

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4828



Introduced by: Kababaihan Kabalikatan para sa Kapakanan at Kaunlaran ng Bayan (4K) Party-list Representative Iris Marie D. Montes

AN ACT
TO MODERNIZE THE NATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES ECOSYSTEM BY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10644,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GO NEGOSYO ACT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) play a significant role in the Philippine economy. Their impact on employment, income, and overall economic development is far-reaching - saving lives, jobs and livelihoods and changing many Filipino families.

The Philippine Statistics Authority reveals that MSMEs comprised 99.5 percent of all registered business establishments in 2019. They generate 62.4 percent of the country's total employment, contribute 36 percent of gross value added, and account for 25 percent of total exports.¹ As of 2020, there are more than 950,000 MSMEs, the majority of which were owned by women.²

This bill, which serves as a counterpart measure to Senator Bam Aquino's Senate Bill No. 759, seeks to build on the success of the Go Negosyo Act by strengthening the capacity of existing Negosyo Centers to serve as true partners in MSME development.

The bill has the following key reforms:

1. Triage and Referral Function - Designating Negosyo Centers as the first point of contact for MSMEs, where their needs can be assessed and referrals can be made to the right government or private sector service providers;

2. Institutionalization of the Mentor Me Program - Mainstreaming the successful joint initiative of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE) that provides direct coaching and mentoring to micro and small enterprises (MSEs) on key aspects of business operations;

¹ https://serp-p.pids.gov.ph/feature/public/index-view?featuredtype_id=1&slug=micro-small-and-medium-enterprises

² Measuring Progress on Women's Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship in the Philippines: Results from Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprise Survey, Asian Development Bank, October 2023

3. Facilitation of Higher-Value Services - Supporting MSMEs in accessing advanced services beyond basic registration, including technology upgrading, financial packaging, market development, and innovation support;

4. Dedicated Business Counselors - Ensuring that each Negosyo Center is staffed with at least two full-time, qualified business counselors to deliver and facilitate meaningful support;

5. Business Development Services (BDS) Voucher System - Establishing a voucher mechanism to help MSMEs afford specialized advisory services through accredited private providers; and

6. Accreditation System for BDS Providers - Creating a national registry of public and private service providers to ensure quality, specialization, and accessibility.

Through these important amendments, this measure aims to strengthen the role of Negosyo Centers as strategic enablers of MSME growth, equipping them not only to respond to entrepreneurs' needs, but to guide them toward innovation, competitiveness, and long-term resilience.

In view thereof, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


IRIS MARIE D. MONTES
Kababaihan Kabalikatan para sa Kapakanan
at Kaunlaran ng Bayan (4K) Party-list

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* -This Act shall be known as the "Enhanced Go Negosyo Act of 2025."

SEC. 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10644, otherwise known as the "Go Negosyo Act," is hereby amended to include new subparagraphs (t) and (u) to read as follows:

"Section 4. Functions of the Negosyo Centers. - Negosyo Centers shall have the following functions:

x x x.

(T) ACT AS A TRIAGE AND REFERRAL HUB BY CONDUCTING A NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR EACH MSME CLIENT AND REFERRING THEM TO THE APPROPRIATE ACCREDITED BUSINESS ADVISOR, SPECIALIZED GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, OR PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDER BASED ON THEIR SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS;

(U) INSTITUTIONALIZE THE CONDUCT OF THE MENTOR ME PROGRAM, A JOINT UNDERTAKING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY(DTI) WITH THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP (PCE), AIMED AT COACHING THE MENTEE - MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES (MSES) ON THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS; AND

(V) FACILITATE ACCESS TO HIGHER-VALUE SERVICES BEYOND BASIC REGISTRATION AND COMPLIANCE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TECHNOLOGY UPGRADING, FINANCIAL PACKAGING, MARKET INTELLIGENCE, AND INNOVATION AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT."

SEC. 3. A new section, to be designated as Section 4-A, is hereby inserted after Section 4 of the same Act to read as follows:

"SECTION 4-A. STAFFING OF NEGOSYO CENTER BUSINESS COUNSELORS. -TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE NEGOSYO CENTERS, EACH NEGOSYO CENTER SHALL EMPLOY AT LEAST TWO (2) FULL-TIME BUSINESS COUNSELORS. THESE BUSINESS COUNSELORS SHALL POSSESS RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE IN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, OR RELATED FIELDS, AND SHALL BE COMPENSATED WITH AT LEAST SALARY GRADE 10 OR AS PRESCRIBED BY THE DBM FOR POSITIONS REQUIRING SIMILAR QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. THE DTI, IN COORDINATION WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC), SHALL DEVELOP THE QUALIFICATION STANDARDS AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR THESE POSITIONS."

SEC. 4. A new section, to be designated as Section 8-A, is hereby inserted after Section 8 of the same Act to read as follows:

"SECTION 8-A. BDS VOUCHER SYSTEM. - THE DTI SHALL ESTABLISH A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (BDS) VOUCHER SYSTEM TO ENABLE MSMES TO ACCESS SPECIALIZED ADVISORY SERVICES. ELIGIBLE MSMES SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH VOUCHERS THAT CAN BE USED TO PARTIALLY OR FULLY COVER THE COST OF ENGAGING ACCREDITED PRIVATE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR SPECIFIC, PRE29 APPROVED CONSULTANCY PROJECTS."

SEC. 5. A new section, to be designated as Section 8-B, is hereby inserted after the new Section 8-A of the same Act to read as follows:

"SECTION 8-B. NATIONAL ACCREDITATION SYSTEM FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS. - THE DTI SHALL ESTABLISH AND MANAGE A NATIONAL ACCREDITATION SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS. PROVIDED, THAT THE SYSTEM SHALL HAVE MULTIPLE TIERS OF ACCREDITATION BASED ON EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE, AND SPECIALIZATION (E.G., FINANCE, MARKETING, TECHNOLOGY, HUMAN RESOURCES, OPERATIONS). PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT ONLY SERVICE PROVIDERS WHO PASS A STANDARDIZED COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT OR DEMONSTRATE EQUIVALENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE SHALL BE ACCREDITED. A PUBLIC DIGITAL REGISTRY OF ALL ACCREDITED BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS SHALL BE MAINTAINED AND MADE ACCESSIBLE THROUGH THE NEGOSYO CENTERS."

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Sec. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Trade and Industry, in consultation with the MSMED Council and other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,