



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7007



**Introduced by Representatives: Antonio “Tonypet” T. Albano and
Allan U. Ty**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) of the Department of Social and Welfare Development (DSWD) and appropriate funds therefor.

Administrative Order No. 11, Series of 2011, was issued by the DSWD to formally introduce SLP, as a progenitor program of the Self-Employment Assistance *Kaunlaran*. The SLP is a community-based capability-building program for identified poor, vulnerable, and marginalized households and communities. It aims to eliminate, if not totally eradicate, poverty in all its forms by building the capability of beneficiaries to engage in and maintain thriving, resilient, and sustainable livelihoods through micro-enterprise and employment opportunities. It has an expanded platform of viable livelihood interventions.

The coverage of SLP was expanded to cover households affected by natural and human-induced disasters through the issuance of Memorandum Circular No. 2, Series of 2021, or the special guidelines on the provision of livelihood assistance to families affected by disasters through the sustainable livelihood program.

In 2023, the “*Sibol*” became the new, enhanced, and improved integrated five-year plan of the SLP. Its participants need a five-year “*incubation period*” for intensifying capability-building activities and additional livelihood incentives to ensure long-term sustainability and resiliency, capable of withstanding and adapting to challenges and changes.

Institutionalizing the SLP will create long-term economic opportunities for program participants to access livelihood support. It will also enable them to achieve economic sufficiency and a stable pathway out of poverty through the livelihood projects.

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


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**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

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

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policies.** – It is the policy of the State to
4 promote a just and dynamic social order that ensures the prosperity and
5 independence of the nation, frees the people from poverty through adequate
6 social services, and promotes full employment, a rising standard of living, and
7 an improved quality of life for all.

8 Toward this end, the State shall capacitate the poor, vulnerable, and
9 marginalized individuals, households, or communities to improve their socio-
10 economic conditions by building sustainable and resilient livelihoods through
11 skills and resources.

12 SEC. 3. **Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

13
14 (a) *Capability-building* refers to the provisions of institutional
15 assistance to program participants geared at enhancing the
16 competencies to start, manage, and sustain the established livelihood
17 projects;

18
19 (b) *Disadvantaged* refers to an individual, family, or group who
20 is considered economically, physically, and socially deprived or has
21 inadequate means to protect oneself, including indigent children, out-

1 of-school youth, persons with disabilities, and distressed individuals
2 and families;
3

4 (c) *Employment Facilitation (EF) Track* refers to a component of
5 the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) that provides assistance to
6 eligible participants who prefer formal employment rather than
7 engaging in micro-enterprise;
8

9 (d) *Micro-enterprise Development (MD) Track* refers to the
10 component of the SLP that focuses on the establishment of micro-
11 enterprises through the provision of financial capital, enhancement of
12 skills, and building or rebuilding of physical and natural assets;
13

14 (e) *Poor* refers to individuals or families whose incomes fall
15 below the poverty threshold as defined by the Department of Economy,
16 Planning and Development, or who are unable to afford in a sustained
17 manner the minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing,
18 or other essential amenities of life;
19

20 (f) *Program participants* refer to qualified individuals, or
21 members of the sustainable livelihood program associations, who need
22 assistance or other interventions;
23

24 (g) *Sustainable livelihood* refers to a livelihood that may cope
25 with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its
26 capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not
27 undermining the natural resource base;
28

29 (h) *Sustainable Livelihood Program Association (SLPA)* refers to
30 a beneficiary Civil Society Organization organized by the Department of
31 Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) through the SLP with a
32 minimum of fifteen (15) and a maximum of thirty (30) participants in
33 an association and is issued a Certificate of Accreditation to be eligible
34 recipients of SLP assistance under the MD Track; and
35

36 (i) *Vulnerable* refers to individuals or households exposed to
37 adverse welfare-related conditions who, if currently non-poor, fall below
38 the poverty line, or if already poor, may remain in poverty.

39 SEC. 4. ***Sustainable Livelihood Program.*** – The Sustainable
40 Livelihood Program, hereinafter referred to as the “*Program*” of the DSWD, is
41 hereby established as a livelihood capability-building program for the poor,
42 vulnerable, marginalized, or disadvantaged individuals, households, and
43 communities. The Program provides assistance to qualified participants
44 through either the MD Track or the EF Track.

45 SEC. 5. ***Modalities of Assistance.*** – (a) The modalities under the MD
46 Track, which provide support for the establishment of micro-enterprise
47 livelihoods, are as follows:

1 a) *Seed Capital Fund* is a start-up capital grant for the
2 purchase of raw materials, small tools, and common service facilities
3 such as machinery, equipment, and plants, including other assets,
4 needed in starting or expanding a micro-enterprise. To strengthen the
5 viability and sustainability of micro-enterprise development under the
6 SLP, the maximum amount of the Seed Capital Fund are as follows:
7

8 (1) An individual program participant is entitled to a maximum
9 grant of Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00); and
10

11 (2) Each member of a duly accredited SLPA is entitled to a
12 maximum grant of Thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00), subject
13 to the approved group business plan and program guidelines.
14

15 The DSWD shall update its program guidelines accordingly and ensure
16 that the enhanced ceiling is implemented equitably, with priority given to
17 vulnerable and marginalized sectors.
18

19 (b) *Skills Training Fund* is a grant in the maximum amount of
20 Twenty thousand pesos only (P20,000.00) per program participant,
21 which must be used exclusively for the acquisition of technical and
22 vocational knowledge and skills needed by the members of the SLPA for
23 the effective management, operation and sustainability of the micro-
24 enterprise, and covers the following components:
25

26 (1) Technical-vocational training fees charged by accredited
27 training institutions;
28

29 (2) Meal, lodging and transportation allowances incurred
30 during the training period;
31

32 (3) Training supplies and materials essential to the learning
33 process; and
34

35 (4) Assessment fees required for certification or competency
36 evaluation.
37

38 (c) *Cash for Building Livelihood Assets Fund* is an allowance or
39 stipend provided to SLPA members who have rendered work for labor-
40 intensive projects to build, rebuild, and protect natural and physical
41 assets necessary for more profitable, self-sustaining, and resilient
42 micro-enterprises. The program participant is entitled to 100% of the
43 current regional standard minimum wage set by the Department of
44 Labor and Employment for a maximum of eleven (11) days;
45

46 Likewise, the modalities under the EF Track are as follows:
47

48 (1) *Employment Assistance Fund* is a grant in the maximum
49 amount of Seven thousand pesos (P7,000.00) per program
50 participant who is a first-time job seeker. The program
51 participant may use the grant for the following purposes:

- (i) Processing of employment documentary requirements;
- (ii) Medical examinations;
- (iii) Purchase of basic employment tools and materials; and
- (iv) Transportation, meal, and board and lodging allowances for the first fifteen (15) days of employment.

(2) *Skills Training Fund* is a grant in the maximum amount of Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) per program participant 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. The grant covers the following components:

- (i) Technical-vocational skills training fees charged by accredited training institutions;
- (ii) Meal, lodging and transportation allowances incurred during the training period;
- (iii) Training supplies and materials essential to the learning process; and
- (iv) Assessment fees required for certification or competency evaluation.

SEC. 6. ***Eligibility Requirements.*** – To be eligible to participate in the Program, the program participants for the MD Track must be at least sixteen (16) years old, with written consent from the parents or legal guardians, and at least eighteen (18) years old upon employment for the EF Track.

SEC. 7. ***Beneficiaries.*** – The following may avail of the Program:

(a) Pre-identified participants determined through the use of an approved identification tools or systems, including any combination of the following:

- (1) Community-Based Monitoring System;
- (2) Other approved DSWD identification systems; and
- (3) Program Eligibility Assessment and Profile Form.

(b) Participants affected by natural disasters or human-induced hazards, as validated by appropriate government agencies or local authorities;

(c) Area-based convergence participants identified through formal agreement between DSWD and its internal or external partners or stakeholders;

(d) Referred participants to the Program by internal or external partners or stakeholders, or walk-in clients assessed to meet program criteria;

(e) Former program participants who received grants at least five (5) years prior, and who demonstrate readiness for re-engagement based on updated eligibility assessments; and

(f) Members of the Association registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Cooperative Development Authority, or Department of Labor and Employment, or those not initially organized by the SLP that are endorsed to the Program for livelihood assistance.

SEC. 8. **Sustainability Plan.** – The DSWD shall formulate and implement a livelihood sustainability plan to ensure the success of the participants of the Program. The sustainability plan must guide program participants from starting up a micro-enterprise or finding employment to maintaining, expanding, and diversifying their sources of income, ultimately achieving economic self-reliance. Likewise, the sustainability plan must identify potential risks and provide strategies for resilience to economic fluctuation or other challenges.

Successful program participants graduating from the Program may receive additional incentives to encourage continued growth.

SEC. 9. **Grant Releases.** – The DSWD shall release grants to individual program participants and SLPA members under the MD and EF Tracks through cash, check, or auto debit arrangement based on existing government auditing and accounting rules and procedures.

SEC. 10. **Partnership Building.** – The DSWD shall facilitate partnerships between public and private stakeholders and program participants to strengthen the implementation of the Program through complementary or supplementary interventions. The partnerships aim to sustain the Program's initiatives, provide funding support, link institutional markets, develop community-based life skills, and offer technical assistance.

SEC. 11. **Institutional Arrangements.** – The DSWD shall serve as the lead agency and the central coordinating, planning, implementing, and monitoring body of the program. The National Program Management Office (NPMO) of the Program shall provide overall direction. On the other hand, the Regional Program Management Office (RPMO) shall implement the phases or stages of the Program as may be prescribed by the DSWD.

The NPMO shall assign implementing project development officers to serve as community facilitators responsible for identifying, organizing, and capacitating the program participants, and validating the utilization of grants

1 to ensure that the approved modalities are duly implemented. Likewise, the
2 NPMO shall assign a field monitoring project development officer responsible
3 for ensuring that the modalities of assistance are sustained by the program
4 participants through regular monitoring visits and assessments.

5 SEC. 12. **Functions of NPMO.** – The NPMO shall:

6
7 (a) Develop and enhance the policies, tools, and guidelines of
8 the Program;

9
10 (b) Set the performance standards and compliance
11 monitoring;

12
13 (c) Establish the Program planning and coordination;

14
15 (d) Strengthen the human resource management and
16 capacity-building for the national and regional program personnel;

17
18 (e) Administer the Program budget management;

19
20 (f) Formulate, implement, and record the program monitoring
21 and evaluation such as milestones, accomplishments, results
22 monitoring, and evaluation of outcomes; and

23
24 (g) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for the
25 management of the Program.

26 SEC. 13. **Functions of RPMO.** – The RPMO shall:

27
28 (a) Implement the program stages based on the approved
29 process, timeline, and parameters;

30
31 (b) Comply with implementation standards and policies;

32
33 (c) Monitor and evaluate the program participants for technical
34 assistance and reporting;

35
36 (d) Participate in human resource development and capacity-
37 building sessions;

38
39 (e) Obligate and disburse funds; and

40
41 (f) Coordinate at the regional, provincial, and city or
42 municipal levels.

1 SEC. 14. **Monitoring, Reporting, and Transparency.** – The NPMO
2 and RPMO shall regularly monitor the implementation of the Program. The
3 DSWD shall annually publish a full report covering the implementation and
4 accomplishments of the previous fiscal year. The annual report shall include
5 the total number of households served, physical and financial
6 accomplishments, notable achievements, success stories, and a list of
7 recommendations on how to further enhance the implementation of the
8 Sustainable Livelihood Program. The report must be published on the DSWD
9 official website for transparency.

10 SEC. 15. **Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.** – A Joint
11 Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor the implementation of this Act
12 is created and composed of five Senators and five (5) Representatives to be
13 appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of
14 Representatives, respectively. The Joint Congressional Oversight Committee
15 shall be co-chaired by the chairpersons of the Committee on Social Services
16 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare
17 and Rural Development of the Senate.

18 The Joint Congressional Oversight Committee shall conduct periodic
19 reviews to ensure the proper implementation of this Act, pertaining to the
20 expenditure of the funds, cost parameters of the modalities, systematic
21 evaluation of the impact of this Act, accomplishments of the Program, and the
22 performance of its implementing offices.

23 SEC. 16. **Compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012.** – The
24 Program must strictly adhere to the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173,
25 otherwise known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012,” including its implementing
26 rules and regulations. In accordance with said law, the Program must
27 institute and maintain appropriate organizational, physical, and technical
28 measures designed to ensure the security, integrity, and lawful processing of
29 personal data.

30 SEC. 17. **Data Sharing.** – Data sharing between government agencies
31 for public function or provision of a public service must be covered by a data
32 sharing agreement. All information collected in the implementation of the
33 Program may be made available to the stakeholders, institutions, government
34 agencies, departments, and non-governmental agencies, subject to the
35 provisions of the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

36 SEC. 18. **Support from Stakeholders.** – The national government
37 agencies, private sector, volunteer groups, academe, and other stakeholders
38 implementing multi-stakeholder programs and services for the poor and
39 vulnerable are encouraged to complement the modalities offered by the
40 Program. They may provide support to enhance operational efficiency,
41 additional financial resources, program modules, and capability-building
42 activities, including strengthening external partnerships and linkages.

1 SEC. 19. **Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial
2 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current
3 appropriations of the DSWD. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary
4 for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
5 General Appropriations Act.

6 SEC. 20. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90)
7 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Social Welfare and
8 Development shall, in coordination with appropriate government agencies
9 and local government units, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary
10 for the effective implementation of this Act.

11 SEC. 21. **Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part of this Act is
12 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not
13 affected remain in full force and effect.

14 SEC. 22. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
15 orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions
16 of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

17 SEC. 23. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
18 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.