

Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5463

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Introduced by **Representative MA. RENE ANN LOURDES G. MATIBAG**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE**  
**CENTERS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY OF**  
**THE COUNTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8505,**  
**OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “RAPE VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION**  
**ACT OF 1998”**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

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2 Republic Act No. 8505, otherwise known as the \**“Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act*  
3 *of 1998”*\*, was enacted to establish rape crisis centers in every province and city in the country  
4 and to provide assistance to rape victims in their recovery and pursuit of justice. While this law  
5 was groundbreaking at the time of its passage, two decades of implementation have revealed  
6 both the need to expand the scope of assistance and to update the institutional framework for  
7 addressing the broader realities of violence and crisis situations faced by women and children.

8 Despite the passage of R.A. 8505 and other landmark laws such as the \**Anti-Violence Against*  
9 *Women and Their Children Act of 2004*\* (R.A. 9262), the \**Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of*  
10 *2003*\* (R.A. 9208, as amended), and the \**Magna Carta of Women*\* (R.A. 9710), statistics  
11 continue to show alarming levels of violence, exploitation, neglect, and abuse against women  
12 and children. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority and the Philippine National  
13 Police, thousands of cases of physical and sexual violence, trafficking, child abuse, and gender-  
14 based crimes are reported annually, with many more going unreported due to fear, stigma, or  
15 lack of access to support services.

16 The existing framework under R.A. 8505 is limited to rape crisis intervention. However,  
17 women and children today face multifaceted vulnerabilities that go beyond rape cases —  
18 including domestic abuse, trafficking, prostitution, labor exploitation, child neglect, gender-  
19 based violence, and displacement from disasters and armed conflict. Addressing these

1 challenges requires a more holistic and integrated approach to support, protection,  
2 rehabilitation, and empowerment.

3 This proposed measure seeks to amend R.A. 8505 by establishing Resource Development and  
4 Crisis Assistance Centers for Women and Children in every province and city of the country.  
5 These Centers will not only provide immediate legal, medical, and psychological support to  
6 victims and survivors of rape and other abuses but also extend programs for livelihood and  
7 skills development, education, capability-building, temporary shelter, rehabilitation, and  
8 reintegration into society.

9 The bill mandates the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in  
10 coordination with local government units and other government agencies, to lead the  
11 establishment and operation of these Centers. An **\*\*Inter-Agency Advisory Council\*\*** will  
12 ensure policy coherence, efficient resource allocation, and effective monitoring of programs.  
13 The Centers will also actively partner with civil society organizations, academic institutions,  
14 and faith-based groups in delivering their services.

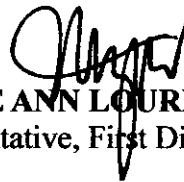
15 Furthermore, this measure provides for phased nationwide implementation, prioritizing areas  
16 with the highest incidence of violence against women and children, as well as mechanisms for  
17 accountability, transparency, and independent monitoring of program outcomes. The bill also  
18 institutionalizes funding support through the national budget and the mandatory allocation of  
19 at least five percent (5%) of the Gender and Development (GAD) budget of LGUs for the  
20 operation and maintenance of the Centers.

21 By expanding the scope of protection and services from rape victims to all women and children  
22 in crisis situations, this measure recognizes their dignity and rights, and ensures that they are  
23 empowered not merely as survivors but as active participants in nation-building.

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

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27 **REP. MA. RENE ANN LOURDES G. MATIBAG**  
28 Representative, First District of Laguna  
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1       SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Resource Development and  
2 Crisis Assistance for Women and Children Act.”

3       SEC. 2. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8505 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4               “SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the  
5 State to [~~provide necessary assistance and protection for rape victims~~] **VALUE**  
6 **THE DIGNITY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS,**  
7 **AND RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE IN NATION-BUILDING AND PROVIDE**  
8 **ALL OTHER IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO**  
9 **PROTECT THEM.** Towards this end, the [~~government shall coordinate its~~

1 various agencies and non-government organizations to work hand in hand for the  
2 establishment and operation of a rape crisis center in every province and city that  
3 shall assist and protect rape victims in the litigation of their cases and their  
4 recovery.] STATE SHALL ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THEIR  
5 FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND SHALL PROVIDE THEM WITH  
6 FACILITIES, RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT  
7 WILL ENSURE THEIR WELFARE AND ENABLE THEM TO REALIZE  
8 THEIR FULL POTENTIALS IN THE SERVICE OF THE NATION. THE  
9 STATE SHALL PROVIDE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITH UTMOST  
10 SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE WHICH SHALL INCLUDE AMONG  
11 OTHERS, LEGAL SERVICES, LIVELIHOOD AND SKILLS  
12 DEVELOPMENT, PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING AND ALL  
13 OTHER ASSISTANCE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEM AGAINST  
14 ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE, NEGLECT, ABUSE, CRUELTY,  
15 EXPLOITATION AND OTHER ACTS PREJUDICIAL TO THEIR  
16 WELFARE, DEVELOPMENT, AND FULFILLMENT OF THEIR  
17 RIGHTS.”

18 **SEC. 3.** Section 3 of the same Act is likewise amended to read as follows:

19 “SEC. 3. [*Rape*] **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND Crisis**  
20 **ASSISTANCE CenterS.** – [~~The Department of Social Welfare and Development~~  
21 ~~(DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of the Interior and~~  
22 ~~Local Government (DILG), the Department of Justice (DOJ), and a lead non-~~  
23 ~~government organization (NGO) with proven track record or experience in~~  
24 ~~handling sexual abuse cases, shall establish in every province and city a rape crisis~~

1 ~~center located in a government hospital or health clinic or in any other suitable~~  
2 ~~place for the purpose of:~~

3 ~~“(a) Providing rape victims with psychological counselling, medical and~~  
4 ~~health services, including their medico-legal examination;~~

5 ~~“(b) Securing free legal assistance or service, when necessary, for rape~~  
6 ~~victims;~~

7 ~~“(c) Assisting rape victims in the investigation to hasten the arrest of~~  
8 ~~offenders and the filing of cases in court;~~

9 ~~“(d) Ensuring the privacy and safety of rape victims;~~

10 ~~“(e) Providing psychological counselling and medical services whenever~~  
11 ~~necessary for the family of rape victims;~~

12 ~~“(f) Developing and undertaking a training program for law enforcement~~  
13 ~~officers, public prosecutors, lawyers, medico-legal officers, social workers, and~~  
14 ~~barangay officials on human rights and responsibilities; gender sensitivity and legal~~  
15 ~~management of rape cases; and~~

16 ~~“(g) Adopting and implementing programs for the recovery of rape victims.~~

17 ~~“The DSWD shall be the lead agency in the establishment and operation of~~  
18 ~~the Rape Crisis Center.]~~

19 **“THERE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**  
20 **AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE CENTERS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN**  
21 **EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY OF THE COUNTRY, HEREINAFTER**  
22 **REFERRED TO AS THE “CENTERS”. THESE CENTERS SHALL BE**

1 UNDER THE MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION OF THE  
2 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD)  
3 IN CONSULTATION WITH CONCERNED LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
4 UNITS (LGUs).

5 “THE CONCERNED LGUs AND THE DSWD SHALL ENTER INTO  
6 A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) INDICATING THEREIN  
7 THEIR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND  
8 OPERATION OF THE CENTERS.

9 “(A) COMPOSITION OF THE INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL TO BE  
10 KNOWN AS THE ADVISORY COUNCIL. – AN INTER-AGENCY  
11 COUNCIL SHALL BE CONVENED TO SET THE CRITERIA FOR THE  
12 SELECTION OF THE SITES OF THE CENTERS ALL OVER THE  
13 COUNTRY TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE EXISTING  
14 FACILITIES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND LGUs,  
15 NONGOVERNMENT AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN  
16 PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THE COUNCIL SHALL BE  
17 COMPOSED OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE  
18 DSWD, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL  
19 GOVERNMENT (DILG), THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), THE  
20 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE  
21 AND INDUSTRY (DTI), THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED),  
22 THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), THE  
23 NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA),  
24 THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON WOMEN (PCW), THE NATIONAL

1 YOUTH COMMISSION (NYC), THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND  
2 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), THE PHILIPPINE  
3 NATIONAL POLICE – WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROTECTION  
4 CENTER (PNP-WCPC), THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
5 (CHED), THE COUNCIL ON THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN (CWC),  
6 AND WOMEN’S NONGOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY  
7 ORGANIZATIONS DULY ACCREDITED BY NATIONAL  
8 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. THE INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL, DULY  
9 CHAIRED BY THE DSWD, SHALL ALSO ACT AS AN ADVISORY  
10 COUNCIL TO OVERSEE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND  
11 MONITORING OF THE CENTERS’ PROGRAMS.

12 “(B) FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTERS. – THE CENTERS SHALL  
13 HAVE THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS TO ENSURE COMPREHENSIVE  
14 AND INTEGRATED SERVICES:

15 “(1) TO SERVE AS THE VENUE FOR CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING,  
16 CAPABILITY-BUILDING AND FUNCTIONAL LITERACY  
17 ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS, AMONG OTHERS, THAT WILL  
18 EDUCATE THE CENTERS’ CLIENTELE, ENHANCE PUBLIC  
19 AWARENESS OF ISSUES, AND PROMOTE COMMUNITY  
20 PARTICIPATION TOWARD WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S  
21 EMPOWERMENT;

22 “(2) TO UNDERTAKE PROGRAMS GEARED TOWARDS  
23 MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE, SELF-ENHANCEMENT AND  
24 THE DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS FOR LIVELIHOOD GENERATION,

1 SOCIAL COMMUNICATION, AND OTHER RELEVANT  
2 OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS;

3 “(3) TO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL SERVICES, MEDICAL  
4 ASSISTANCE INCLUDING MEDICO-LEGAL EXAMINATIONS AND  
5 PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING TO VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF RAPE  
6 AND OTHER CASES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND  
7 CHILDREN ENSURING THEIR PRIVACY AND SAFETY;

8 “(4) TO UNDERTAKE PROGRAMS RELATED TO GENDER  
9 SENSITIVITY AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE VALUES FORMATION,  
10 COUNSELLING, REHABILITATION AND PSYCHOSOCIAL  
11 WELLBEING;

12 “(5) TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE TEMPORARY SHELTER TO  
13 ABUSED WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN;

14 “(6) TO ASSIST RAPE VICTIM-SURVIVORS OR VICTIM-  
15 SURVIVORS OF OTHER FORMS OF ABUSES IN THE INVESTIGATION  
16 TO HASTEN THE ARREST OF OFFENDERS AND THE FILING OF  
17 CASES IN COURT;

18 “(7) TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING AND  
19 MEDICAL SERVICES WHEN NECESSARY FOR THE FAMILY OF  
20 RAPE VICTIM-SURVIVORS OR VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF OTHER  
21 FORMS OF ABUSES;

22 “(8) TO PROVIDE SKILLS TRAINING AND LIVELIHOOD  
23 ASSISTANCE TO VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE;

1           **“(9) TO STRENGTHEN AND FACILITATE LINKAGES OF**  
2           **WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH**  
3           **RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LGUs TO MAXIMIZE**  
4           **THE DELIVERY OF BASIC AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR WOMEN**  
5           **AND CHILDREN AND ADVOCATE FOR THE PROTECTION AND**  
6           **ADVANCEMENT OF THEIR RIGHTS;**

7           **“(10) TO DEVELOP AND UNDERTAKE A CONTINUING**  
8           **CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR FRONTLINE**  
9           **SERVICE PROVIDERS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LAW**  
10           **ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, PUBLIC PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS,**  
11           **MEDICO-LEGAL OFFICERS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, DEVELOPMENT**  
12           **WORKERS, SOCIAL WORKERS, HEALTH WORKERS, THERAPISTS**  
13           **AND BARANGAY OFFICIALS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND**  
14           **RESPONSIBILITIES; GENDER SENSITIVITY AND LEGAL/CASE**  
15           **MANAGEMENT OF SITUATIONS/CASES INVOLVING WOMEN AND**  
16           **CHILDREN; AND**

17           **“(11) TO PERFORM SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE**  
18           **NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS ACT;**

19           **“(12) TO ENSURE THAT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE**  
20           **CENTERS ARE HARMONIED WITH THOSE UNDER EXISTINGS LAWS**  
21           **SUCH AS REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9262 (ANTI-VIOLENCE AGAINST**  
22           **WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN ACT), REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9208**  
23           **(ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT), REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9710**  
24           **(MAGNA CARTA OF WOMEN), AND OTHER RELATED STATUTES TO**

1       **PREVENT DUPLICATION, ENSURE EFFICIENCY, AND STRENGTHEN**  
2       **COORDINATION.**

3               **“(C) CLIENTS OF THE CENTERS. – ALL WOMEN, INCLUDING**  
4       **TRANSGENDER WOMEN, AND CHILDREN UNDER THE FOLLOWING**  
5       **CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL BE ENTITLED TO PROTECTION AND**  
6       **ASSISTANCE BY THE CENTERS:**

7               **“(1) VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF PROSTITUTION AND SEXUAL**  
8       **EXPLOITATION;**

9               **“(2) VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ABUSE**  
10       **AND BATTERY;**

11              **“(3) VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF RAPE, INCEST, SEXUAL ABUSE,**  
12       **HARASSMENT OR MOLESTATION;**

13              **“(4) VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT,**  
14       **TRAFFICKING AND/OR LABOR EXPLOITATION;**

15              **“(5) VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF ARMED CONFLICT, NATURAL OR**  
16       **ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM**  
17       **TRAUMA DUE TO DEATH OR DISPLACEMENT OF FAMILY**  
18       **MEMBERS, DISLOCATION OR LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD;**

19              **“(6) ABANDONED AND RUN-AWAY WOMEN AND CHILDREN;**

20              **“(7) WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN DETENTION;**

21              **“(8) VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF ANY FORM OF VIOLENCE AND**  
22       **SUFFERING FROM ANY CRISIS SITUATION;**

1           **“(9) VICTIM-SURVIVORS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL,**  
2           **EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**  
3           **NEEDING SPECIAL SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE; AND**

4           **“(10) VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES AS MAY**  
5           **BE DETERMINED BY THE DSWD.**

6           **“(D) PERSONNEL/STAFF COMPLEMENT OF THE CENTERS. –**  
7           **EACH CENTER SHALL BE HEADED BY A FEMALE DIRECTOR WHO**  
8           **HOLDS A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK OR COMMUNITY**  
9           **DEVELOPMENT OR SIMILAR COURSES, HAS A MINIMUM**  
10          **EXPERIENCE OF FIVE (5) YEARS IN COUNSELLING, SOCIAL AND**  
11          **PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES AND OTHER RELATED FIELD OR**  
12          **EXPERIENCE, AND POSSESSES A PROVEN TRACK RECORD AS AN**  
13          **ADVOCATE OF WOMEN’S ISSUES AND EXPERTISE IN GENDER-**  
14          **RESPONSIVE TRAININGS AND PROGRAMS FOR CAPABILITY-**  
15          **BUILDING AND IS OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER.**

16          **“THE SECRETARY OF THE DSWD, IN CONSULTATION WITH**  
17          **THE HEADS OF THE CONCERNED LGU SHALL APPOINT THE**  
18          **DIRECTOR AND OTHER NECESSARY PERSONNEL OF THE**  
19          **CENTERS. THE STAFF COMPLEMENT OF THE CENTERS SHALL BE**  
20          **SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET**  
21          **AND MANAGEMENT (DBM).**

22          **“VOLUNTEERS FROM THE VARIOUS NONGOVERNMENT**  
23          **ORGANIZATIONS MAY EXTEND PROFESSIONAL, HOUSEHOLD,**  
24          **RECREATIONAL AND TRAINING EXPERTISE TO THE CENTERS.**

1       **STUDENTS OF SOCIAL WORK AND WOMEN STUDIES AND OTHER**  
2       **RELATED PROGRAMS WHO ARE IN PRACTICUM COURSES MAY**  
3       **RENDER VOLUNTARY SERVICES TO THE CENTERS. THE**  
4       **PERSONNEL AND STAFF AS WELL AS VOLUNTEER WORKERS**  
5       **SHALL UNDERGO REGULAR TRAININGS ON HOW BEST TO**  
6       **HANDLE THE DIFFERENT SITUATIONS OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF**  
7       **THE CENTERS.”**

8       **SEC. 3-A. PHASED IMPLEMENTATION – THE ESTABLISHMENT OF**  
9       **THE CENTERS SHALL BE PRIORITIZED IN PROVINCES AND CITIES**  
10       **WITH THE HIGHEST INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**  
11       **AND CHILDREN AS DETERMINED BY THE DSWD, THE PHILIPPINE**  
12       **STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA), AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL**  
13       **POLICE. A NATIONWIDE ROLL-OUT SHALL BE COMPLETED**  
14       **WITHIN FIVE (5) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.**

15       **SEC. 4.**     Republic Act No. 8505 is hereby further amended by inserting the following  
16       new Sections after Section 3 thereof:

17               **“SEC. 4. REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. –**  
18       **THE DSWD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE INTER-AGENCY**  
19       **COUNCIL CONVENEED UNDER SECTION 3(A) HEREOF, SHALL**  
20       **WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT,**  
21       **FORMULATE A PROGRAM FOR THE REHABILITATION,**  
22       **DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN,**  
23       **MENTIONED IN SECTION 3(B) HEREOF. THE COUNCIL SHALL ALSO**  
24       **OVERSEE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMS**

1 OF THE CENTERS AND MONITOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
2 PARTICIPATING AGENCIES. IT SHALL ALSO ACT AS AN ADVISORY  
3 BOARD.

4 "THE DSWD MAY CALL ON NATIONAL AGENCIES AND LGUS,  
5 ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
6 TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT BY WAY OF  
7 PROGRAM COLLABORATION AND FUNDING AUGMENTATION,  
8 AMONG OTHERS.

9 "SEC. 5. *AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT DONATIONS.* – THE DSWD,  
10 THROUGH THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, MAY ACCEPT  
11 DONATIONS AND GRANTS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN, FOR  
12 PURPOSES RELEVANT TO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTERS. THE  
13 DONATIONS AND GRANTS SHALL BE ALLOTTED TO THE VARIOUS  
14 CENTERS IN SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE DEEMED BEST BY THE  
15 DSWD OR FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED BY THE DONOR. SUCH  
16 DONATIONS AND GRANTS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PERTINENT  
17 ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING RULES AND REGULATIONS."

18 "SEC. 5-A. *MONITORING AND REPORTING.* – THE DSWD, IN  
19 COORDINATION WITH THE ADVISORY COUNCIL, SHALL SUBMIT  
20 TO CONGRESS AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF CENTERS,  
21 INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES SERVED, BUDGET  
22 ALLOCATIONS AND UTILIZATION, AND PROGRAM OUTCOMES.  
23 THE REPORT SHALL ALSO INCLUDE CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

1           **AND RECOMMENDATION FOR POLICY OR BUDGETARY**  
2           **ADJUSTMENTS.**

3           **FAILURE OF ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR LGU TO IMPLEMENT THE**  
4           **PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT WITHOUT JUSTIFIABLE CAUSE SHALL**  
5           **SUBJECT THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS TO ADMINISTRATIVE**  
6           **SANCTIONS UNDER EXISTING CIVIL SERVICE RULES.**

7           **“SEC. 5-B. INDEPENDENT MONITORING. – CIVIL SOCIETY**  
8           **ORGANIZATIONS, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, AND WOMEN’S GROUPS**  
9           **SHALL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INDEPENDENT**  
10          **MONITORING MECHANISM TO REGULARLY ASSESS THE**  
11          **PERFORMANCE, RESPONSIVENESS, AND IMPACT OF THE CENTERS.**  
12          **THE FINDINGS OF SUCH MONITORING SHALL BE MADE PUBLIC**  
13          **ANNUALLY.**

14          SEC. 5. Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the same Act are hereby renumbered accordingly as  
15          Sections 6, 7 and 8.

16          SEC. 6.     Sections 7 and 8 of the same Act are hereby deleted.

17          SEC. 7.     *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act  
18          shall be included in the budget of the DSWD under the annual General Appropriations Act.

19          **AT LEAST FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT**  
20          **(GAD) BUDGET OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUS) SHALL BE**  
21          **ALLOCATED FOR THE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE**  
22          **CENTERS, IN ADDITION TO THE BUDGET APPROPRIATED UNDER THE**  
23          **GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT.**

1        SEC. 8.    *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days upon the  
2 approval of this Act, the DSWD and all concerned agencies, including at least three (3)  
3 women’s and civil society organizations active on the issues of gender-based violence, shall  
4 formulate rules and regulations as may be necessary for the proper implementation thereof.

5        SEC. 9.    *Separability Clause.* – If any part, section or provision of this Act is declared  
6 invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts thereof not affected thereby shall remain valid.

7        SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
8 administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of  
9 this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

10       SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in  
11 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

12       Approved,