

TWENTIETH CONGRESS )  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 5255

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Introduced by Representative **FRANZ FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime. This timeless proverb captures the very essence of sustainable development. Empowering our people means providing not just a one-time aid but equipping them with the skills, opportunities and resources to secure their own future.

The Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has long served as one of the government's flagship initiatives for poverty reduction, empowerment, and inclusive growth. Through its Microenterprise Development and Employment Facilitation tracks, the SLP provides the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized sectors with the means to secure sustainable sources of income and achieve self-sufficiency.

Despite its success in uplifting countless Filipino families, the SLP currently operates only as a mere administrative program. Its implementation, therefore, depends on annual budget appropriations and administrative directives that may change with succeeding administrations. This situation threatens the continuity, consistency, and long-term impact of the program, leaving many Filipino households vulnerable to policy shifts and funding limitations.

This measure seeks to institutionalize the DSWD-SLP to ensure its permanence as a national poverty reduction and livelihood initiative. It formally establishes the SLP as a regular, fully funded program under the DSWD, with clear structures for policy direction, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The bill codifies the two core tracks of the SLP—Microenterprise Development and Employment Facilitation—as well as their respective funding modalities, such as the Seed Capital Fund, Skills Training Fund, and Employment Assistance Fund.

By providing capability-building support, start-up capital, and access to market linkages, the institutionalized SLP will empower program participants not just to start businesses or gain employment, but to sustain livelihoods that are resilient, inclusive, and community-driven. The bill also mandates regular reporting, transparency mechanisms, and convergence with other government and private sector programs to enhance its effectiveness and accountability.

Ultimately, this measure reflects the State's commitment to advancing social justice and economic empowerment by helping every Filipino "learn how to fish"—to earn a living with dignity and independence. Institutionalizing the SLP ensures that livelihood support for the poor will not merely be a temporary relief, but a sustained pathway toward self-reliance and national development.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought

  
**FRANZ FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI**  
Representative, PINOY WORKERS PARTYLIST

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. **5255**

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Introduced by Representative FRANZ FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI

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AN ACT  
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND  
DEVELOPMENT SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM (DSWD-SLP)

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

CHAPTER I  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1           **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “The DSWD Sustainable  
2 Livelihood Program Act.”

3  
4           **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policies*** - It is declared the policy of the State to promote  
5 livelihood and entrepreneurship for all to achieve sustainable development.

6  
7 It is likewise the policy of the State to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the poor and  
8 vulnerable through the provision of market intervention and livelihood development through  
9 microenterprise development in facilitating and supporting basic employment.

10  
11 Towards this end, the State shall respect and strengthen Filipino households, individuals, groups  
12 or communities by providing assistance that may be utilized through such inherent skills to  
13 achieve positive livelihood outcomes through community mobilization and community-driven  
14 enterprise development.

15  
16           **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms*** – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms are  
17 defined, as follows:

18  
19           **(a) *Capability-Building*** - refers to the provision of institutional assistance to  
20 program participants geared at enhancing their competencies to start, manage,  
21 and sustain their established livelihood projects.

22  
23           **(b) *Disadvantaged*** - refers to an individual, family, or group who is considered  
24 economically, physically, and socially deprived or has inadequate means to  
25 protect oneself including indigent children, out-of-school youth, physically unfit  
26 and persons with disabilities, distressed individuals and families.

27  
28           **(c) *Employment Facilitation (EF) Track*** - refers to a track of the SLP that provides  
29 assistance to eligible program participants who prefer formal employment rather  
30 than engaging in microenterprise.

31  
32           **(d) *Micro-enterprise Development Track (MD Track)*** - refers to a track of the SLP  
33 which focuses on the establishment of micro-enterprise through the provision of

1 financial capital, enhancement of skills, and building/re-building physical and  
2 natural assets.

3  
4 (e) ***Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)*** - refers to the national poverty  
5 reduction strategy and a human capital investment program that provides  
6 conditional cash transfer to poor households for a maximum period of seven (7)  
7 years, to improve the health, nutrition, and education aspect of their lives. The  
8 National Advisory Council (NAC) may recommend a longer period under  
9 exceptional; circumstances.

10  
11 (f) ***Poor*** - refer to individuals or families whose income falls below the poverty  
12 threshold as defined by the Department of Economy, Planning and Development  
13 (DEPDEV) and/or who cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide their  
14 minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing, or other essential  
15 amenities of life, as defined under Republic Act No. 8425, otherwise known as  
16 the "Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act"

17  
18 (g) ***Program Participants*** - refers to an eligible individual or members of the  
19 SLPAs who are in need of livelihood assistance and will be provided through  
20 the various modalities and interventions of the Program.

21  
22 (h) ***Sustainable Livelihood Program Association (SLPA)*** - refers to a beneficiary  
23 Civil Society Organization (CSO) organized by DSWD through SLP with  
24 minimum of 15 and maximum of 30 members in an association and is issued  
25 with Certificate of Accreditation (CoA) to be eligible recipients of SLP  
26 assistance under the Microenterprise Development Track.

27  
28 (i) ***Sustainable Livelihood*** - refers to a livelihood that can cope with and recover  
29 from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both  
30 now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base.  
31 (Department for International Development, Adapted from Chambers, R. and G.  
32 Conway (1992)).

33  
34 (j) ***Vulnerable*** - refers to households confronted by ex-ante risk that, if they are  
35 currently non-poor, will fall below the poverty line; if they are currently poor,  
36 they will remain in poverty. It is defined in terms of exposure to adverse  
37 conditions related to welfare, not just their exposure to poverty.

38  
39 **SEC. 4. *The Sustainable Livelihood Program*** - The Sustainable Livelihood  
40 Program (SLP) is a livelihood capability-building program for the identified poor, vulnerable,  
41 marginalized, and disadvantaged individuals, households, and communities that provide  
42 assistance in the form of Microenterprise Development and Employment Facilitation Track to  
43 qualified SLP program participants.

44  
45 **SEC. 5. *Modalities of Assistance*** - The SLP shall have two (2) Tracks mainly: (i)  
46 Microenterprise Development Track that provides support for the establishment of  
47 microenterprise livelihoods; and (ii) Employment Facilitation Track that provides support in  
48 securing and maintaining gainful employment.

49  
50 The following are the modalities under the Micro-Enterprise Development (MD) Track:

51  
52 a) **Seed Capital Fund** - a grant used as start-up capital to purchase raw materials, small  
53 tools, and common service facilities such as machinery, equipment, and plants needed  
54 in starting or expanding a microenterprise. A maximum amount of twenty thousand  
55 pesos (Php 20,000.00) per individual program participant, and a maximum amount of  
56 thirty thousand pesos (Php 30,000.00) per SLPA member.

57

1 b) **Skills Training Fund** - a grant used for the acquisition of knowledge and skills  
2 needed by the members of the SLPA in the management of the microenterprise. The  
3 grants cover the following components: a) technical-vocational skills training fee; b)  
4 meal, lodging, and transportation allowance; c) training supplies and materials; and d)  
5 program participants' assessment fee. A maximum amount of twenty thousand pesos  
6 (Php 20,000.00) per program participant.

7  
8 c) **Cash for Building Livelihood Assets Fund** - an allowance or stipend is provided to  
9 SLPA members who have rendered work for labor-intensive projects to build, re-  
10 build, and/or protect natural and physical assets necessary for more profitable, self-  
11 sustaining, and resilient microenterprises. 100% of the present regional standard  
12 minimum wage set by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for a  
13 maximum of 11 days.

14  
15 The following are the modalities under the Employment Facilitation (EF) Track:

16  
17 a) **Employment Assistance Fund** is a grant amounting to seven thousand pesos (Php  
18 7,000.00) provided to program participants pursuing the Employment Facilitation  
19 Track for the following purpose: a) processing of employment documentary  
20 requirements; b) for required medical exams; c) purchase of basic employment tools  
21 and materials; d) transportation and meal allowance, and board and lodging until the  
22 first 15 days of employment.

23  
24 b) **Skills Training Fund** is a grant received by the program participants for his/her  
25 acquisition of technical and vocational knowledge and skills delivered in the form of  
26 orientations and lectures, demonstrations, and other similar skills acquisition  
27 methodologies for the program participants. The grants covers the following  
28 components: a) technical-vocational skills training fee; b) meal, lodging, and  
29 transportation allowance; c) training supplies and materials; and d) program  
30 participants' assessment fee. A maximum amount of twenty-thousand pesos (Php  
31 20,000.00) per program participant.

32  
33 **SEC. 6. Eligibility Requirements** – Filipino individuals, households, and those in  
34 the vulnerable, marginalized, and disadvantaged communities that are in need of livelihood  
35 assistance. Provided, that the program participants are at least sixteen (16) years old, with a  
36 written legal consent from the parents or legal guardians to participate in the Microenterprise  
37 Development Track; and at least eighteen (18) years old upon employment, following legal  
38 employment standards, for Employment Facilitation Tracks.

39  
40  
41 **SEC. 7. Beneficiaries of SLP** - Eligible program participants may avail of the  
42 modalities within the chosen track as needed for the microenterprise or employment facilitation.  
43 The following may avail of the livelihood program:

44  
45 a) Pre-identified participants through the use of approved identification tool/systems  
46 or a combination of the following:

- 47  
48 i) Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS);  
49 ii) Other approved DSWD identification systems; and  
50 iii) SLP Eligibility Assessment and Profile Form.

51  
52 b) Disaster-affected participants by natural disasters and human induced hazards.

53  
54 c) Area-Based Convergence participants identified through formal agreement  
55 between DSWD and its internal or external partners or stakeholders.  
56

1 d) Referred participants to SLP by internal or external partner(s)/stakeholders, or  
2 walk-in clients.

3  
4 e) Previously served SLP program participants that have been served at least five (5)  
5 years ago from the time they receive the grants.

6  
7 f) Associations registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC),  
8 Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), or Department of Labor and  
9 Employment (DOLE), or those not initially organized by the SLP that are endorsed  
10 to the Program for livelihood assistance

11  
12 **SEC. 8. *Livelihood Sustainability Plan*** – The Sustainability Plan encompasses the  
13 five (5) Phases of SLP which includes continuous monitoring and technical assistance of the  
14 livelihood projects, capability-building activities, partnership linkages, and additional grant  
15 incentives for successful SLPAs until program graduation. The individual livelihood projects and  
16 EF Track program participants will be monitored and provided technical assistance for one (1)  
17 year from the time they receive the grants before being mainstreamed to the concerned LGUs.

18  
19 **SEC. 9. *Grant Release*** - The DSWD shall release grants to individual program  
20 participants and SLPAs under the Microenterprise Development and Employment Facilitation  
21 Tracks through cash, cheque, or Auto Debit Arrangement (ADA), following existing government  
22 auditing and accounting rules and procedures.

23  
24 **SEC. 10. *Partnership Building*** - The DSWD shall link public and private partners  
25 with SLP program participants to strengthen its implementation through the provision of  
26 complementary and/or supplementary interventions. The partnership building will sustain,  
27 provide funding support, link institutional markets, and develop community-based life skills and  
28 technical assistance to the livelihood projects.

29  
30 **SEC. 11. *Institutional Arrangements*** – The DSWD shall serve as the lead agency  
31 for the central coordinating, planning, implementing, and monitoring body on the Program's  
32 overall management. The SLP National Program Management Office (NPMO) shall have the  
33 steering and oversight functions and tasks while the SLP Regional Program Management Office  
34 (RPMO) shall take charge in the implementation of the Program stages.

35  
36 The Program shall assign Project Development Officers that shall serve as the community  
37 facilitator responsible for identifying, organizing, capacitating the new program participants and  
38 shall validate the utilization of grants to ensure that the approved project has been duly  
39 implemented. A field monitoring Project Development Officer shall be assigned to ensure that  
40 the modalities of assistance are sustained by the program participants through the conduct of  
41 regular monitoring visits and assessments.

42  
43 The SLP NPMO shall perform and implement the following functions:

- 44  
45 a) Development and enhancement of Program policies, tools, and guidelines;  
46 b) Setting of performance standards and compliance monitoring;  
47 c) National Program Planning and Coordination;  
48 d) Human Resource Management and capacity-building for national and regional  
49 program personnel;  
50 e) National Program Budget Management;  
51 f) National Program Monitoring and Evaluation such as program milestones,  
52 accomplishments, results monitoring, and evaluation of program outcomes; and  
53 g) Other related tasks as required and necessary for the management of the Program.

54  
55 The SLP RPMO shall perform and implement the following functions:  
56

- 1 a) Full implementation of the Program Stages based on the approved process, timeline,  
2 and program implementation parameters;
- 3 b) Compliance to implementation standards and policies;
- 4 c) Beneficiary level monitoring and evaluation for technical assistance and reporting;
- 5 d) Participation to human resource development and capacity-building sessions;
- 6 e) Obligation and disbursement of funds; and
- 7 f) Regional, provincial, and city/municipality level coordination.

8  
9 **SEC. 12. *Regular Program Monitoring, Reporting, and Transparency*** - The  
10 DSWD through the SLP NPMO and RPMO shall regularly monitor the implementation of the  
11 Program and report its status in order to ensure the attainment of the goals enumerated in this  
12 Act. The Program shall annually publish a full report of the SLP covering the implementation  
13 and accomplishments of the previous fiscal year. The said report shall include the total number  
14 of households and individuals served, its physical and financial accomplishments, notable  
15 achievements, success stories, and list of recommendations on how to further enhance the  
16 implementation of the SLP. The report shall be published in the DSWD official website for  
17 transparency.

18  
19 **SEC. 13. *Appropriations*** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
20 Act shall be charged against those authorized in the current and subsequent General  
21 Appropriations Act.

22  
23 **SEC. 14. *Oversight Committee*** – Upon the effectivity of this Act, a Congressional  
24 Committee, hereafter referred to as the SLP’s Oversight Committee is hereby constituted. The  
25 Committee shall be composed of members from the Committee on Poverty Alleviation,  
26 Committee on Labor and Employment, and Committee on Social Services. The oversight  
27 committee shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation, while  
28 the Chairperson of the Committee on Social Services shall serve as co-chair of the Committee.  
29 Additional composition of the oversight Committee shall be within the purview of the legislative  
30 body.

31  
32 The Committee shall conduct periodic reviews to ensure the proper implementation of this Act as  
33 regards the expenditures of the earmarked funds, cost parameters of the modalities,  
34 accomplishments of the Program, and the performance of its implementing offices.

35  
36 **SEC. 15. *Compliance to Data Privacy Act of 2012*** - The DSWD SLP shall comply  
37 with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173 otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of  
38 2012. Additionally, the Program shall further comply with the organizational, physical, technical  
39 and security measures prescribed in the SLP Data Privacy Policy and Sharing Protocol Manual.

40  
41 **SEC. 16. *Data Sharing*** – Data sharing between government agencies for the  
42 purpose of public function or provision of a public service shall be covered by a Data Sharing  
43 Agreement; Provided, that the DSWD SLP shall comply with the provisions of Republic Act No.  
44 10173 otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012; Provided further, that all information  
45 filed with the DSWD SLP, and other database system used by the DSWD shall be made  
46 available to the stakeholders, institution, government agencies, departments and non-government  
47 agencies, including obligations to protect personal data and information.

48  
49 **SEC. 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** - Within twelve (12) months from  
50 the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD Secretary shall, in coordination with appropriate  
51 government Departments and Agencies with the participation of the local government units,  
52 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

53  
54 **SEC. 18. *Convergence of Programs and Services for Livelihood Support*** - Within  
55 the scope of social protection and national poverty alleviation strategies, stakeholders such as  
56 other National Government Agencies, the private sector, volunteer groups, the academe, among  
57 others, implementing multi-stakeholder programs and services for the poor and vulnerable, shall

1 converge and complement the modalities offered by the DSWD SLP. Such convergence shall  
2 focus on the enhancement of operational efficiency, provision of additional financing, access to  
3 resources, enhancement of program modules and capability-building activities, and  
4 strengthening of external partnerships and linkages.

5

6 **SEC. 19. *Separability Clause*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or  
7 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions shall not be affected and shall remain valid  
8 and subsisting.

9

10 **SEC. 20. *Repealing Clause*** – Any law, Presidential Decree or issuance, Executive  
11 Order, Letter of Instruction, Administrative Order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
12 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

13

14 **SEC. 21. *Effectivity*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete  
15 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the  
16 Philippines.

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*Approved,*