



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6103**



Introduced by : **Rep. Ma Isabel L. Sagarbarria**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every Filipino deserves the chance to move forward and thrive, especially those trapped in unforgiving, generational cycle of poverty. For so long a time, the poor, vulnerable, marginalized and disadvantaged have relied on temporary relief. With the passage of the “DSWD Sustainable Livelihood Program Act”, this measure seeks to institutionalize the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in order to provide a sustainable source of livelihood to our communities. This is a genuine paradigm shift -- from transient aid toward lasting sustainable economic empowerment.


The SLP, anchored on the concept that every Filipino can be self-sufficient when given access to opportunities, is a capacity-building program which provides both the knowledge and the initial assets through its complementary tracks: the Micro-enterprise Development Track and Employment Facilitation Track.

The Micro-enterprise Development Track provides seed capital and entrepreneurial skills to launch small businesses while the Employment Facilitation Track offers technical training and assistance to secure stable, formal jobs. By equipping its beneficiaries with these necessary skills and assets, the SLP is geared towards achieving the State’s policy of promoting sustainable development and prioritizing the socio-economic welfare of every Filipino household. With the institutionalization of the program, we are contributing to our goal of ultimately eradicating poverty in the country.

Since its implementation in 2011, the SLP has proven to be a non-conditional, investment-based solution and demonstrated its efficacy by successfully assisting millions of Filipino households. However, the programs remains to be a mere administrative program vulnerable to policy shifts and funding limitations subject to administrative discretions.

Thus, its institutionalization is paramount. More than providing a permanent and efficient organizational structure that aids in the implementation of the program, this Act ensures stability and continuity by mandating a specific annual appropriation within the General Appropriations Act, thereby guaranteeing resources and fiscal space for millions of future beneficiaries, irrespective of succeeding administrations.

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


MA ISABEL L. SAGARBARRIA
Representative, 2nd District, Negros Oriental



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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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the "The DSWD Sustainable Livelihood Program Act"

Section 2. Declaration of Policies. — It is the declared policy of the State to promote and foster sustainable development by providing livelihood development opportunities and entrepreneurship programs to for each and every Filipino.

In line with this policy, the State recognizes the imperative to improve the socio-economic status of the poor, vulnerable, marginalized and disadvantaged individuals through furthering strategic market intervention and livelihood development achieved via microenterprise development and basic employment.

Towards this end, the State shall respect and strengthen Filipino households, individuals, groups, or communities by providing assistance designed to be utilized through their inherent skills to achieve positive livelihood outcomes via community mobilization and community-driven enterprise development.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. For purpose of this Act, the following terms are defined, as follows:

- a. Certificate of Accreditation (COA)** — refers to a certification issued by the Field Office (FO) to the Sustainable Livelihood Program Association (SLPA) after the issuance of the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) by the SLP Regional Program Management Office (SLPRPMO). The Certificate of Accreditation shall be a requisite prior to the release of funds to the SLPAs under the Micro-Enterprise Development Track;

- b. Department** — shall refer to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
- c. Employment Assistance Fund (EAF)** — refers to a grant provided to program participants that will support a guaranteed employment such as: 1) processing of employment documentary requirements; 2) payment of medical tools and materials; and 3) transportation allowance, meal allowance, and board and lodging until the first 15 days of employment;
- d. Employment Facilitation (EF)** — refers to a track of the Sustainable Livelihood Program that provides assistance to qualified member/s of poor households who preferred employment rather than engaging in micro-enterprise;
- e. Officer** — refers to a Sustainable Livelihood Program staff of the Field Officer responsible for the organization and facilitation of opportunities of program participants involving stakeholders within or outside the city/municipality;
- f. Micro-enterprise Development Track (MD Track)** — refers to a track of Sustainable Livelihood Program which focuses on the establishment of micro-enterprise through the provision of financial capital, enhancement of skills, and building/re-building physical and natural assets;
- g. Monitoring Project Development Officer (MPDO)** — refers to a Sustainable Livelihood Program field staff responsible for the monitoring of the operationalization of the enterprises or employment and progress of the SLP association throughout the program monitoring period;
- h. Poor** — refers to individuals or families whose income falls below the poverty threshold as defined by the Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DEPDEV) and/or who cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing, or other essential amenities of life, as defined under Republic Act No. 8425, otherwise known as the "Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act";
- i. Program Participants** — refers to eligible individual or members of the SLP associations, EF participants, individual referrals, or other recipients who are in need of livelihood assistance and will be provided through the various modalities and interventions of the Program;
- j. Seed Capital Fund (SCF)** — refers to a start-up grant for SLP association or individual, used to purchase small tools, raw materials, and common services facilities such as machinery, equipment, and plant needed in starting or expanding a micro-enterprise. The SCF is only provided once per program participant;

- k. Skills Training Fund for Micro-Enterprise Development Track (STF-MD)** — refers to a grant that is used for the acquisition of knowledge and skills needed in the management of the micro-enterprise to be managed by the SLPA or its members;
- l. Skills Training Fund for Employment Facilitation (STF-EF)** — refers to a grant to be used for the acquisition of technical and vocational knowledge and skills delivered in the form of orientations and lectures, demonstrations, and other similar skills acquisition methodologies for the participants. The grant covers the following components: a) technical-vocational skills training fee; b) meal, lodging, and transportation allowance; c) training supplies and materials; and d) program participants' assessment fee;
- m. System for Targeting of Beneficiaries** — refers 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;
- n. Sustainable Livelihood Program Association (SLPA)** — refers to an⁽¹⁾_(SLP) association with 5-30 members organized by the DSWD, through the SLP, which is issued with a Certificate of Accreditation making them eligible recipients of assistance of Sustainable Livelihood Program under the Micro-Enterprise Development Track;
- o. SLP-National Program Management Office (SLP-NPMO)** — refers 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; SLP-Regional Program Management Office (SLP-RPMO) shall refer to an office of the DSWD Field Office responsible for the management of SLP at the regional level providing technical assistance, supervision, and management of all SLP provincial offices.

Section 4. The Sustainable Livelihood Program. — The Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is a livelihood capability-building program for the identified poor, vulnerable, marginalized and disadvantaged individuals, households, and communities that provide 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 in order to have access to external resources such as additional credit, insurance, capacity building, and market linkages.

Section 5. Modalities of Assistance — The SLP shall have two (2) major Tracks mainly: (i) Micro- Enterprise Development Track that provides support for the establishment of micro-enterprise livelihoods; and ii) Employment Facilitation Track that provides support in securing and maintaining gainful employment.

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

- a. Seed Capital Fund;
- b. Skills Training Fund; and
- c. Cash for Building Livelihood Assets Fund.

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

- a. Employment Assistance Fund; and
- b. Skills Training Fund.

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

Section 7. Beneficiaries of SLP — Eligible program participants may avail of the modalities within the chosen track as needed for the microenterprise or employment facilitation. The following may avail of the livelihood program:

- a. Pre-identified participants through the use of approved identification tool/systems or a combination of the following:
 - i. Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)
 - ii. Other approved DSWD Identification Systems; and
 - iii. SLP Eligibility Assessment and Profile Form
- b. Disaster-affected participants by natural disasters and human induced hazards.
- c. Area-Based Convergence participants identified through formal agreement between DSWD and its internal or external partners or stakeholders.
- d. Referred participants to SLP by internal or external partner(s)/stakeholders, or walk-in clients.
- e. Previously served SLP program participants that have been served at least five (5) years ago from the time they receive the grants.
- f. Associations registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), or Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), or those not initially organized by the SLP that are endorsed to the Program for livelihood assistance

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

LGUs.

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

Section 10. Institutional Arrangements. — The DSWD shall serve as the lead agency for central coordinating, planning, implementing, and monitoring body the program's overall management. The SLP National Program Management Office (NPMO) shall have the steering and oversight functions and tasks while the SLP Regional Program Management Office (RPMO) shall take charge in the implementation of the program stages.

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

The SLP NPMO shall perform and implement the following functions:

- a. Enhancement and development of Program policies, tools, and guidelines;
- b. Setting of performance standards and compliance monitoring;
- c. National program planning and coordination;
- d. Human resource management and capacity building for national and regional program personnel;
- e. National program budget management; National program monitoring and evaluation such as program milestones, accomplishments, results monitoring, and evaluation of program outcomes; and
- f. Other related tasks as required and necessary for the management.

The SLP RPMO shall perform and implement the following functions:

- a. Full implementation of the Program Stages based on the approved process, timeline, and program implementation parameters;
- b. Compliance to implementation standards and policies;
- c. Beneficiary level monitoring and evaluation for technical assistance and reporting;
- d. Participation to human resource development and capacity-building sessions;
- e. Obligation and disbursement of funds; and
- f. Regional, provincial, and city/municipality level coordination.^[11]

Section 11. Regular Program Monitoring, Reporting, and Transparency. — The DSWD SLP NPMO and RPMO, shall regularly monitor the implementation of the program in order to ensure the attainment of the goals enumerated in this Act. The Program shall annually

publish a full report of the SLP covering the implementation and accomplishments of the previous fiscal year. The said report shall include the total number of households served, physical and financial accomplishments, notable achievements, success stories, note-worthy capacity-building activities, and list of recommendations on how to further enhance the implementation of the SLP. The report shall be published in the DSWD official website for transparency.

Section 12. Appropriations. — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against those authorized in the current and subsequent General Appropriations Act.

Section 13. Oversight Committee. — Upon the effectivity of this Act, a Congressional Committee, hereafter referred to as the SLP's Oversight Committee is hereby constituted. The Committee shall be composed of members from the Committee on Poverty Alleviation, Committee on Labor and Employment, and Committee on Social Services. The oversight committee shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation, while the Chairperson of the Committee on Social Services shall serve as co-chair of the committee. Additional composition of the oversight committee shall be within the purview of the legislative body.

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

Section 14. Coverage. — Exiting 4Ps beneficiaries, individuals, Filipino households, groups or communities identified as poor by the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) Listahanan and Republic Act 11291, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of the Poor, shall be covered as a program participant of the DSWD SLP. Moreover, the SLP participants shall also cover households identified as poor based on the system for targeting of beneficiaries used by the SWD.

Section 15. Compliance to Data Privacy Act of 2012 — The DSWD SLP shall comply with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173 otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012. Additionally, the Program shall further comply with the organizational, physical, technical and security measures prescribed in the SLP Data Privacy Policy and Sharing Protocol Manual.

Section 16. Data Sharing. — Data sharing between government agencies for the purpose of public function or provision of a public service shall be covered by a data sharing agreement; Provided, that the DSWD SLP shall comply with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173 otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012; Provided further, that all information filed with the DSWD SLP, National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) Listahanan, and other database system used by the SWD SLP shall be made available to

the stakeholders, institution, government agencies, departments and non-government agencies, including obligations to protect personal data and information.

Section 17. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within twelve (12) months from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD Secretary shall, in coordination with appropriate government departments and agencies with the participation of the local government units, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

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

Section 19. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions shall not be affected and remain valid and subsisting.

Section 20. Repealing Clause. — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 201 Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,