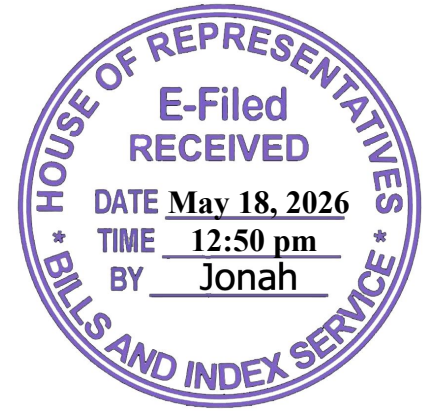


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  
  
**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session  
  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 9294**



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**Introduced by:**

**HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP**

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM OF THE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING**  
**FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Poverty continues to hold many Filipino families back from living stable and secure lives. While government programs like *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)* have helped ease daily struggles, many households still lack the means to build lasting sources of income. To truly move families out of poverty, they need more than short-term aid, they need real opportunities to earn, grow, and stand on their own.

The Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development has been helping poor and vulnerable families start small businesses or find jobs. It works closely with local governments while remaining guided by national priorities. The Supreme Court has affirmed that the national government can carry out programs like SLP, as long as there is proper coordination with local authorities and communities.

At the same time, experience shows that programs involving public funds must be handled with great care. Clear rules, transparency, and accountability are essential to make sure assistance truly reaches those in need. Strengthening these safeguards will protect public resources and build trust in the program.

This bill aims to make SLP a permanent and stronger program that helps families achieve long-term stability. It will improve how beneficiaries are selected, how

support is delivered, and how results are measured. By working closely with government agencies, local communities, and partners, this measure seeks to give more Filipinos a fair chance at a better, more secure future.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.

  
**CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP**  
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
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**AN ACT**

**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT 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 “*The Sustainable Livelihood  
Program Act.*”

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** — It is the policy of the State to promote livelihood  
development, entrepreneurship, and inclusive growth as a means to reduce poverty  
and vulnerability, consistent with sustainable development.

Towards this end, the State shall strengthen the capacity of poor and vulnerable  
households, individuals, groups, and communities, particularly ***Pantawid Pamilyang  
Pilipino Program (4Ps)*** households and those identified as poor under the ***National  
Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-  
PR/Listahanan)*** and ***Republic Act No. 11291 (Magna Carta of the Poor)*** — to  
access decent work, develop microenterprises, and build resilient livelihood assets  
through a coordinated, transparent, and accountable government program.

**SECTION 3. Coverage.** — The Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) shall cover:

(a) **Current 4Ps household beneficiaries;**

- (b) Households and individuals identified as poor under the **NHTS-PR/Listahanan** or its successor targeting mechanism adopted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
- (c) Individuals and households classified as poor or living in poverty under **Republic Act No. 11291**; and
- (d) Other poor and vulnerable households identified through DSWD social welfare assessments and validated targeting systems, subject to guidelines under this Act and its implementing rules.

**SECTION 4. Definition of Terms.** — For purposes of this Act:

- (a) ***Cash for Building Livelihood Assets Fund (CBLAF)*** refers to an allowance or stipend granted to program participants who render work in labor-intensive projects to build, rebuild, or protect natural and physical assets necessary for viable, resilient, and sustainable livelihood or microenterprise activities;
- (b) ***Certificate of Accreditation (COA)*** refers to the certification issued by the DSWD Field Office Standards Unit or its equivalent office to a Sustainable Livelihood Program Association (SLPA) which has been found compliant with eligibility requirements, and which shall be a prerequisite to the release of funds under the Microenterprise Development Track, subject to DSWD guidelines;
- (c) ***Certificate of Eligibility*** refers to the certification issued by the DSWD Regional SLP Program Management Office (SLP-RPMO) that an SLPA or participant has met the eligibility requirements and complied with SLP processes, and which shall serve as basis for accreditation and fund release, subject to DSWD guidelines;
- (d) ***Employment Assistance Fund (“EAF”)*** refers to financial or in-kind support provided under the Employment Facilitation Track to qualified participants to enable them to obtain and retain gainful employment, subject to guidelines under this Act;
- (e) ***Employment Facilitation (EF) Track*** refers to the track of the SLP that provides assistance to qualified participants who prefer wage employment, including readiness interventions and job facilitation support;
- (f) ***Micro-Enterprise Development Track (MD) Track*** refers to the track of the SLP that supports the establishment or strengthening of microenterprises

through capitalization, skills upgrading, asset building, mentoring, and market linkage support;

- (g) ***National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR/Listahanan)*** refers to the DSWD-led information management and targeting system used to identify and locate poor households, or its successor system;
- (h) ***Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)*** refers to the national conditional cash transfer and human capital development program for poor households, implemented pursuant to law and applicable regulations;
- (i) ***Poor*** refers to individuals or households whose income falls below the poverty threshold, or who are otherwise unable to provide in a sustained manner their minimum basic needs, consistent with applicable law and official poverty measurements;
- (j) ***Program Participants*** refer to eligible individuals, households, SLPAs, or other qualified groups receiving assistance under the SLP;
- (k) ***Seed Capital Fund (SCF)*** refers to a start-up or expansion grant, in cash or in kind, for eligible participants to acquire tools, materials, equipment, or common service facilities necessary for microenterprise, subject to guidelines and safeguards under this Act;
- (l) ***System for Targeting of Beneficiaries*** refers to a DSWD-adopted targeting mechanism for identifying poor and vulnerable households, including the NHTS-PR/Listahanan or its successor;
- (m) ***Sustainable Livelihood Program Association (SLPA)*** refers to an association of eligible participants organized and assisted under the SLP, with a membership range as may be provided in the IRR, and which may qualify for assistance under the MD Track upon compliance with eligibility and accreditation requirements;
- (n) ***SLP National Program Management Office (SLP NPMO)*** refers to the DSWD Central Office unit responsible for overall program direction, standards, and oversight of SLP implementation; and

- (o) **SLP Regional Program Management Office (SLP-RPMO)** refers to the DSWD Field Office unit responsible for regional implementation, supervision, and coordination of the SLP.

**SECTION 5. The Sustainable Livelihood Program.** — The SLP is hereby institutionalized as a DSWD livelihood capability-building program for poor, vulnerable, and marginalized households and communities. It shall provide interventions under two tracks: **microenterprise development** and **employment facilitation**, to enable program participants to access sustainable sources of income and strengthen resilience against economic shocks.

The SLP shall prioritize capacity building, coaching and mentoring, and strengthening of participant self-governance and linkages to credit, insurance, training, and markets, consistent with safeguards and accountability mechanisms under this Act and its IRR.

**SECTION 6. Tracks and Modalities of Assistance.** — The SLP shall have two (2) major tracks:

- (a) **Microenterprise Development (MD) Track**, which supports the establishment or strengthening of microenterprises; and
- (b) **Employment Facilitation (EF) Track**, which supports access to and retention of gainful employment.

The SLP may provide, subject to IRR and fund availability, the following modalities:

- (a) Under the MD Track: **Seed Capital Fund (SCF)**, **skills training and facilitation**, and **Cash-for-Building Livelihood Assets Fund (CBLAF)**;
- (b) Under the EF Track: **Employment Assistance Fund (EAF)** and **skills training and facilitation**.

The DSWD shall issue standards on the form (cash or in-kind), ceilings, safeguards, and conditions of each modality, consistent with applicable auditing, procurement, and financial management rules.

**SECTION 7. Eligibility Requirements.** —

The following shall be eligible to participate, subject to screening, validation, and prioritization rules:

- (a) Members of poor households identified by the NHTS-PR/Listahanan or its successor targeting system;
- (b) Current 4Ps beneficiaries;
- (c) Poor households or individuals identified under **Republic Act No. 11291** and validated by appropriate mechanisms; and
- (d) Poor and vulnerable groups, including but not limited to Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, and solo parents, subject to DSWD guidelines.

Minimum age requirements shall be as follows:

- (a) For the MD Track: at least **sixteen (16) years old**, with written consent of a parent or legal guardian when required by law;
- (b) For the EF Track: at least **eighteen (18) years old** at the time of employment, consistent with labor laws and standards.

Participation shall be subject to willingness to comply with program conditions and accountability requirements under this Act and the IRR.

#### **SECTION 8. Livelihood Sustainability Matrix. —**

The DSWD shall adopt and maintain a **Livelihood Sustainability Matrix** as a results framework to guide the graduated provision of assistance, capability building, technical support, and organizational strengthening.

The Matrix shall include performance indicators covering, at a minimum:

- (a) Technical operations;
- (b) Financial strength;
- (c) Organizational development and management; and
- (d) Community impact.

Assessment of participants shall be conducted periodically, beginning not later than the second (2nd) year of the participant's engagement, to determine readiness for additional interventions, graduation, or referral to other programs.

**SECTION 9. Program Cycle and Implementation Stages. —** The SLP shall operate on a program cycle of up to five (5) years per cohort or participant group, subject to IRR, which may include the following stages:

- (a) **Year 1 (Punla)** – social preparation, resource mobilization, and initial project implementation;

- (b) **Year 2 (Usbong)** – monitoring, coaching and mentoring, and capability building, with possible product development support;
- (c) **Year 3 (Sibol)** – continuing monitoring and technical assistance, with possible support for formalization and accreditation where appropriate;
- (d) **Year 4 (Yabong)** – strengthening of market linkages, partnerships, and integration into value chains;
- (e) **Year 5 (Ani)** – graduation and transition planning, including possible graduation support subject to performance and evaluation.

The DSWD may refine stage designations, sequencing, and specific grant nomenclature in the IRR to ensure flexibility, responsiveness, and alignment with evidence-based practice.

**SECTION 10. Institutional Arrangement.** — The **DSWD** shall be the lead agency for coordinating, planning, implementing, and monitoring the SLP.

- (a) The **SLP-NPMO** shall provide overall policy direction, standards, and oversight;
- (b) The **SLP-RPMO** shall be responsible for regional implementation, supervision, and coordination with provincial and local partners.

The DSWD may designate implementing personnel, including community facilitators and monitoring officers, to ensure proper participant organization, capacity building, validation of fund utilization, and regular monitoring, consistent with civil service rules and operational guidelines.

**SECTION 11. Functions of the SLP National Program Management Office (SLP-NPMO).** — The SLP-NPMO shall:

- (a) Develop and update program policies, tools, and guidelines;
- (b) Set performance standards and ensure compliance monitoring;
- (c) Lead national program planning and coordination;
- (d) Implement capacity building for national and regional program personnel;
- (e) Manage the national program budget and issue standards for fund utilization;
- (f) Conduct national monitoring and evaluation of outputs and outcomes; and
- (g) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

**SECTION 12. Functions of the SLP Regional Program Management Office (SLP-RPMO).** —

The SLP-RPMO shall:

- (a) Implement program stages consistent with timelines and parameters;
- (b) Ensure compliance with national standards and policies;
- (c) Conduct beneficiary-level monitoring and provide technical assistance;
- (d) Participate in capacity-building and human resource development activities;
- (e) Obligate and disburse funds in accordance with applicable budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules; and
- (f) Coordinate with LGUs and partner institutions at the regional, provincial, city, and municipal levels.

**SECTION 13. Monitoring, Reporting, and Transparency.** — The DSWD shall regularly monitor SLP implementation to ensure attainment of program objectives.

The DSWD shall publish an **annual SLP report** covering the preceding fiscal year, which shall include, at a minimum:

- (a) Number of households and individuals served, disaggregated by region and track;
- (b) Physical and financial accomplishments;
- (c) Outcome indicators and evaluation findings as available;
- (d) Key partnerships and capacity-building activities; and
- (e) Recommendations for program improvement.

The annual report shall be posted on the official DSWD website, subject to privacy and confidentiality requirements.

**SECTION 14. Congressional Oversight Committee.** —

A Congressional Oversight Committee on the Sustainable Livelihood Program, hereafter referred to as the **SLP Oversight Committee**, is hereby created upon effectivity of this Act.

It shall be composed of members designated by the Senate and the House of Representatives from the committees having primary jurisdiction over poverty alleviation, social services, and labor and employment, with the chairperson and co-chairperson to be designated in accordance with the internal rules of Congress.

The Committee shall conduct periodic reviews on the implementation of this Act, including the utilization of appropriations, program performance, and compliance with accountability safeguards.

**SECTION 15. Data Privacy and Confidentiality.** — The DSWD shall ensure that all personal information collected, processed, and shared in the implementation of the SLP shall comply with **Republic Act No. 10173 (Data Privacy Act of 2012)** and its implementing rules and regulations.

**SECTION 16. Data Sharing.** — Data sharing among government agencies for the performance of a public function or provision of a public service shall be covered by a **data sharing agreement** and shall comply with **Republic Act No. 10173** and applicable issuances.

Access to program information by stakeholders shall be subject to lawful disclosure standards, security measures, and safeguards to protect personal data and sensitive information.

**SECTION 17. Convergence of Livelihood Programs and Services.** — To strengthen social protection and poverty alleviation outcomes, national government agencies, local government units, the private sector, civil society, volunteer groups, and the academe are encouraged to converge and complement the interventions under the SLP.

Convergence may include co-financing, resource mobilization, harmonization of training and support services, shared market linkages, and coordinated referrals, subject to applicable laws and agreements.

**SECTION 18. Appropriations.** — The amounts necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DSWD for the SLP. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 19. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — Within **twelve (12) months** from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD Secretary shall, in coordination with relevant government agencies and local government units, promulgate the implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

**SECTION 20. Separability Clause.** — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 21. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, rules, regulations, issuances, and parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 22. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect **fifteen (15) days** after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*