



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 7699

Introduced by Representative EDGAR R. ERICE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Poverty diminishes not only the income of a person, but also the promise of a nation. It limits choice, suppresses potential, and denies millions of Filipinos the opportunity to live with dignity, purpose, and hope. For a developing country such as the Philippines, the fight against poverty must therefore be waged not through short-term relief alone like the ayuda system, but through enduring investments in human capability and productive livelihoods.

As the timeless proverb teaches us, *"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."* This wisdom continues to guide sound public policy: that true social protection empowers rather than conditions, enables rather than sustains dependence.

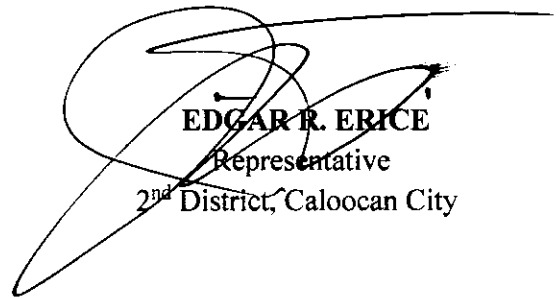
History reminds us that the strength of a State is measured by how it lifts those who are left behind. Former President Diosdado Macapagal aptly stated that *"The ultimate purpose of economic development is the enrichment of human life."* This proposed "Kabuhayan Act" advances that purpose by ensuring that livelihood assistance is not episodic, but sustained; not fragmented, but coordinated; and not transactional, but transformational.

In empowering Filipinos to earn with dignity, to build enterprises, and to secure decent work, the State invests not only in individuals, but in the future of the nation itself. For a people whose greatest resource has always been its labor, ingenuity, and perseverance, this measure affirms a simple yet powerful truth: development begins when opportunity is made accessible to all.

The Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development has proven that when government invests in skills, enterprise, and employment, families are transformed from aid recipients into economic contributors. Yet without firm institutional anchoring, the program remains vulnerable to policy shifts, fragmented implementation, and limited scale.

This bill seeks to correct that vulnerability by institutionalizing and expanding the SLP as a cornerstone of the national poverty-reduction framework. Through strengthened micro-enterprise development and employment facilitation tracks, complemented by values formation, capacity building, market linkages, and multi-sectoral convergence, the State affirms that poverty alleviation must lead to self-reliance, resilience, and social mobility.

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



EDGAR R. ERICE
Representative
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AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD
PROGRAM

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

1

2 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the “**Kabuhayan Act: Komprehensibong**
3 **Adhika para sa Buhay at Unaplad na Hanapbuhay ng mamamaYan**”

4

5 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote
6 inclusive growth, reduce poverty, and improve the quality of life of poor, vulnerable, and
7 marginalized sectors by expanding access to sustainable livelihood opportunities. The State
8 shall institutionalize and strengthen the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) of the
9 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as a core poverty-reduction
10 strategy anchored on capacity-building, employment facilitation, entrepreneurship
11 development, and social protection.

12 Towards this end, the State shall ensure that the SLP is responsive to the needs of
13 beneficiaries, particularly low-income households, informal workers, persons with
14 disabilities, senior citizens, indigenous peoples, women, youth, and other disadvantaged

1 sectors, by providing them with appropriate skills training, access to capital, market linkages,
2 and technical assistance. The State shall further promote convergence and coordination
3 among national government agencies, local government units, the private sector, civil society
4 organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure the effective, efficient, and sustainable
5 implementation of the program.

6
7 **Section 3. *Program Tracks.*** The Expanded Livelihood Program shall facilitate interventions
8 through two tracks:

- 9 a. **Micro-enterprise Development Track** – Micro-enterprise Development Track (MD
10 Track) - refers to a track of the SLP which focuses on the establishment of micro-
11 enterprise through the provision of financial capital, enhancement of skills, and
12 building/re-building physical and natural assets.

13
14 This focuses on the establishment of micro-enterprise through the provision of financial
15 capital, enhancement of skills, and building or rebuilding physical and natural assets.

16 Program participants who exhibit potential and willingness for entrepreneurship may opt
17 to proceed with the Micro-enterprise Development Track.

- 18
19 b. **Employment Facilitation** – Employment Facilitation (EF) Track - refers to a track of
20 the SLP that provides assistance to eligible program participants who prefer formal
21 employment rather than engaging in microenterprise.

22 This provides assistance to qualified member/s of poor households who preferred
23 employment rather than engaging in micro-enterprise.

24 Program participants who are qualified and ready for available employment opportunities
25 may opt to proceed with the Employment Facilitation Track.

26
27 **Section 4. *Micro-enterprise Development Track Modalities.***

- 28 1. **Seed Capital Fund** - start-up grant for SLP association or individual, used to purchase
29 tools, raw materials, and common services facilities such as machinery, and equipment,
30 needed in starting or expanding a micro-enterprise.

31 A seed capital fund of One Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php
32 1,200,000.00) for Association Enterprise with Thirty (30) members and Twenty Thousand
33 Pesos (Php 20,000.00) for Individual Enterprise shall be allocated.

1 **2. Skills Training** – a grant amounting to Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00) that is
2 used for the acquisition of knowledge and skills needed in the management of the micro-
3 enterprise. This grant shall cover the following:

- 4 a. technical-vocational skills training;
- 5
- 6 b. meal, lodging and transportation allowance;
- 7
- 8 c. training supplies and materials; and
- 9
- 10 d. program participants' assessment fees.

11 **3. Values Formation Seminar (VFS)** – mandatory values formation and social
12 development sessions to strengthen participants' work ethics, entrepreneurial
13 responsibility, financial management behavior, leadership, and commitment to
14 community development prior to the release of livelihood assistance.

15

16 **Section 5. *Employment Facilitation Track Modalities.***

17 **1. Employment Assistance Fund (EAF)** – grant amounting to Ten Thousand Pesos (Php
18 10,000.00) is provided to program participants that will support a guaranteed employment
19 such as:

- 20 a. processing of employment documentary requirements;
- 21
- 22 b. payment of medical requirements and materials; and
- 23
- 24 c. transportation allowance, and board and lodging until the first thirty days of
25 employment.
- 26

27 **2. Values Formation Seminar** – mandatory pre-employment values formation
28 activities aimed at enhancing work readiness, discipline, professionalism, integrity,
29 and responsible citizenship to support successful and sustained employment.

30

31 **Section 6. *Beneficiaries of SLP.*** Eligible program participants may avail of the modalities
32 within the chosen track as needed for the microenterprise or employment facilitation. The
33 following may avail of the livelihood program:

- 34 a. Pre-identified participants through the use of approved identification tool/systems or a
35 combination of the following:
- 36
- 37 i. Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS);
- 38

- 1 ii. Other approved DSWD identification systems; and
- 2
- 3 iii. SLP Eligibility Assessment and Profile Form.
- 4 b. Disaster-affected participants by natural disasters and human induced hazards.
- 5 c. Area-Based Convergence participants identified through formal agreement between
- 6 DSWD and its internal or external partners or stakeholders.
- 7 d. Referred participants to SLP by internal or external partner(s)/stakeholders, or walk-in
- 8 clients.
- 9 e. Previously served SLP program participants that have been served at least five (5)
- 10 years ago from the time they receive the grants.
- 11 f. Associations registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC),
- 12 Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), or Department of Labor and
- 13 Employment (DOLE), or those not initially organized by the SLP that are endorsed to
- 14 the Program for livelihood assistance.

15

16 **Section 7. *Eligibility Requirements.*** To be eligible to the program, the qualifications of

17 program participants must be followed:

- 18 a. Participants of Micro-Enterprise Development Track must be at least sixteen (16)
- 19 years old, with written legal consent from the parents or legal guardians;
- 20
- 21 b. Participants of Employment Facilitation Track must be at least eighteen (18) years
- 22 old;
- 23
- 24 c. Filipino Families classified as poor under Republic Act 11291 otherwise known as the
- 25 magna carta of the Poor;
- 26
- 27 d. Classified as poor household based on the system for targeting of beneficiaries; and
- 28
- 29 e. The target program participants must be willing to comply with the conditions
- 30 stipulated in this Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

31

32 **Section 8. *SLP Operational Guidelines.*** The Sustainability Plan encompasses the five (5)

33 Phases of SLP which includes continuous monitoring and technical assistance of the

34 livelihood projects, capability-building activities, partnership linkages, and additional grant

35 incentives for successful SLPAs until program graduation. The individual livelihood projects

36 and EF Track program participants will be monitored and provided technical assistance for

37 one (1) year from the time they receive the grants.

1 The expanded Sustainable livelihood program shall operate in a five-year cycle, using the
2 following phases:

- 3 a. **YEAR I. PUNLA.** The first round of implementation of the Program and shall
4 consist of the Pre-implementation, Social Preparation, Resource Mobilization, and
5 Project Implementation.
- 6 b. **YEAR II. USBONG.** The program consists of monitoring activities, coaching, and
7 mentoring, second round of capability building activities or training. The SLP shall
8 provide Product Diversification and Development Grant.
- 9 c. **YEAR III. SIBOL.** The program consists of continuing monitoring activities,
10 capacity building, technical assistance, coaching and mentoring. The SLP shall
11 provide Formalization Support Grant to SLP Associations and participants able and
12 willing to undergo formal government licensing and accreditation.
- 13 d. **YEAR IV. YABONG.** The program shall consist of continuing monitoring activities,
14 capability building, coaching and mentoring, partnership building and external
15 linkages of SLP to regular markets and institutional partners.
- 16 e. **YEAR V. ANI.** The program shall consist of official graduation of SLP associations
17 that have achieved all the technical, financial, organizational and community impact
18 indicators, from the program. Graduating SLP associations can be eligible for SLP
19 Graduation Grants, subject to assessment and evaluation.
20

21 **Section 9. Institutional Arrangements.** The DSWD shall serve as the lead agency for Central
22 Coordinating, Planning, Implementing, and Monitoring body of the program's overall
23 management. The SLP National Program Management Office (NMPO) shall have the
24 steering and oversight functions and tasks while the SLP Regional Program Management
25 Office shall take charge in the implementation of the program stages.

26 The program shall assign Implementing Project Development Officers that shall serve as the
27 community facilitator who is responsible for identifying, organizing, capacitating the new
28 program participants and shall validate the utilization of grants to ensure that the approved
29 project has been duly implemented. Provided that the field monitoring shall be conducted
30 through the monitoring project Development Officers that shall ensure that the modalities of
31 assistance are sustained by the participants through the conduct of regular monitoring visits
32 and assessments.
33

34 **Section 10. Functions of the SLP National Program Management Office (SLP-NMPO).**
35 The DSWD SLP NMPO shall perform and implement the following:

- 36 a. Enhancement and development of Program policies, tools and guidelines;
37
- 38 b. Setting of performance standards and compliance monitoring;
39
- 40 c. National program planning and coordination;

- d. Human resource management and capacity building for national and regional program personnel;
- e. National program budget management;
- f. National program monitoring and evaluation such as program milestones, accomplishments, results monitoring, and evaluation of program outcomes; and
- g. Other related tasks are required and necessary for the management.

Section 11. Functions of the Regional Program Management Office (RPMO). The DSWD SLP RPMO shall perform and implement the following:

- 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.

Section 12. 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 13. 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, noteworthy 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.

1

2 **Section 14. *Appropriations.*** The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged
3 against those authorized in the current and subsequent General Appropriations Act (GAA).

4

5 **Section 15. *Oversight Committee.*** Upon effectivity of this Act, a Congressional Committee,
6 hereafter referred to as the SLP's Oversight committee is hereby constituted. The committee
7 shall be composed of members from the committee on poverty alleviation, Committee on
8 Labor and Employment, and Committee on Social Services. The oversight committee shall be
9 chaired by the chairperson of the Committee on Poverty alleviation, while the Chairperson of
10 the Committee on Social Services shall serve as co-chair of the committee. Additional
11 composition of the oversight committee shall be within the purview of the legislative body.

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

15

16 **Section 16. *Compliance to Data Privacy Act of 2012.*** The expanded SLP shall comply with
17 the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012.
18 Additionally. The Program shall further comply with the organization, physical, technical and
19 security measures prescribed in the SLP Data Privacy Policy and Sharing Protocol Manual.

20

21 **Section 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulation.*** The DSWD Secretary, in coordination
22 with the appropriate government departments and agencies with the participation of the Local
23 Government Units, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the
24 provisions of this Act, not later than twelve (12) months from the effectivity of this Act.

25

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

34

35 **Section 19. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
36 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

1 **Section 20. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, executive orders, issuances, or parts thereof
2 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

3

4 **Section 21. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
5 in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

6

7 Approved,