

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5064



Introduced by TUCP Partylist Representative
HON. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 21st Resolution of the International Conference on Labour Statisticians (ICLS) on Informal Economy redefines statistically the informal sector as those economic units that produce and render services for profit or fee, estimated to 52% of the total workforce. The Resolution replaces the 15th and 17th ICLS Resolutions, which were the basis of the Philippine definition of informal sector (NSCB Reso No. 15, series of 2002 and the NSO Informal Sector Survey of 2008). The new statistical standard does not include in the count of the informal sector those whose production and services are only for consumption.

To help address the rising poverty incidence, this bill calls for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach in the fight against poverty, and recognizes social and solidarity economy enterprises (SSEE) and social and solidarity economy enterprise organizations (SSEEO's) as key players in transitioning to formal, poverty reduction, addressing decent work deficits in the informal economy (units and workers), climate action, and resilience of the informal sector, workers, and the communities. The SSE can shape the policy process and broader institutional ecosystem that structures patterns of resources, use and distribution, including social and power relations.

The resolution of the International Labour Organization concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy, adopted in June 2022, defines "social and solidarity enterprises (SSE)" as "encompassing "enterprises, organizations and other entities that are engaged in economic, social, and environmental activities to serve the collective and/or general interest, which are based on the principles of voluntary cooperation and mutual aid, democratic and/or participatory governance, autonomy and independence, and the primacy of people and social purpose over capital in the distribution and use of surpluses and/or profits as well as assets."¹

According to the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development, SSEs are at the

¹ International Labour Organization. (2022). *Resolution concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy*.
<https://www.ilo.org/resource/ilc/110/resolution-concerning-decent-work-and-social-and-solidarity-economy>

forefront of Just Transition as they engage in and promote sustainable resource management towards sustainable development. SSEs mostly operate in the sectors of agriculture, food, solid waste management, social protection services, and health with emphasis on the pursuit of accessibility and affordability towards food security and public health, among others. Beyond contributing to the enrichment of culture and education, SSEs prove to be reliable generators of decent jobs with fair wages and workers' rights by promoting both sustainable entrepreneurship and employment while at the same fostering more harmonious social cohesion. The SSE promotes better cooperation between its components, so that established initiatives are linked to less established ones, necessary for the development of collective strengths.²

To build on the accomplishments of existing social and solidarity enterprises and to be their effective partners for change, the proposed measure aims to institutionalize a framework for government that shall, among other things, identify strategic economic subsectors with potential for growth and transition to formal economic units. The government shall likewise formulate medium-term and annual development plans in synchrony with the country's medium-term development plan, including typology of formalization.

Finally, the bill also aims to promote people's participation and empowerment; establish sustainable programs that reduce inequality in incomes and increase self-reliance among the informal sector and the poor, and develop effective mechanisms for the provision of quality and accessible social services to the informal sector and the poor, including those producing or rendering services for own use or consumption as they are potential to benefit the services of the social and solidarity enterprises.

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


RAYMOND DEMOCRITO MENDOZA
TUCP Party-list Representative

² Report of the United Nations Secretary-General. (2024). Promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development.
<https://www.ilo.org/publications/promoting-social-and-solidarity-economy-sustainable-development>

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH
SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP (PRESENT)
PROGRAM AND PROMOTING SOCIAL ENTERPRISES WITH
THE INFORMAL SECTOR AS PRIMARY STAKEHOLDERS

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

Chapter I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “*Poverty Reduction Through Social and Solidarity Entrepreneurship (PRESENT) Act.*”

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. The State shall provide social justice in all phases of national development and shall value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights.

The State also recognizes the important role of enterprises in the economy as the major agent of development, creating off-farm employment opportunities and providing transitional means for improving the livelihood of the people. Towards this end, the State shall pursue an inclusive growth strategy that promotes an environment conducive to the development and growth of a vibrant social and solidarity economy sector engaged in poverty reduction, resilience, economic and social development. It shall empower the poor as primary stakeholders in social enterprises, establish mechanisms essential to realizing their potential and achieving

their full growth, and extend the assistance necessary for their advancement. The State shall likewise provide technical and financial assistance, incentives, coherent policies and other services to enable Social and Solidarity Economy Enterprises to develop into viable and vital anti-poverty agents, and the creation of a strong social entrepreneurship movement that will be instrumental in reducing poverty in the country, and collective dignity.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* — The following terms when used in this Act shall mean:

- a) *Basic Sectors*, as defined by Republic Act 8425 or the "Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act", 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, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, victims of calamities and disasters, youth and students, children, and urban poor;
- b) *Economic Subsectors* refer to networks of related actors, and enterprises performing various functions in value chains. These actors and enterprises transform raw materials into finished products, or develop services, and distribute or provide them through market channels to final consumers; they may be identified by key raw material source, by finished product or final service provided. An economic subsector may be comprised of several competing value chains. By understanding the dynamics of economic subsectors and using them as units of planning social entrepreneurship interventions, government agencies, support institutions and SEs shall more effectively reach and benefit a greater number of poor in poverty reduction programs and progressive formalization of informal sector;
- c) *Government-Procuring Entity* refers to any branch, department, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government, including state universities and colleges, government-owned and/or -controlled corporations, government financial institutions, and local government units procuring Goods, Consulting Services and Infrastructure Projects;
- d) *Informal Sector* refers to comprising economic units that are producers of goods and services mainly intended for the market to generate income and profit and that are not

formally recognized by government authorities as distinct market producers and thus not covered by formal arrangements;

- e) *Marginalized Sectors* refer to groups of people who are stigmatized or excluded by virtue of their physical, psychological, economic, social or cultural circumstance;
- f) *Marginalized Micro Enterprise* refers to any economic enterprise with a capital of One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) and below. This amount is subject to periodic determination of the Department of Trade and Industry to reflect economic changes.
- g) *Poor*, as defined by Republic Act 8425, refers to individuals and families whose income fall below the poverty threshold as defined by the Department of Economy, Planning and Development and/or cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing and other essential amenities of life;
- h) *Poverty Reduction* refers to overcoming the income, resource and capability deprivation among the poor, basic and marginalized sectors;
- i) *Social and Solidarity Enterprise* or SSE refers to enterprises, organizations and other entities that are engaged in economic, social, and environmental activities to serve the collective and/or general interest, which are based on the principles of voluntary cooperation and mutual aid, democratic and/or participatory governance, autonomy and independence, and the primacy of people and social purpose over capital in the distribution and use of surpluses and/or profits as well as assets. SSE entities aspire to long-term viability and sustainability, and to the transition from the informal to the formal economy and operate in all sectors of the economy. They put into practice a set of values which are intrinsic to their functioning and consistent with care for people and planet, equality and fairness, interdependence, self-governance, transparency and accountability, and the attainment of decent work and livelihoods. According to national circumstances, the SSE includes cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, foundations, social enterprises, self-help groups and other entities operating in accordance with the values and principles of the SSE.

- j) *Social and Solidarity Enterprise Service Institution* refers to an organization that assists SSEs for them for them to become viable and sustainable and which assistance pertains to supplying needs such as trainings, education and other capacity-building measures, research and development, and other similar activities;
- k) *Transactional Services* refer to enterprise or market-driven activities, such as providing loans, demonstrating new technologies or conducting trainings that are necessary for the poor in the SE system to effectively and efficiently perform their roles as workers, suppliers, clients and owners;
- l) *Transformative Services* refer to activities that empower the poor, such as leadership formation, organizational development, financial and legal literacy, asset build-up and providing education and experiential learning opportunities, to become conscious change agents for themselves, for their communities, sectors and society as a whole;
- m) *Value Chains* refer to value-adding economic activities that an enterprise is interlinked with in the process of producing goods and/or services to serve its chosen market. A value chain typically consists of: 1) raw materials processing, 2) inbound distribution or logistics, 3) manufacturing operations, 4) outbound distribution or logistics, 5) marketing and selling, and 6) after-sales service. These activities are supported by 6) purchasing or procurement, 7) research and development, 8) human resource development, and 9) organizational development. A SE that understands and manages its value chain improves its capability to create economic, environmental and social values towards improving the position and benefits of the poor in the value chain and towards ensuring the viability and sustainability of the enterprise; and

CHAPTER II

POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ENTERPRISES

Sec. 4. *Formulation of a Poverty Reduction Through Social and Solidarity Entrepreneurship (PRESSENT) Program.* — The PRESSENT Program shall be established as a flagship program of government. The objective of the PRESSENT Program is to progressively improve the position

and benefits derived by a large number of the poor, marginalized and basic sectors derived from economic subsector development and growth. It shall do this by identifying strategic economic subsectors with the potentials for growth and where the poor are concentrated or could be major players. In the process, it shall identify and develop key SSEs and resource institutions as partners in providing transactional and transformational services towards poverty reduction. SSEs shall be designed as vehicles to ensure that the poor benefit the most from sustainable subsector development.

The formulation of the PRESSENT program shall be guided by the following principles:

- a) Promoting sustainable programs that support the development of inclusive value chains in key economic subsectors, towards reducing inequality in incomes and increasing self-reliance among the poor;
- b) Enabling SSEs to overcome constraints and to take advantage of opportunities for enhancing the position and benefits of the poor and their living environments including those that harness innovative approaches in addressing social problems;
- c) Development of sustainable mechanisms for the provision of quality and accessible social services to the poor;
- d) People's empowerment by ensuring the participation of the poor, basic and marginalized sectors;
- e) Gender-sensitivity by ensuring women's equal rights and access to SSE's resources;
- f) Ecological soundness in the pursuit of sustainable and equitable development;
- g) Incorporation of the PRESSENT Program in the government's poverty reduction drive as a major sustainable and comprehensive strategy; and
- h) Rationalization of poverty reduction programs by streamlining and coordinating the various anti-poverty programs of the government to reduce inefficiency and duplication and to improve the effectiveness of each program.
- i) Development of typology of formalization

The planning framework of the PRESSENT Program and its planning process shall ensure that the poor are engaged as primary stakeholders. It shall add value and complement ecosystem-based, area-based, community-based and other tools and processes in local economic development by promoting and utilizing the economic subsector as a strategic unit of analysis and planning SSE development interventions.

PRESSENT medium-term and annual development plans shall be formulated in

synchrony with the medium-term development plan of the national government.

Sec. 5. National Enterprise Development Council. — The existing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MSMED) Council, which is an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, shall be strengthened and expanded to effectively spur the growth and development of MSMES and SSEs throughout the country, and to carry out the policy declared under this Act. It shall now be known as the National Enterprise Development Council, herein referred to as the Council.

In addition to the existing functions of the Council as provided under Republic Act 9501 or the “Magna Carta for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises”, the Council shall serve as the primary agency tasked to carry out the promotion, growth and development of social enterprises in the country. To ensure that the Council is able to fulfill its additional mandate, there shall be an SE Committee under the Council that shall perform the following specific duties:

- a) Promote social and solidarity enterprise as a key strategy for reducing poverty and enabling inclusive growth;
- b) Provide oversight for the implementation of the PRESSENT Program and activities of the Center for Social and Solidarity Enterprise Development (CSSED):
- c) Establish policies, plans, programs and projects to develop and promote SSE as a tool for poverty reduction as part of a comprehensive Social and Solidarity Enterprise Development Plan fully integrated and consistent with national development objectives and plans;
- d) Monitor and evaluate the performance of programs and projects of CSSED for appropriate incentives;
- e) Submit annual and other periodic reports to the President and the Congress of the Philippines;
- f) Promulgate such rules and regulations and exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act; and
- g) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for its effective operations and the continued enhancement, growth and development of the SSE sector.

The SSE Committee shall be composed of the DTI, DOST, TESDA, relevant council members, and the following representatives from the SSE Sector and SSE Service Institutions to realize these powers and functions:

- a) Nine (9) representatives from SSEs, three (3) representatives each from the main island groupings of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao;

- b) Three (3) representatives from SSE service institutions; and
- c) Three (3) representatives from SSE advocacy groups.

Sec. 6. Center for Social and Solidarity Enterprise Development. — There shall be established a Center for Social and Solidarity Enterprise Development (CSSED) under the supervision of the Council and to be headed by an Executive Director, which shall have the primary responsibility of implementing comprehensive policies for Social and Solidarity Enterprise Development. Specifically, the CSSED shall be responsible for:

- a) The development and implementation of the PRESENT Program as approved by the Council, with the following components:
 - 1. Formulation and implementation of social entrepreneurship-oriented strategic economic sub-sector development plans that shall serve as the basis for major policies, projects and activities;
 - 2. Capacity Building and Sustainability - The CSSED will work with qualified Social and Solidarity Enterprise Service Institutions and other intermediaries to design and deliver training and education in social entrepreneurship development, institutional start-up or strengthening, human resource competency and skills training, business planning and advisory services, upgrading of accounting and auditing systems, technical assistance for the installation or improvement of management information systems, technology intervention, technology incubation/commercialization, market studies, and product development competitiveness, business matching activities, trade fairs and missions, policy advocacy, disaster-resiliency and other related activities.
 - 3. Research and Development - The CSSED in coordination with the NEDA, DOST, DTI, UP-ISSI, PIDS, DAP, National Anti-Poverty Commission and other appropriate agencies, research institutions, and intermediaries, shall develop and enhance a research and development system that:
 - i. provides studies on opportunities for poverty reduction and SSE development in key economic subsectors and other inputs for the Council to undertake strategic planning for programs and projects;

ii. equip SSEs and support institutions with services and technologies that are appropriate for enhancing the participation and benefits of the poor in various economic subsectors; and

iii. equip SSEs and support institutions with innovative, and sustainable approaches to improve access of the poor to quality basic social services.

4. Information and Marketing Assistance - The CSSED shall promote the development and expansion of local and foreign markets for the products and services of SEs. Towards this, the CSSED shall:

i. establish a marketing assistance program that will assist SSEs match supply with demand in both domestic and foreign markets, as well as promote SSE products and services through tri-media, trade fairs and trade missions; and

ii. develop, install and sustain a market information system for SEs with the assistance of the DTI and DOT. All government departments, agencies, bureaus, research institutions, as well as the Local Government Units (LGUs) shall consolidate and continuously update all relevant information and data that would be of use to SSEs on a periodic basis and make such data available in a dedicated website on the internet.

- b) Establishment and implementation of criteria and process for the qualification of SSEs that shall be eligible for support and other incentives as provided by this Act and as approved by the Council;
- c) Identification of sources of financing for the SSE sector not limited to grants, loans and equity financing for enterprise incubation, start-up and expansion;
- d) Management of multi-stakeholder convergence programs and activities among government agencies and private organizations in support of the PRESSENT Program;
- e) Coordination with the concerned government agencies and local government units in the development and implementation of the PRESSENT Program and projects.
- f) Coordination with social enterprise stakeholders, including peoples organizations, non-government organizations, and multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary pool of experts from the academe, practicing professionals, business, industry, youth,

women and other concerned sectors to provide advice and technical assistance on matters pertaining to SSEs.

Sec. 7. Role of LGUS in SSE Development. — LGUs shall be encouraged to incorporate viable SSE development plans in their local plans and collaborate with SEs.

Sec. 8. Social and Solidarity Enterprise Development Fund. — There shall be included in the budget of the DTI under the annual General Appropriations Act an initial amount of Nine Hundred billion Pesos (P900,000,000.00) for the establishment of a Social and Solidarity Enterprise Development Fund (SSEDF) which shall be utilized as grants to SSEs for the plans set forth under the PRESSENT program.

The SSEDF shall be allocated for:

- a) Six Hundred Million Pesos (P600,000,000.00) for value-chain financing; and
- b) Three Hundred billion Pesos (P300,000,000.00) for enterprise development services.

After the first year of implementation, such sums as may be necessary to fund the SSEDF shall be included in the budget of the DTI under the annual General Appropriations Act.

Plans for the utilization of the SSEDF shall be developed by the CSSED for approval by the Council.

CHAPTER III INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS FOR SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ENTERPRISES

Sec. 9. Special Credit Windows. — The Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines and other government financial institutions shall all establish special credit windows for the unique needs of SSEs that are backed by a guarantee fund, as provided by Section 10 of this Act, for the following purposes:

- a) Credit line for business development loan or working capital loan to cover the operational and management expenses of an existing business or income generating project, including receivable financing or purchase of additional inventory, soft or intangible investments such as trade fair participation or acquisition of software or franchise development packages;
- b) Fixed assets financing to cover acquisition of fixed assets like

- machineries and equipment, motor vehicle, or acquisition of lot for project site or construction of a plant and building and the improvement thereof;
- c) Value chain financing to cover any of the value chain activities such as production, processing and marketing;
 - d) Domestic letter of credit or trust receipt to provide a stand by credit facility for the SSE borrower for the purchase of product input, equipment, machinery, implements, and spare parts, whereby payment of which is guaranteed and to be made to the seller by the lending institution, provided all documents conform with the terms and conditions of the credit; and
 - e) Revolving Credit Line for re-lending to finance the livelihood project requirements of end-borrowers.
 - f) The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shall develop policies for dedicated financial inclusion program for the SSEOs

Sec. 10. *Social and Solidarity Enterprise Guarantee and Surety Fund* — There shall be established a Social and Solidarity Enterprise Guarantee and Surety Fund (SSEGSF) which shall be funded from equity contributions of government financial institutions. The SSEGSF shall be administered by the Small Business Corporation to enable SSEs to access non collateralized and other appropriate financing while mitigating the risks involved in SSE sector lending, The SSEGSF shall be used to provide guarantee cover to participating financial institutions and other parties in extending financing to SSEs: *Provided*, That the fund may also be used to cover the performance bond of SSEs for their transactions.

Sec. 11. *Compliance to Mandatory Allocation of Credit Resources*. — Loans granted by financial institutions to Social and Solidarity Enterprises shall be computed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as twice the loan amount for purposes of determining financial institutions' compliance to the mandatory allocation of credit resources to micro, small and medium enterprises under Republic Act 950a or the "Magna Carta for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises."

Sec. 12. *Public Procurement for Social Enterprises*. — The Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) shall facilitate the full participation of SSEs in public procurement processes. In support of this provision, the DBM shall direct agencies of government to allocate at least ten percent (10%) of their annual budgets specifically for projects to be procured from SSEs.

Sec. 13. *Insurance for Social Enterprises*. — The Insurance Commission shall issue the necessary rules and regulations and implement measures to ensure that the insurance industry shall provide insurance products, both life and non-life, for SSEs and their stakeholders among the poor. Furthermore, SSEs shall be eligible to be licensed agents or delivery channels for their clients and constituents.

Sec. 14. *Cash Incentives for Persons with Disabilities*. — To level the playing field and in recognition of the circumstances of start-up SSEs primarily employing PWDs, the SSEDf created in Section 8 of this Act shall provide a cash incentive for every PWD, in accordance with Republic Act 7277 or the "Magna Carta for Disabled

Persons”, and other marginalized sectors as may be provided by this law, representing at least twenty five percent (25%) of the daily minimum wage, until such time that the said SSE is able to achieve financial sustainability.

Sec. 15. *Eligibility for Benefits and Incentives.* — In the case of SSEs organized as stock corporations, partnerships or sole proprietorships, the following requirements shall apply to become eligible for benefits and incentives provided by this Act:

- a) An SSE must not be organized as a branch, subsidiary or division of a private business enterprise, regardless of the size of such private business enterprise, nor may its policies be determined by a private business enterprise: *Provided*, That this shall not preclude a SSE from accepting subcontracts from large private business enterprises or firms or from joining in cooperative or joint-venture activities with other SSEs or foundations practicing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- b) At least sixty percent (60%) of a SE's total expenditures and profits plows back to the enterprise for the benefit of the poor, and engage in practices that optimize the benefits for the poor through the provision of living wages, above-market pricing for economically disadvantaged producers and suppliers, and other such best practices that distribute the profit generated by the enterprise.

CHAPTER IV

ENFORCEMENT OF LABOR STANDARDS FOR DECENT WORK IN SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY ENTERPRISES

Sec. 16. *SSE Entity.* — For purposes of this Chapter, the SSE entity is a private business entity similar to a corporation, with a legal personality distinct and separate from the members comprising it.

Sec. 17. *Observance of Labor Rights in all SSE Entities.* — All SSE entities shall respect and uphold the Constitutionally guaranteed right of all its workers, whether members or non-members, to a living wage, safe and healthy workplace, to form, join, and assist a union of their own choosing, the right to bargain collectively, and to engage in peaceful concerted activities, including the right to strike. In no case shall membership or participation in an SSE entity be construed as a waiver, diminution, or preclusion of these said rights.

Sec. 18. *Prohibition Against Labor-Only Contracting through SSE.* — An SSE entity is prohibited from engaging as a labor-only contractor, manpower agency, or as a labor supplier to an enterprise, establishment, or project. Engaging in any of such acts shall render the SSE and its officers jointly and severally liable for fraud under Article 1170 of the Civil Code of the Philippines without prejudice to penalties imposed under the Labor Code of the Philippines and relevant Department Orders.

Sec. 19. Regular Employment Status in SSE. — All employees engaged by an SSE, whether member-employees or not, to render work or service under its control or supervision are deemed regular employees on the first day of work.

CHAPTER V APPROPRIATION AND OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec. 20. Social and Solidarity Entrepreneurship Education in Schools. - Toward strategically developing the nation's human resource capability in social entrepreneurship, the DepEd, TESDA and the CHED shall cause the integration of SSE content and inclusion of SSE courses in the curricula at all levels, especially in the secondary and tertiary levels. A continuing social entrepreneurship education program for out-of-school youth and adults shall likewise be developed and undertaken.

Sec. 21. Social and Solidarity Enterprise Week. — In order to institute continuing awareness on the importance of SSEs as a viable government strategy in pursuing poverty alleviation, the week of the month when this Act shall have been signed into law shall be declared as the “*Social and Solidarity Enterprise Week*” and shall be celebrated annually. The Council shall, through the CSSED, be responsible in organizing activities for the event.

Sec. 22. Appropriations. — The Council shall allocate the initial amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) from the existing MSMED Council Fund to support the operations and programs of the CSSED. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the DTI under the annual General Appropriations Act. The budgetary requirements of the cooperating agencies shall be incorporated in their respective budgets. The CSSED may raise funds from other sources for specific projects as may be authorized by law.

Sec. 23. Transitory Provision. — Within a period of five years, the NEDC shall facilitate the development and dissemination of tools, and invest in the development of the capability of SSEs to plan, monitor and evaluate their social and financial performance and outcomes. Further, the NEDC shall evolve socially-acceptable benchmarks for evaluating the performance of SSEs and incorporate such to more effectively develop and regulate the sector.

Sec. 24. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Trade and Industry shall, in consultation and coordination with the concerned government agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 25. Separability Clause. — If any portion or provision of this Act is subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 26. Repealing Clause. — All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts

thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 27. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,