RPMO shall perform and implement the  
25 following:

- 26           a) Fully implementing with the program stages based on the approved  
27           process, timeline, and program implementation parameters;
- 28           b) Complying with implementation standards and policies;
- 29           c) Beneficiary level monitoring and evaluation for technical assistance  
30           and reporting;
- 31           d) Participating to human resource development and capacity-building  
32           sessions;
- 33           e) Obligating and disbursing funds; and

1 f) Regional, provincial, and city/municipality level coordination.  
2

3 Sec. 13. Regular Program Monitoring, Reporting, and Transparency. – The  
4 DSWD SLP NPMO and RPMO shall regularly monitor the implementation of the  
5 program in order to ensure the attainment of the goals enumerated in this Act. The  
6 program shall annually publish a full report of the SLP covering the implementation  
7 and accomplishments of the previous fiscal year. The said report shall include the total  
8 number of households served, physical and financial accomplishments, notable  
9 achievements, success stories, note-worthy capacity-building activities, and list of  
10 recommendations on how to further enhance the implementation of the SLP. The  
11 report shall be published in the DSWD official website for transparency.  
12

13 Sec. 14. Oversight Committee. – Upon the effectivity of this Act, a Congressional  
14 Oversight Committee, hereafter referred to as the SLP Oversight Committee, (the  
15 “Committee”) is hereby constituted. The Committee shall be composed of members  
16 from the Committee on Poverty Alleviation, Committee on Labor and Employment,  
17 and Committee on Social Services. The oversight committee shall be chaired by the  
18 Chairperson of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation, while the Chairperson of the  
19 Committee on Social Services shall serve as co-chair of the Committee. Additional  
20 composition of the oversight committee shall be within the purview of the legislative  
21 body.

22 The Committee shall conduct periodic reviews to ensure the proper  
23 implementation of this Act as regards the expenditures of the earmarked funds, cost  
24 parameters of the modalities, accomplishments of the program, and the performance  
25 of its implementing offices.  
26

27 Sec. 15. Compliance with Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the Data  
28 Privacy Act of 2012. – The DSWD SLP shall comply with the provisions of Republic  
29 Act No. 10173 otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (“RA 10173”).  
30 Additionally, the program shall further comply with the organizational, physical,  
31 technical and security measures prescribed in the SLP Data Privacy Policy and Sharing  
32 Protocol Manual.  
33

1           Sec. 16. Data Sharing. – Data sharing between government agencies for the  
2 purpose of public function or provision of a public service shall be covered by a data  
3 sharing agreement; *Provided, That* the DSWD SLP shall comply with the provisions  
4 of RA 10173; *Provided further*, that all information filed with the DSWD SLP, NHTS-  
5 PR *Listahanan*, and other database system used by the DSWD SLP shall be made  
6 available to the stakeholders, institution, government agencies, departments and non-  
7 government agencies, including obligations to protect personal data and information.  
8

9           Sec. 17. Convergence of Programs and Services for Livelihood. – Within the  
10 scope of social protection and national poverty alleviation strategies, stakeholders  
11 such as other national government agencies, the private sector, volunteer groups, and  
12 the academe, among others, implementing multi-stakeholder programs and services  
13 for the poor and vulnerable, shall converge and complement the modalities offered by  
14 the DSWD SLP. Such convergence shall focus on the enhancement of operational  
15 efficiency, provision of additional financing, access to resources, enhancement of  
16 program modules and capability-building activities, and strengthening of external  
17 partnerships and linkages.  
18

19           Sec. 18. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of  
20 this Act shall be charged against those authorized in the current and subsequent  
21 General Appropriations Act.  
22

23           Sec. 19. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within twelve (12) months  
24 from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD Secretary shall, in coordination with  
25 appropriate government departments and agencies and local government units,  
26 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.  
27

28           Sec. 20. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or  
29 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions shall not be affected and remain  
30 valid and subsisting.  
31

32           Sec. 21. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
33 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or

1 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified  
2 accordingly.

3

4       Sec. 22. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following  
5 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation in the  
6 Philippines.

*Approved,*