

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8825



Introduced by
REP. ROLANDO “CRV” VALERIANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sharp increases in global fuel prices trigger cascading increases in transportation, logistics, electricity, and basic commodity costs. These increases are immediately felt by workers, consumers, and micro, small, and medium enterprises, and may slow economic activity nationwide.

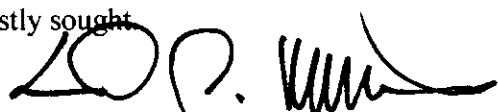
The Constitution directs the State to promote a just and dynamic social order, protect consumers from unfair trade practices, and develop a national economy that promotes full employment and equitable opportunities. During periods of extraordinary fuel-driven inflation, temporary and targeted government intervention may be necessary to stabilize prices, protect employment, and ensure continuity of economic activity.

Past emergency measures adopted by Congress during periods of national disruption have demonstrated the value of time-bound, fiscally responsible, and targeted relief to workers, businesses, and consumers. The present situation calls for a similarly calibrated response focused on fuel-related cost shocks affecting transportation, logistics, and essential goods.

This measure establishes the “AHON” or Agapay sa Hanapbuhay at Operasyon ng Negosyo Program, which provides temporary economic relief through wage support, MSME financing, tax relief, targeted fee adjustments, and cost stabilization measures during a National Energy Emergency.

The proposed interventions are limited in duration, fiscally responsible, and designed to reduce transport and logistics costs, cushion the impact of fuel price increases, protect employment, and help stabilize the economy.

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


REP. ROLANDO “CRV” VALERIANO
Manila 2nd District

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8826

Introduced by

REP. ROLANDO “CRV” VALERIANO

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE “AHON” OR AGAPAY SA HANAPBUHAY AT
OPERASYON NG NEGOSYO PROGRAM, PROVIDING TEMPORARY AND
TARGETED ECONOMIC RELIEF MEASURES DURING A NATIONAL ENERGY
EMERGENCY, AUTHORIZING LIMITED AND TIME-BOUND INTERVENTIONS TO
REDUCE TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS COSTS, PROVIDING WAGE SUPPORT,
MSME FINANCING, TAX RELIEF, AND FEE ADJUSTMENTS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “AHON Act” or the Agapay sa Hanapbuhay at Operasyon ng Negosyo Act.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to protect workers, consumers, and enterprises from severe economic disruption caused by extraordinary increases in fuel and energy prices. During periods of National Energy Emergency, the State shall adopt temporary, targeted, and time-bound measures to stabilize transportation, logistics, electricity, and basic commodity costs, safeguard employment, support micro, small, and medium enterprises, and ensure continuity of economic activity.

Such measures shall be implemented in a fiscally responsible manner, limited in duration, and consistent with the respective mandates of implementing agencies.

Section 3. Coverage. The measures under this Act shall apply during the period of a National Energy Emergency as declared by the President, or as may be determined by Congress, when extraordinary fuel price increases significantly disrupt transportation, logistics, electricity prices, or the cost of basic commodities.

The declaration shall specify the duration and scope of the emergency measures.

Section 4. Tax-Free Wage Support. Minimum wage earners and Social Security System members earning not more than Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000) monthly shall receive tax-free wage support of not less than Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000), subject to availability of funds.

Section 5. Interest-Free MSME Loan Program. The Small Business Corporation shall provide interest-free loans of up to Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P250,000) to micro, small, and medium enterprises, payable within two (2) to three (3) years.

Section 6. Expanded Net Operating Loss Carry Over (NOLCO). Businesses incurring net operating losses during the National Energy Emergency shall be allowed to carry over such losses as deduction from gross income for the next five (5) consecutive taxable years immediately following the year of such loss, notwithstanding any provision of existing law to the contrary.

The Department of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue shall issue the necessary implementing rules.

Section 7. Fuel Cost Tax Credit. Retailers, wholesalers, freight forwarders, and logistics firms may be granted tax credits equivalent to unrecovered incremental increases in fuel and cargo costs incurred during the emergency period, subject to rules issued by the Department of Finance.

Section 8. LPG Discount Voucher. Qualified households and MSMEs may receive a Five Hundred Peso (P500) LPG electronic discount voucher for every eleven-kilogram LPG tank purchased, subject to implementing guidelines.

Section 9. Suspension of Utility Disconnection. Utility providers are encouraged to suspend service disconnections and penalties for delayed payments during the emergency period, consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

Section 10. Loan Payment Relief. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, in coordination with the Securities and Exchange Commission and other relevant regulators, is hereby directed to encourage and promote financial relief measures by supervised institutions, including:

- a. Temporary suspension of loan payments
- b. Waiver or reduction of penalties and charges
- c. Loan restructuring options
- d. Temporary relief from adverse credit classification

Section 11. Temporary Reduction of Toll Fees. The Toll Regulatory Board is authorized, in coordination with toll concessionaires and subject to existing contracts, to reduce or defer toll fees during the National Energy Emergency to mitigate transport cost increases.

Section 12. Temporary Reduction or Suspension of Airport Fees. The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, the Manila International Airport Authority, and other airport authorities are authorized, subject to existing laws and contracts, to reduce, defer, or suspend airport-related charges to help stabilize passenger and cargo transport costs.

Section 13. Temporary Reduction or Suspension of Seaport Fees. The Philippine Ports Authority and the Maritime Industry Authority, within their respective mandates, are authorized to reduce, defer, or suspend port dues, wharfage, dockage, passenger terminal fees, and other charges affecting transport and logistics costs during the emergency period.

Section 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within fifteen (15) days from effectivity, the Department of Finance, Department of Transportation, Department of Trade and Industry, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Securities and Exchange Commission, Toll Regulatory Board, Philippine Ports Authority, Maritime Industry Authority, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, Small Business Corporation, and other concerned agencies shall promulgate implementing rules within their respective mandates.

Section 15. Fiscal Safeguards. Implementation of this Act shall be subject to the following safeguards:

- a. Measures shall be temporary and targeted
- b. No permanent subsidy or entitlement shall be created
- c. Fee reductions shall be calibrated to avoid undue fiscal strain
- d. Implementing agencies may adopt phased or partial reductions
- e. The Department of Finance shall monitor fiscal impact
- f. Priority shall be given to measures that reduce transport and logistics costs

Section 16. Sunset Clause. The authorities granted under this Act shall remain in force for a period not exceeding eighteen (18) months from the declaration of a National Energy Emergency, unless earlier lifted.

Section 17. Automatic Termination. All measures under this Act shall automatically cease upon the earliest of:

- a. Lifting of the National Energy Emergency
- b. Expiration of the eighteen (18) month period
- c. Determination by Congress that emergency conditions no longer exist

Upon termination, all fees, charges, and regulatory measures shall revert to their prior levels.

Section 18. Appropriations. The amount necessary for implementation shall be charged against available appropriations of concerned agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 19. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remainder shall not be affected.

Section 20. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 21. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.