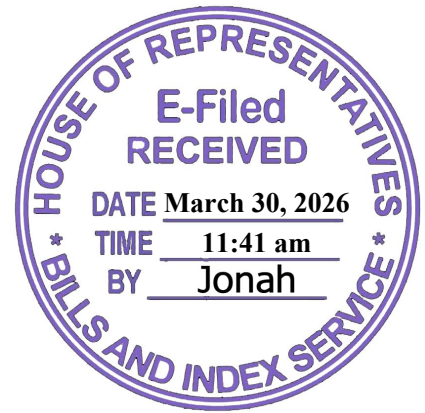


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8815



Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On February 28, 2026, the world experienced its worst energy supply disruption in the past half-century, following a United States–Israeli military strike on Iran that brought the Strait of Hormuz to the brink of closure. As a result, global crude oil prices surged past \$115 per barrel, driving diesel prices in the Philippines to as high as ₱130 per liter. With the country sourcing 95% of its crude oil from the Middle East and operating only one refinery, it is now left with an estimated 45 days of fuel reserves.¹²³

The impact of the crisis reverberates across the entire economy and affects every Filipino. Transport workers now spend up to 80% of their daily income on fuel; fisherfolk are unable to go to sea; factory owners face rising input costs and the threat of power shortages; and roughly two million overseas Filipino workers remain in conflict zones. This underscores how Filipinos from all walks of life are bearing the brunt of ongoing geopolitical tensions, as rising prices for essential goods, such as food, transport, electricity, and fuel, continue to erode their purchasing power.⁴

In response, on March 24, 2026, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. declared a state of national energy emergency through Executive Order No. 110 (s. 2026), activating the UPLIFT framework, a coordinated government response to address fuel supply disruptions and rising energy costs.⁵ While the necessity of the declaration is clear, it reflects a recurring pattern of reactive governance in the face of crises that could have been anticipated and better prepared for in advance.

¹Rappler. (2026, March 19). The Middle East crisis: From the Strait of Hormuz to your dining table.

²MUFG Research. (2026, March 9). Philippines – Strait of Hormuz closure: Impact of higher oil prices and more.

³The National. (2026, March 24). How the Philippines’ state of emergency shows the vulnerability of net energy importers.

⁴BusinessWorld. (2026, March 23). Manila’s slow response to government-coordinated infestation oil price spike exposes the economy to energy shock;.

⁵Philippine News Agency. (2026, March 24). PBBM declares a state of national energy emergency amid global supply risks.

A similar approach was evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the enactment of the *Bayanihan to Heal as One Act*, or Republic Act No. 11469, and the *Bayanihan to Recover as One Act*, or Republic Act No. 11494. Both measures had to be drafted, debated, and enacted amidst emergency conditions, ultimately channeling ₱646 billion to prevent economic collapse.⁶ However, these interventions were inherently temporary: their provisions expired and were not institutionalized, leaving the country once again reliant on ad hoc responses in times of crisis.

This bill seeks to end the cycle of reactive governance and establish a proactive, forward-looking approach to crisis management. Drawing lessons from the Bayanihan legislative legacy and informed by international models, such as Japan's Economic Security Promotion Act, South Korea's Supply Chain Stabilization Act, and Singapore's Future Economy Framework, as well as policy recommendations from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR),⁷⁸ the Resilient Economy and Stabilization for Crisis and Urgent Emergencies Act, or RESCUE Act, institutionalizes a permanent economic resilience framework.

It creates a standing council to replace ad hoc task forces, supported by an early warning system capable of detecting emerging crises before they peak, and a pre-positioned stabilization fund that can be deployed within 72 hours. Critically, the bill identifies the sectors bearing the brunt of the crisis and provides targeted support: fuel subsidies for drivers, income assistance for fisherfolk, job protection for factory workers, loan and rent relief for families, continued health coverage for displaced workers, targeted aid for the middle class, repatriation support for overseas Filipino workers, and emergency working capital for small businesses.

It further addresses structural vulnerabilities, including the country's heavy reliance on imported petroleum, its single-refinery exposure, and the urgent need to develop indigenous energy sources, including the Malampaya gas field and renewable energy sources.

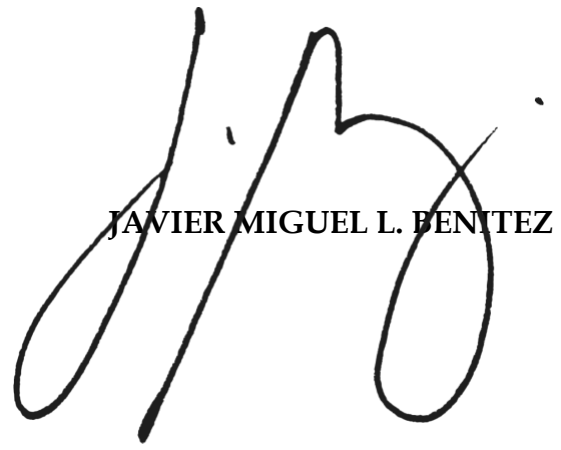
Taken together, these measures lay the foundation for a more resilient and future-ready economy. This is not a bill for a single crisis; it is a bill to ensure crisis legislation is no longer needed.

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

⁶ Department of Budget and Management. (2021). DBM Releases P646.97 Billion for COVID-19 Initiatives Under the Bayanihan Laws.

⁷ Jones Day. (2022). Japan Enacts Economic Security Law; EU Commission SWD(2025)11 on resilience measures by international partners.

⁸ UNDRR. (2025). Global Assessment Report 2025: Resilience Pays.

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JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8815

Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ**

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL ECONOMIC RESILIENCE
FRAMEWORK, CREATING THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC RESILIENCE
COUNCIL AND THE BAYANIHAN ECONOMIC STABILIZATION FUND,
AND PROVIDING MECHANISMS FOR NATIONAL EMERGENCY
RESPONSE AND PROTECTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 “*RESCUE (Resilient
Economy and Stabilization for Crisis and Urgent Emergencies) Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to:

- (a) Protect the lives, livelihoods, and welfare of all Filipinos against the economic damage caused by external shocks, supply chain failures, and global crises;
- (b) End the cycle of ad hoc emergency legislation by creating permanent institutions, standing funds, and enforceable protocols that allow government to act within seventy-two (72) hours of any national emergency;
- (c) Ensure that workers, laborers, transport operators, farmers, fisherfolk, Overseas Filipino Workers (“OFWs”), small business owners, informal workers, gig economy participants, and middle-class households are the first to receive targeted, timely, and verifiable assistance during economic disruptions;
- (d) Build long-term economic resilience through energy independence, supply chain diversification, strategic reserves, domestic production capacity, and indigenous energy development;
- (e) Make permanent and improve upon the mechanisms of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act (R.A. No. 11469) and the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (R.A. No. 11494), including emergency loan grace periods, rent relief, and utility payment protections;

- (f) Require full transparency, real-time public reporting, and accountability in all emergency expenditures; and
- (g) Advance regional economic resilience cooperation through the Philippines' leadership in ASEAN.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) "*Affected sectors*" refers to all groups harmed by economic disruptions, including: public utility vehicle operators and drivers; transport workers; farmers; fisherfolk; factory workers, construction workers, and laborers; minimum-wage and low-income earners; salaried employees and middle-class households; healthcare workers and nurses; teachers and education workers; domestic workers; delivery riders and platform or gig economy workers; seafarers and maritime workers; business process outsourcing workers; tourism and hospitality workers; creative industry workers; Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise ("MSME") owners and their employees; cooperatives; informal economy workers; OFWs and their families; government contractual and job-order employees; senior citizens on fixed income; persons with disabilities; solo parents; indigenous peoples; and students;
- (b) "*Covered institutions*" refers to all banks, lending companies, financing companies, insurance companies, cooperatives, microfinance institutions, and other entities that extend credit or collect periodic payments from borrowers or policyholders;
- (c) "*Economic disruption*" refers to any event or series of events that causes or threatens significant harm to the national economy, including supply chain failures, energy crises, armed conflicts, trade conflicts, pandemics, severe natural disasters, or financial instability;
- (d) "*Essential goods and services*" refers to food, petroleum products, liquefied petroleum gas ("LPG"), electricity, water, medicines, medical supplies, agricultural inputs including fertilizer, telecommunications, and public transportation;
- (e) "*National emergency*" refers to a condition declared by the President, consistent with Article VI, Section 23(2) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, upon recommendation of the National Economic Resilience Council, arising from war or other crises, including economic disruptions, supply chain failures, energy crises, armed conflict, trade disruptions, pandemics, severe natural disasters, or financial instability, which result in, or imminently threatens to result in, significant impairment of the availability of essential goods, stability of prices, continuity of employment, functioning of critical sectors, or the capacity of the government to deliver basic services, as determined based on objective thresholds established under this Act;

- (f) “*Strategic reserves*” refers to government-maintained or government-regulated stockpiles of essential goods held in sufficient quantity to sustain domestic requirements during supply disruptions.

SEC. 4. *Scope and Coverage.* – This Act shall cover all government agencies, government-owned and -controlled corporations, local government units, public and private financial institutions, and private sector entities engaged in the production, importation, distribution, and delivery of essential goods and services.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish or impair the powers and functions of any government agency or local government unit under existing laws, unless expressly provided herein.

SEC. 5. *Creation of the National Economic Resilience Council.* – There is hereby created the National Economic Resilience Council (“NERC”), a permanent inter-agency body responsible for economic crisis preparedness, monitoring, response coordination, and long-term resilience building, attached to the Office of the President for policy coordination.

SEC. 6. *Composition.* – The NERC shall be composed of:

- (a) The President of the Philippines, as Chairperson;
- (b) The Secretary of the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (“DepDev”), as Vice Chairperson;
- (c) The Executive Secretary;
- (d) The Secretaries of Finance; Budget and Management; Energy; Agriculture; Trade and Industry; Transportation; Social Welfare and Development; Labor and Employment; Information and Communications Technology; Migrant Workers; Tourism; Health; and Education;
- (e) The Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas;
- (f) The Chairperson of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council;
- (g) Two (2) representatives from the private sector, one representing MSMEs and one representing major industry, appointed by the President for three-year terms; and
- (h) Two (2) representatives from labor and civil society, one nominated by a duly recognized national labor center and one from the academe, appointed by the President for three-year terms.

In the absence of the President, the Vice Chairperson shall preside over meetings of the Council. A quorum of at least seven (7) members shall be sufficient to transact business. The Council may, by majority vote, authorize the Vice Chairperson or a designated committee composed of not less than five (5) members to act on its behalf during intervals between meetings, subject to such limitations as the Council may

prescribe. All actions taken pursuant to such authority shall be reported to the Council at the next meeting for confirmation or appropriate action.

The NERC shall meet quarterly during normal periods and as often as necessary during declared emergencies. The DepDev shall serve as permanent Secretariat. Any ad hoc interagency committee performing similar functions at the time of this Act's effectivity shall be absorbed into the NERC.

SEC. 7. Powers and Functions. – The NERC shall:

- (a) Develop and maintain the National Economic Resilience Plan, reviewed every three (3) years and submitted to Congress;
- (b) Operate the Economic Early Warning System;
- (c) Recommend to the President the declaration of a national emergency;
- (d) Activate the Bayanihan Economic Stabilization Fund and coordinate all sector-specific relief upon declaration;
- (e) Conduct annual supply chain vulnerability assessments for energy, food, medicines, LPG, fertilizer, and critical manufacturing inputs, and publish the results;
- (f) Ensure that all protection protocols reach affected populations within seventy-two (72) hours;
- (g) Coordinate with local government units through pre-agreed activation protocols;
- (h) Submit quarterly reports to Congress during normal periods and weekly reports during emergencies; and
- (i) Perform all other functions necessary to carry out this Act.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shall participate in the Council in an advisory and coordinating capacity, consistent with its constitutional and statutory independence. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the Council to direct, review, or override the monetary policy or regulatory functions of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The powers and functions of the NERC under this Section shall operate on a continuing basis, regardless of the existence of a national emergency: *Provided*, That all emergency response measures, including but not limited to the activation of the Bayanihan Economic Stabilization Fund (BESF), sector-specific protections, subsidies, and mandatory relief measures, shall be implemented only upon the declaration of a national emergency and shall automatically cease upon its lifting, unless otherwise expressly provided in this Act.

SEC. 8. Economic Early Warning System. – The NERC shall establish a real-time Economic Early Warning System (“EEWS”) drawing on data from government agencies, the BSP, the PSA, the DOE, the DepDev, international commodity markets, and other

sources. The EEWS shall be publicly accessible online and updated daily, displaying commodity prices, fuel reserve levels, inflation data, employment trends, and supply chain status.

SEC. 9. *Deployment Readiness and Certification.* – To ensure compliance with the seventy-two (72)-hour deployment requirement under this Act, all implementing agencies shall establish and maintain operational readiness systems for emergency response, including pre-identified beneficiary databases, validated targeting mechanisms, disbursement channels, and logistical protocols.

Each implementing agency shall submit to the NERC an annual certification of deployment readiness, attesting to its capacity to deliver assistance within seventy-two (72) hours from activation.

The NERC shall review and consolidate such certifications and submit an annual Deployment Readiness Report to Congress, identifying gaps, capacity constraints, and recommended corrective measures.

Where deficiencies are identified, the NERC shall direct the concerned agencies to implement corrective actions, including system upgrades, database integration with the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys), and coordination with local government units.

No agency shall be designated as a primary implementing agency for emergency disbursement unless it has submitted a valid deployment readiness certification.

SEC. 10. *Alert Levels.* – The EEWS shall operate on three levels:

- (a) Level 1 (Watch): Emerging risks. The Secretariat issues an advisory. Monitoring is intensified.
- (b) Level 2 (Elevated): Significant disruption confirmed. The NERC convenes within forty-eight (48) hours. The President and Congressional leadership are briefed. Contingency measures are placed on standby.
- (c) Level 3 (Critical): Imminent or ongoing national emergency. The NERC recommends formal declaration and activation of the Fund and all protection protocols.

The NERC shall adopt and publish the specific quantitative thresholds for each alert level through a NERC Resolution, which shall be made publicly available. Such thresholds shall be subject to prior public consultation and comment. Thereafter, the thresholds shall be subject to review by the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Economic Resilience, which may issue recommendations in accordance with its rules.

The thresholds shall be reviewed and, if necessary, updated at least once every year through the same process.

SEC. 11. *Bayanihan Economic Stabilization Fund.* – There is hereby created the Bayanihan Economic Stabilization Fund (“BESF”) to serve as a standing fiscal reserve for immediate national emergency response. The BESF shall be administered by the Department of Finance (“DOF”) under the policy direction of the NERC. Disbursements may begin within seventy-two (72) hours of activation by the President.

SEC. 12. *Capitalization.* – The BESF shall have an initial capitalization of not less than Fifty Billion Pesos (P50,000,000,000.00), to be built up over three (3) fiscal years, sourced from:

- (a) Annual appropriations in the General Appropriations Act (“GAA”) of not less than 0.1% of the prior year’s Gross Domestic Product (“GDP”) until the target is reached;
- (b) Investment earnings and interest income of the Fund;
- (c) Proceeds from the sale or rotation of strategic reserves in excess of minimum levels;
- (d) Contributions from the private sector, development partners, and international organizations; and
- (e) Other sources authorized by law.

Once the BESF has reached its target capitalization, the mandatory annual appropriation equivalent to 0.1% of the prior year’s Gross Domestic Product shall be suspended. Thereafter, the Fund shall be maintained through such appropriations as may be necessary to cover investment losses and to replenish any amounts deployed, subject to the usual budgetary process.

The NERC shall certify the status and balance of the BESF to Congress on an annual basis.

In the event that a Level 3 national emergency is declared before the BESF reaches its target capitalization, the National Government is hereby authorized to augment the Fund through the issuance of government securities, including Treasury bonds, in accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations.

Proceeds from such issuance shall be used exclusively to support authorized expenditures under this Act and shall be subject to the same transparency, reporting, and auditing requirements applicable to the BESF subject to the government’s medium-term fiscal framework and debt management strategy. Provided, That any such issuance shall be reported to Congress within fifteen (15) days from issuance.

The Fund shall maintain a minimum balance sufficient for ninety (90) days of Level 3 response, to be determined by the NERC based on expenditure parameters and thresholds set in the IRR. The DOF shall report quarterly to Congress. Replenishment shall be prioritized in the succeeding GAA after any deployment.

SEC. 12-A. *Investment of the Fund.* – Pending deployment, amounts in the BESF shall be invested only in sovereign securities or in instruments approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, subject to prudential standards.

The Fund shall maintain a high level of liquidity, such that at least fifty percent (50%) of the total Fund balance shall be convertible to cash within seventy-two (72) hours.

The DOF shall ensure that all investments prioritize capital preservation, liquidity, and readiness for rapid deployment, consistent with this Act and applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 13. *Authorized Uses of the Fund.* – The BESF may be used for:

- (a) Direct cash transfers, vouchers, or subsidies to affected households, prioritized by income level;
- (b) Fuel subsidies for public utility vehicle operators and drivers, farmers, and fisherfolk;
- (c) Wage subsidies for workers in disrupted sectors;
- (d) Emergency credit lines, low-interest loans, and loan guarantees for MSMEs, cooperatives, and self-employed individuals;
- (e) Subsidies for LPG, electricity, and cooking fuel for low-income and lower-middle-income households;
- (f) Procurement of essential goods from alternative supply sources;
- (g) Support to local government units for localized response;
- (h) Repatriation and reintegration support for OFWs;
- (i) Automatic PhilHealth coverage extension for displaced workers, as provided under Section 20;
- (j) Tuition and education continuity support for students of displaced families; and
- (k) Operational costs of the NERC and EEWS during emergency periods.

Disbursements exceeding Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00) in any single emergency shall require a report to Congress within fifteen (15) days.

Total BESF disbursements for any single declared emergency shall not exceed 60% of the Fund balance at the time of activation, unless Congress authorizes additional drawdowns through a joint resolution.

All expenditures shall be subject to audit by the Commission on Audit.

SEC. 14. *Supply Chain Resilience Program.* – The NERC, with the DTI, DOE, and DA, shall develop a National Supply Chain Resilience Program covering:

- (a) A full mapping of import dependencies for petroleum, LPG, rice, fertilizer, pharmaceutical ingredients, and other critical goods, identifying concentration risks and single points of failure;
- (b) A diversification strategy with measurable targets to reduce reliance on any single country, region, or transit route;
- (c) A strategic reserves management plan setting minimum stockpile levels for petroleum products, LPG, rice, and essential medicines;
- (d) Incentives for domestic production of critical goods;
- (e) A program to deepen Philippine integration into ASEAN and regional supply chains;
- (f) A refining capacity study and development plan, recognizing that the Philippines operates only one crude oil refinery; and
- (g) The NERC shall recommend to the President and Congress policy and legislative measures to ensure that revenues from indigenous natural gas production, including those derived from the Malampaya Fund and successor arrangements, are primarily allocated to energy resilience and energy security programs, consistent with existing laws.

SEC. 15. *Energy Resilience Roadmap.* – The NERC, with the DOE, shall develop an Energy Resilience Roadmap within one hundred eighty (180) days, covering:

- (a) Reduction of petroleum import dependence by at least ten percent (10%) within five (5) years and twenty-five percent (25%) within ten (10) years;
- (b) Accelerated renewable energy development with specific installed-capacity targets for solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass;
- (c) Electric vehicle adoption in public transport, prioritizing jeepneys, tricycles, and buses;
- (d) Expansion of the strategic petroleum reserve to sixty (60) days of national consumption;
- (e) Accelerated development of the Malampaya gas field, including Phase 4 and additional exploration under Service Contract 38, with a target of maximizing indigenous gas production before the estimated 2030 depletion of existing reserves;
- (f) Bilateral and multilateral energy supply agreements with diversified source countries; and
- (g) An LPG supply security plan addressing household cooking fuel.

SEC. 16. *Power Sector Resilience.* – The DOE, in coordination with the NERC, shall:

- (a) Maintain a power supply contingency plan for fuel shortages, including demand-side management, load curtailment protocols, and interruptible load contracts;
- (b) Require power generators to maintain fuel inventories for at least thirty (30) days of operations;
- (c) Accelerate grid interconnection and distributed renewable energy to reduce dependence on imported fuel for generation;
- (d) Ensure priority power access for hospitals, water systems, telecommunications, cold chain storage, and BPO and economic zone operations during shortages; and
- (e) Publish weekly power supply adequacy reports during any declared national emergency.

SEC. 17. *Food Security During Emergencies.* – During any declared emergency, the NERC shall:

- (a) Monitor the adequacy of rice, corn, cooking oil, fish, meat, and vegetable supplies and activate buffer stock releases where necessary;
- (b) Deliver fertilizer and fuel subsidies directly to farmers and fisherfolk to prevent production disruptions;
- (c) Enforce price controls on basic necessities and prime commodities under existing law; and
- (d) Support local government units in operating community food distribution where commercial supply chains are disrupted.

SEC. 18. *Comprehensive Sector Protection.* – Upon declaration of a national emergency, the following protections shall take effect immediately:

- (a) **Transport workers.** Fuel subsidies shall be released to all registered public utility vehicle operators, drivers, and transport network vehicle service (TNVS) operators within seventy-two (72) hours. Fare increases shall be suspended for the duration of the emergency. The Pantawid Pasada Program and any successor fuel subsidy mechanism shall be fully funded and disbursed.
- (b) **Farmers and fisherfolk.** Fuel and fertilizer subsidies shall be provided. The DA shall release Quick Response Funds and activate the Presidential Assistance for Farmers and Fisherfolk. Fisherfolk unable to operate due to fuel costs shall receive income replacement assistance equivalent to the prevailing regional minimum wage for the duration of the emergency.
- (c) **Factory workers, construction workers, and laborers.** Employers in sectors directly affected by the emergency shall, in case of termination, retrenchment, or reduction of work hours affecting regular employees, submit a report to the Department of Labor and Employment within five (5) days from implementation. Workers involuntarily separated during the emergency shall

- be entitled to receive emergency unemployment assistance equivalent to not less than fifty percent (50%) of the applicable regional minimum wage, based on the prevailing rates at the time of declaration of the national emergency, for a period of up to three (3) months. The DOLE shall assign monitoring officers to all provinces and highly urbanized cities to enforce this provision.
- (d) **Minimum-wage and low-income earners.** Direct cash transfers or vouchers covering fuel, food, and cooking gas shall be provided to households earning at or below the regional minimum wage.
 - (e) **Salaried employees and middle-class households.** Where a Level 3 national emergency is declared, the NERC shall immediately assess the impact on middle-income households. Where inflation during the emergency exceeds the BSP target ceiling in effect at the time of this Act's effectivity, or four percent (4%), whichever is higher, the NERC shall recommend to the President targeted relief, which may include: tax relief or temporary suspension of excise taxes on fuel; utility bill subsidies; transport fare subsidies; or direct cash assistance. Relief under this subsection shall be funded from the BESF, subject to applicable laws or as may be authorized by the Congress.
 - (f) **Healthcare workers and nurses.** Healthcare workers in public and private hospitals and clinics shall receive transport allowances or subsidies for the duration of the emergency. Hospitals and healthcare facilities shall be classified as essential services with priority access to fuel and power allocations.
 - (g) **Teachers and education workers.** Public and private school teachers and non-teaching personnel shall receive transport allowances for the duration of the emergency. Where schools are forced to shift to remote learning due to energy shortages, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education shall provide connectivity and device support.
 - (h) **Domestic workers (kasambahay).** Domestic workers shall not be terminated during a declared emergency without compliance with Republic Act No. 10361. Displaced kasambahay shall be eligible for emergency cash assistance under the BESF.
 - (i) **Delivery riders and gig economy workers.** Platform-based delivery riders, ride-hailing drivers, and other gig economy workers shall be eligible for fuel subsidies and direct cash assistance under the BESF. Platform companies shall be required to report the number of active riders or drivers in their networks to the DOLE within fifteen (15) days of the emergency declaration to facilitate targeting.
 - (j) **Seafarers and maritime workers.** Filipino seafarers affected by shipping disruptions, route cancellations, or vessel layups shall receive emergency financial assistance. The Maritime Industry Authority shall coordinate with the Department of Migrant Workers for repatriation of stranded Filipino seafarers.

- (k) **BPO and IT-BPM workers.** The NERC shall coordinate with the DTI and DOE to ensure uninterrupted power supply to BPO zones, IT parks, and economic zones. Where power rationing is necessary, BPO operations shall be classified as essential services. Generator fuel allocations shall be provided where needed.
- (l) **Tourism and hospitality workers.** The Department of Tourism shall coordinate with the NERC to provide wage subsidies and emergency support to tourism enterprises and their employees where visitor arrivals decline materially due to cost increases or travel disruptions.
- (m) **Creative industry workers.** Freelance and project-based creative workers, including those in film, audiovisual production, performing arts, design, and digital content, shall be included in emergency wage subsidy and livelihood programs under the BESF.
- (n) **Informal economy workers.** Vendors, home-based workers, and other workers outside formal employment shall be eligible for direct cash assistance. The DSWD shall maintain a standing registry of informal workers, linked to the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys), to enable rapid targeting.
- (o) **Government contractual and job-order workers.** Government agencies shall not terminate or fail to renew the contracts of contractual, casual, and job-order employees solely on account of budget restrictions arising from the national emergency, for a period of ninety (90) days. Affected government workers shall be eligible for the same emergency assistance provided to private sector employees.
- (p) **Senior citizens.** Senior citizens on fixed income, including pensioners and social pension beneficiaries, shall receive supplemental cash assistance to offset inflation-driven cost increases in food, medicine, and utilities.
- (q) **Persons with disabilities.** Persons with disabilities shall be included as priority beneficiaries of all direct cash assistance programs and shall receive additional support for disability-related costs that increase during emergencies, including medicines, assistive devices, and accessible transport.
- (r) **Solo parents.** Solo parents shall receive priority processing and, where applicable, enhanced assistance under all emergency relief programs under this Act.
- (s) **Students.** Students from families whose primary earner has been displaced or whose household income has declined by twenty-five percent (25%) or more shall be eligible for emergency tuition assistance, meal subsidies, and transport support to prevent dropout. State universities and colleges shall waive or defer tuition and fees for affected students for the duration of the emergency.
- (t) **Indigenous peoples.** The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples shall coordinate with the NERC to ensure that indigenous communities in

geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas receive relief supplies and cash assistance through culturally appropriate distribution mechanisms.

Where available resources are insufficient to fully implement all protections simultaneously, the NERC shall prioritize disbursements in the following order:

- (i) food security and essential goods;
- (ii) fuel for transport and agriculture;
- (iii) direct cash transfers to lowest-income households;
- (iv) wage subsidies and livelihood support;
- (v) loan, rent, and utility relief;
- (vi) all other protections.

The NERC shall publish its prioritization decisions within 48 hours from the declaration of a national emergency.

SEC. 19. *Emergency Grace Periods on Loans, Rent, and Utilities.* – Upon declaration of a national emergency, the following mandatory grace periods shall take effect:

- (a) **Loans.** All covered institutions shall implement a minimum sixty (60)-day grace period for all loans with principal or interest falling due within the emergency period, without incurring interest on interest, penalties, fees, or other charges. This grace period shall be automatically extended if the national emergency is extended by the President. Covered institutions are prohibited from requiring borrowers to waive this provision.
- (b) **Rent.** Residential tenants whose household income has been reduced by at least twenty-five percent (25%) during the emergency, as certified by the DSWD or the barangay, shall be entitled to a sixty (60)-day moratorium on rent payments. No evictions shall be enforced during this period. Unpaid rent shall be amortized over a period of not less than six (6) months following the lifting of the emergency, without penalties or interest.
- (c) **Utilities.** Electricity, water, and telecommunications providers shall not disconnect services for nonpayment during a declared emergency and for thirty (30) days thereafter. Unpaid balances shall be restructured into installment payments over a period of at least four (4) months, without interest, penalties, or reconnection fees.
- (d) **Insurance premiums.** A grace period of sixty (60) days shall apply to all insurance premium payments falling due during the emergency. No policy shall lapse or be cancelled for nonpayment during this period.

Covered institutions that implement the mandatory grace periods under this Section may apply for partial reimbursement of foregone interest from the BESF, subject

to guidelines issued by the BSP and DOF, for the portion attributable to borrowers earning at or below the regional minimum wage.

SEC. 20. *Health Coverage Continuity.* – Workers who are involuntarily separated, placed on floating status, or whose employment is suspended during a declared national emergency shall automatically retain their PhilHealth coverage for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of displacement, at no cost to the worker. The cost of continued coverage shall be charged to the BESF. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation shall issue the necessary implementing guidelines within thirty (30) days of the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 21. *OFW Economic Safety Net.* – During any declared emergency that triggers significant OFW displacement, the following shall apply:

- (a) The Department of Migrant Workers shall coordinate monitoring, evacuation, and repatriation and shall release the AKSYON Fund without delay;
- (b) Repatriated OFWs shall receive immediate financial assistance upon arrival, skills matching and job placement within thirty (30) days, and priority access to livelihood and enterprise programs;
- (c) The NERC shall assess the macroeconomic impact of remittance loss and recommend compensatory household support for OFW families who lose their primary income; and
- (d) The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration shall maintain a standing contingency fund sufficient to support repatriation and initial reintegration of at least fifty thousand (50,000) OFWs.

SEC. 22. *MSME and Cooperative Resilience.* – The DTI, in coordination with the NERC, shall maintain a standing MSME and Cooperative Resilience Program providing:

- (a) Emergency working capital accessible within seven (7) days of declaration, with simplified documentary requirements;
- (b) Temporary extension of tax filing and regulatory compliance deadlines;
- (c) Business continuity training and technical assistance;
- (d) Technology adoption support; and
- (e) Risk-pooling and insurance mechanisms suited to MSMEs and cooperatives.

SEC. 23. *ASEAN Economic Resilience Cooperation.* – The NERC shall:

- (a) Propose an ASEAN Economic Resilience Coordination Mechanism for joint early warning, information sharing, and coordinated response;
- (b) Pursue energy supply security and mutual fuel assistance commitments within the ASEAN agenda;
- (c) Advance the ASEAN Power Grid and regional energy interconnection; and

- (d) Explore the feasibility of an ASEAN strategic petroleum reserve or mutual drawdown arrangement.

SEC. 24. *Transparency and Public Accountability.* – All expenditures from the BESF and all disbursements under this Act shall be published in real time on a publicly accessible online portal. The portal shall display, at a minimum, amounts disbursed, receiving agencies or entities, sectoral and geographic distribution, number of beneficiaries, and disbursement timelines. All funds shall be subject to the existing auditing rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit.

SEC. 25. *Congressional Oversight.* – A Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Economic Resilience is hereby created. The Committee shall:

- (a) Review the National Economic Resilience Plan;
- (b) Receive and evaluate all NERC reports;
- (c) Conduct hearings on the performance of emergency responses; and
- (d) Recommend legislative improvements.

SEC. 26. *Prohibited Acts and Penalties.* – Any government official or employee who willfully misuses, diverts, delays, or withholds funds under this Act shall be liable under R.A. No. 3019 and other applicable laws. Any covered institution that refuses to implement the mandatory grace periods under Section 19 shall be subject to administrative sanctions by the appropriate regulatory agency and a fine of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) per violation. Any person who hoards, profiteers, manipulates prices, or artificially restricts supply of essential goods during a declared emergency shall be penalized with imprisonment of six (6) years and one (1) day to twelve (12) years and a fine of One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) to Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00), or both.

SEC. 27. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for initial implementation of this Act, including the organization and operations of the NERC Secretariat, development of the EEWS, and the initial administrative requirements for the BESF, shall be charged against any applicable appropriation items under the current GAA of the Office of the President, the DOF, and the DEPDev subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations. Thereafter, such sums as necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual GAA, subject to the usual budgetary process.

SEC. 28. *Transitory Provisions.* – The UPLIFT Committee and related mechanisms under Executive Order No. 110, s. 2026, shall continue to function until the full organization and operationalization of the NERC. Upon such operationalization, the NERC shall assume all powers and functions of the UPLIFT Committee, and the latter shall be deemed dissolved. All personnel, records, data, protocols, assets, and fund balances of the UPLIFT Committee and related mechanisms shall be transferred to the NERC.

SEC. 29. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from effectivity, the DEPDev, in coordination with the Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Migrant Workers, Department of Health, Department of Transportation, Department of Information and Communications Technology, and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shall participate in the formulation of the implementing rules and regulations in an advisory and coordinating capacity, consistent with its independence under existing laws.

SEC. 30. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

SEC. 31. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 32. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,