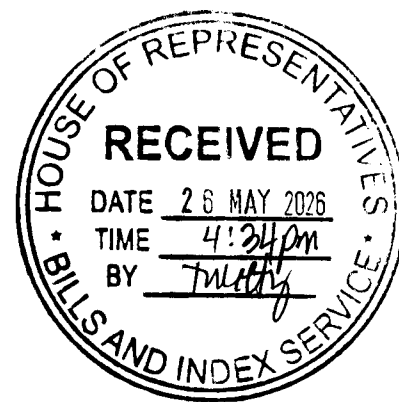


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9456



Introduced by Representative Timothy Joseph Cayton

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will free the people from poverty,¹ to ensure that opportunities, income, and wealth are equitably diffused for the common good,² and to reduce social, economic, and political inequalities through the equitable diffusion of wealth and political power.³

Notwithstanding decades of poverty reduction initiatives, millions of Filipinos remain below the poverty threshold. Based on the 2023 Full Year Official Poverty Statistics of the Philippine Statistics Authority, poverty incidence among families stood at 10.9 percent, translating to approximately 2.99 million families with incomes falling below the poverty threshold. Rural poverty incidence, at 22.1 percent, more than doubles the urban figure of 10.3 percent, underscoring the structural disadvantages confronting Filipinos in agricultural and geographically isolated areas.

Approximately 2.99 million families live below the poverty threshold. Rural poverty, at 22.1 percent, is double the urban rate, highlighting structural disadvantages in agricultural areas like Nueva Vizcaya, where livelihood support is essential for development. The DSWD's Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP), originating from the 1996 SEA-K Program, provides microenterprise development and employment facilitation. Despite success rates of 65.15 percent for monitored tracks and 95.44 percent for the Livelihood Assistance Grant as of May 2023, the SLP remains an administrative program vulnerable to policy and budget shifts.

The SLP currently struggles with limited reach to non-4Ps households, excessive field caseloads of 240, and funding instability.

This Act addresses these deficiencies by institutionalizing the program through legislation and guaranteed appropriations. It mandates coverage for non-4Ps poor, sets caseload ceilings, creates permanent plantilla positions, and separates implementation from monitoring. Furthermore, the measure

¹ Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution.

² Article XII, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution.

³ Article XIII, Sections 1, 2, and 9 of the 1987 Constitution.

indexes grant floors to inflation, formalizes inter-agency convergence, and clarifies the role of local government units under the Mandanas-Garcia devolution.

This legislation codifies the State's commitment to a sustainable pathway out of poverty, ensuring the dignity of Filipino households is protected from administrative policy shifts.

Institutionalizing the Sustainable Livelihood Program is, in the final analysis, a commitment that the dignity of every Filipino household, whether in the rice fields of Nueva Vizcaya, the coastal villages of the Visayas, the agroforestry communities of the Cordilleras, or the urban informal settlements of Metro Manila, does not depend on the prevailing policy preferences of any administration. It is the codification of a promise that productive work, supported by adequate skills, capital, and institutional accompaniment, remains the State's preferred pathway out of poverty.

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



ATTY. TIMOTHY JOSEPH E. CAYTON, PhD.
Representative
Lone District of Nueva Vizcaya

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9456

Introduced by Representative Timothy Joseph Cayton

AN ACT

**INSTITUTIONALIZING AND EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE
SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, STRENGTHENING ITS
INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND FIELD IMPLEMENTATION
CAPACITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, 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
“*Sustainable Livelihood Program Institutionalization and Expansion Act*”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that frees the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, ensure a rising standard of living, and advance an improved quality of life for all, in pursuance of Article II, Section 9 and Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution.

Toward this end, the State shall capacitate the poor, vulnerable, marginalized, and disadvantaged individuals, households, and communities to improve their socio-economic conditions by building sustainable and resilient livelihoods through skills, capital, technology, market linkages, and institutional accompaniment. The State further recognizes that the equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth, and the expansion of productivity, are essential to lifting Filipinos from poverty into self-sufficiency and dignified livelihood, with particular regard for those residing in rural, agricultural, agrarian reform, indigenous, coastal, geographically isolated, and disaster-affected communities.

The State shall ensure the continuity and stability of livelihood interventions by institutionalizing the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, expanding its coverage to all qualified poor households whether or not enrolled in the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, strengthening its institutional and

field implementation arrangements, and securing its regular funding through the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- (a) *Capability-Building* — refers to the provision of institutional assistance to program participants designed to enhance their competencies to start, manage, and sustain established livelihood projects, including but not limited to skills training, mentoring, coaching, financial literacy, business development services, and organizational strengthening.
- (b) *Cash for Building Livelihood Assets Fund (CBLAF)* — refers to an allowance or stipend provided to program participants who have rendered work for labor-intensive projects to build, rebuild, or protect natural and physical assets necessary for more profitable, self-sustaining, and resilient microenterprises.
- (c) *Certificate of Accreditation (CoA)* — refers to a certification issued by the DSWD Field Office to a Sustainable Livelihood Program Association after the issuance of the Certificate of Eligibility, which shall be a prerequisite for the release of funds to the said Association under the Microenterprise Development Track.
- (d) *Certificate of Eligibility (COE)* — refers to a certification issued by the SLP Regional Program Management Office certifying that a Sustainable Livelihood Program Association or an Employment Facilitation Track participant has satisfied the eligibility requirements and complied with the processes of the SLP.
- (e) *Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)* — refers to the system established under Republic Act No. 11315, used as a primary tool for identifying poor and vulnerable households at the city or municipality level.
- (f) *Disadvantaged* — refers to an individual, family, group, or community considered economically, physically, or socially deprived, or with inadequate means to protect oneself from external shocks, including but not limited to indigent children, out-of-school youth, persons with disabilities, solo parents, displaced workers, and victims of disasters and armed conflict.
- (g) *Disaster-Affected Individuals, Families, or Communities* — refers to individuals, households, or groups whose lives, livelihoods, properties, or access to basic services have been disrupted or adversely impacted by natural or human-induced disasters or calamities.
- (h) *Employment Assistance Fund (EAF)* — refers to a grant provided to participants pursuing the Employment Facilitation Track to defray the costs of processing pre-employment documentary requirements, required medical examinations, basic employment tools and materials, transportation and meal allowances, and board and lodging until the first fifteen (15) days of employment.

- (i) *Employment Facilitation (EF) Track* — refers to the track of the SLP that provides assistance to eligible participants who prefer formal employment to engaging in a microenterprise.
- (j) *Existing Associations Organized by Other Government Agencies* — refers to organized groups, cooperatives, and people's organizations duly recognized, accredited, registered, or supported by national government agencies, including but not limited to irrigators' associations under the National Irrigation Administration, farmers' and producers' cooperatives supported by the Department of Agriculture, fisherfolk and coastal resource associations under the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, agrarian reform beneficiary organizations supported by the Department of Agrarian Reform, workers' and skills-trainees' associations under the Department of Labor and Employment and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, cooperatives registered with the Cooperative Development Authority, and micro, small, and medium enterprise groups under the Department of Trade and Industry.
- (k) *Implementing Project Development Officer (IPDO)* — refers to the SLP field personnel responsible for identifying, organizing, capacitating, and providing direct technical assistance to program participants, and for validating the utilization of grants.
- (l) *Listahanan* — refers to the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction, the information management system that compiles a socio-economic database of poor households for adoption by national government agencies and implemented by the DSWD.
- (m) *Microenterprise Development (MD) Track* — refers to the track of the SLP focused on the establishment of a microenterprise through the provision of financial capital, enhancement of skills, and the building or rebuilding of physical and natural assets.
- (n) *Monitoring Project Development Officer (MPDO)* — refers to the SLP field personnel responsible for the post-grant monitoring and evaluation of program participants and their livelihood projects, distinct in function from the Implementing Project Development Officer.
- (o) *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)* — refers to the national conditional cash transfer program institutionalized under Republic Act No. 11310.
- (p) *Poor* — refers to individuals or families whose income falls below the poverty threshold as defined by the Philippine Statistics Authority, or who cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing, and other essential amenities of life, as defined under Republic Act No. 8425.
- (q) *Program Participants* — refers to eligible individuals, households, or members of Sustainable Livelihood Program Associations who receive any modality of assistance under this Act.

- (r) *Seed Capital Fund (SCF)* — refers to a start-up grant for a Sustainable Livelihood Program Association or an individual participant, used to purchase tools, raw materials, equipment, machinery, and common service facilities needed to start or expand a microenterprise.
- (s) *Skills Training Fund (STF)* — refers to a grant for the acquisition of technical, vocational, or entrepreneurial knowledge and skills by program participants, covering training fees, meal, lodging and transportation allowances, training supplies and materials, and assessment fees.
- (t) *SLP National Program Management Office (SLP-NPMO)* — refers to the office of the DSWD Central Office responsible for the overall management of the SLP, including the setting of policies, standards, and guidelines.
- (u) *SLP Regional Program Management Office (SLP-RPMO)* — refers to the office of the DSWD Field Office responsible for the regional management of the SLP, providing technical assistance, supervision, and oversight of all SLP provincial and area-based operations.
- (v) *Sustainable Livelihood* — refers to a livelihood that can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base.
- (w) *Sustainable Livelihood Program Association (SLPA)* — refers to a beneficiary civil society organization or people's organization with not less than five (5) and not more than thirty (30) members, organized by the DSWD through the SLP, which is issued a Certificate of Accreditation to be an eligible recipient of assistance under the Microenterprise Development Track.
- (x) *Vulnerable* — refers to households confronted by ex-ante risk that, if currently non-poor, will fall below the poverty line, and if currently poor, will remain in poverty, defined in terms of exposure to adverse conditions related to welfare.

SECTION 4. Coverage. — This Act shall cover all qualified poor, vulnerable, marginalized, and disadvantaged individuals, households, and communities identified through the Listahanan, the Community-Based Monitoring System, or other approved DSWD identification and assessment tools, regardless of whether they are currently enrolled, previously enrolled, or never enrolled in the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. The Act shall further cover Filipino families classified as poor under Republic Act No. 11291, members of indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples as defined under Republic Act No. 8371, persons with disabilities, solo parents under Republic Act No. 11861, and households whose livelihoods have been disrupted by natural or human-induced disasters or armed conflict.

SECTION 5. The Sustainable Livelihood Program. — The Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) shall be the lead community-based

livelihood capability-building program of the DSWD for the poor, vulnerable, marginalized, and disadvantaged sectors. The SLP shall ensure that program participants are continuously capacitated toward entrepreneurship, gainful employment, and association self-governance, and shall facilitate their access to external resources such as additional credit, insurance, capacity-building, technology, and market linkages.

SECTION 6. Program Tracks and Modalities of Assistance. — The SLP shall have two (2) major tracks, namely: (i) the Microenterprise Development Track, which provides support for the establishment of microenterprise livelihoods; and (ii) the Employment Facilitation Track, which provides support in securing and maintaining gainful employment.

The modalities under the Microenterprise Development Track shall include:

- (1) Seed Capital Fund;
- (2) Skills Training Fund for Microenterprise Development; and
- (3) Cash for Building Livelihood Assets Fund.

The modalities under the Employment Facilitation Track shall include:

- (1) Employment Assistance Fund; and
- (2) Skills Training Fund for Employment Facilitation.

The DSWD may, through the Implementing Rules and Regulations and subject to the approval of the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, introduce additional modalities of assistance under either Track in response to emerging needs, including disaster-recovery livelihood interventions, green and climate-resilient enterprise grants, digital livelihood enablement grants, and innovation challenge grants for community-based enterprises.

SECTION 7. Grant Amounts; Periodic Indexation; Triennial Review. — The following minimum statutory grant floors shall apply per program participant, expressed in 2026 base-year pesos:

- (a) Seed Capital Fund — Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (PhP 25,000.00);
- (b) Skills Training Fund for Microenterprise Development — Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (PhP 25,000.00);
- (c) Skills Training Fund for Employment Facilitation — Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (PhP 25,000.00);
- (d) Employment Assistance Fund — Ten Thousand Pesos (PhP 10,000.00); and
- (e) Cash for Building Livelihood Assets Fund — one hundred percent (100%) of the prevailing regional minimum wage as set by the Department of Labor and Employment, for a maximum of eleven (11) days per program cycle.

These grant floors shall be automatically adjusted every fiscal year in accordance with the headline Consumer Price Index published by the Philippine Statistics Authority, with the SLP-NPMO issuing the corresponding implementing circular not later than the thirty-first (31st) of January of each year.

Independent of annual indexation, the DSWD shall, every three (3) years, conduct a comprehensive review of the grant amounts and modalities of assistance to determine whether further adjustments are warranted in light of evolving market prices, sectoral livelihood requirements, and program performance. The review shall be transmitted to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee and made publicly available on the DSWD official website.

SECTION 8. *Eligibility Requirements.* — Filipino individuals, households, and members of disadvantaged communities or groups in need of livelihood assistance are qualified program participants of the SLP, subject to selection by the DSWD using the Listahanan, the CBMS, or other approved identification and assessment tools. To be eligible:

- (a) For the Microenterprise Development Track — the participant must be at least sixteen (16) years of age, with written legal consent of a parent or legal guardian if a minor;
- (b) For the Employment Facilitation Track — the participant must be at least eighteen (18) years of age at the time of employment, in accordance with prevailing labor and employment standards;
- (c) The participant must be classified as poor, vulnerable, marginalized, or disadvantaged under any of the systems enumerated in Section 4; and
- (d) The participant must be willing to comply with the conditions stipulated in this Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 9. *Priority Beneficiaries; Non-4Ps Coverage Floor.* — Eligible program participants may avail of the modalities within their chosen Track. Priority shall be accorded to:

- (a) Households enrolled in or graduating from the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program;
- (b) Non-4Ps households classified as poor under the Listahanan, the CBMS, or Republic Act No. 11291;
- (c) Indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples, including those in the ancestral domains of Nueva Vizcaya, the Cordillera Administrative Region, Mindanao, and other indigenous areas;
- (d) Persons with disabilities, solo parents, women heads of households, out-of-school youth, and senior citizens with productive capacity;
- (e) Disaster-affected and conflict-affected individuals, families, and communities;

- (f) Agrarian reform beneficiaries, irrigators' associations, fisherfolk and coastal resource associations, farmers' and producers' cooperatives, and other Existing Associations Organized by Other Government Agencies;
- (g) Previously served SLP participants who have completed at least five (5) years from the time of receipt of grants and who qualify anew upon assessment; and
- (h) Walk-in clients and participants referred by internal or external partners who satisfy the eligibility requirements upon assessment.

Not less than forty percent (40%) of the annual SLP appropriation shall be allocated to non-4Ps poor households as identified under paragraphs (b) through (h) above. The DSWD shall maintain disaggregated records of beneficiaries by 4Ps status, sector, region, and province, and shall report compliance with this coverage floor in its annual report.

SECTION 10. *Livelihood Sustainability Plan.* — The SLP shall implement a Livelihood Sustainability Plan that includes continuous monitoring and technical assistance of livelihood projects, capability-building activities, partnership linkages, and additional grant incentives for successful Sustainable Livelihood Program Associations until program graduation. The Plan shall be guided by performance indicators across four (4) domains, namely:

- (a) Technical Operations;
- (b) Financial Strength;
- (c) Organizational Development and Management; and
- (d) Community Impact.

Program participants shall be assessed against these indicators annually starting from the second year of the program cycle.

SECTION 11. *Implementation Stages; Five-Year Cycle.* — The SLP shall operate in a five (5)-year program cycle for participants in the Microenterprise Development Track, namely:

- (a) **Year 1 — *Punla*** (Seeding) — consisting of pre-implementation, social preparation, resource mobilization, and project implementation;
- (b) **Year 2 — *Usbong*** (Sprouting) — consisting of monitoring activities, coaching, mentoring, and a second round of capability-building, during which the SLP shall provide a Product Diversification and Development Grant;
- (c) **Year 3 — *Sibol*** (Emerging) — consisting of continuing monitoring, technical assistance, coaching, and mentoring, during which the SLP shall provide a Formalization Support Grant to associations and participants willing to undergo formal government licensing and accreditation;

- (d) **Year 4 — Yabong** (Flourishing) — consisting of continuing monitoring, capability-building, partnership building, and external linkages with regular markets and institutional partners; and
- (e) **Year 5 — Ani** (Harvest) — consisting of the official graduation of associations that have achieved the technical, financial, organizational, and community impact indicators, with graduating associations eligible for an SLP Graduation Grant subject to assessment and evaluation.

Participants in the Employment Facilitation Track shall be monitored and provided technical assistance for one (1) year from the time of receipt of grants before being mainstreamed to the concerned local government units pursuant to Section 14 hereof.

SECTION 12. Institutional Arrangements. — The DSWD shall serve as the lead agency for the central coordination, planning, implementation, and monitoring of the SLP. The SLP-NPMO shall exercise steering and oversight functions, while the SLP-RPMO shall be primarily responsible for the implementation of the program stages at the regional, provincial, and city or municipality levels. The DSWD Field Offices shall serve as the primary implementers.

SECTION 13. Functions of the SLP National Program Management Office. — The SLP-NPMO shall perform the following functions:

- (a) Development and enhancement of program policies, tools, and guidelines;
- (b) Setting of performance standards and compliance monitoring;
- (c) National program planning, coordination, and budget management;
- (d) Human resource management and capacity-building for national and regional program personnel;
- (e) National program monitoring and evaluation, including program milestones, accomplishments, results monitoring, and outcome evaluation;
- (f) Issuance of the annual indexation circular pursuant to Section 7 hereof;
- (g) Coordination with national government agencies, the private sector, civil society organizations, the academe, and development partners; and
- (h) Other related functions necessary for the management of the Program.

SECTION 14. Functions of the SLP Regional Program Management Office; Role of Local Government Units. — The SLP-RPMO shall perform the following functions: (a) full implementation of the program stages based on approved processes, timelines, and parameters; (b) compliance with implementation standards and policies; (c) beneficiary-level

monitoring and evaluation for technical assistance and reporting; (d) participation in human resource development and capacity-building; (e) obligation and disbursement of funds; and (f) coordination at the regional, provincial, and city or municipality levels.

Within the framework of the Mandanas-Garcia devolution transition plan, local government units, through their Municipal or City Social Welfare and Development Offices, shall serve as primary partners of the SLP in beneficiary identification, post-graduation mainstreaming, and convergence with locally-funded livelihood initiatives. The DSWD shall, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, provide systematic capacity-building support to enable local government units to absorb post-graduation mainstreaming functions within five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act. The City or Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer shall, in coordination with the SLP-RPMO, prepare and submit an annual SLP Convergence Plan to the Sangguniang Bayan or Sangguniang Panlungsod concerned.

SECTION 15. Field Implementation Personnel; Caseload Ceiling; Plantilla Positions. — To ensure the integrity, continuity, and effectiveness of program implementation, the following shall be observed:

- (a) The SLP shall maintain a clear separation of functions between Implementing Project Development Officers (IPDOs) and Monitoring Project Development Officers (MPDOs). No single field implementer shall simultaneously perform both functions for the same set of program participants, except in circumstances of force majeure and only for such period as shall be determined by the SLP-NPMO.
- (b) The maximum caseload per Implementing Project Development Officer shall not exceed one hundred fifty (150) households per program cycle. The maximum caseload per Monitoring Project Development Officer shall not exceed two hundred (200) households.
- (c) The DSWD shall, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service Commission, secure the creation of regular plantilla positions for SLP field implementation personnel, including IPDOs, MPDOs, Project Development Officers, and supervisory positions, sufficient to comply with the caseload ceilings under paragraph (b).
- (d) Pending the full creation of regular plantilla positions, the DSWD may engage contractual or job-order field implementation personnel, provided that such personnel shall be entitled to fair compensation, social security coverage, hazard pay where applicable, and a clear pathway to regularization in accordance with civil service rules.
- (e) The DSWD shall maintain a Field Implementation Personnel Roster that shall be transmitted annually to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, reflecting the number of personnel by region, employment status, caseload, and length of service.

SECTION 16. *Grant Release.* — The DSWD shall release grants to individual program participants and Sustainable Livelihood Program Associations under both Tracks through cash, check, Automatic Debit Arrangement, or such other digital payment modalities as may be deemed efficient and secure, following existing government auditing and accounting rules and procedures. Whenever feasible, the DSWD shall utilize digital payment rails interoperable with the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) and the financial inclusion infrastructure of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

SECTION 17. *Partnership Building; Convergence of Programs and Services.* — The DSWD shall, within the scope of social protection and national poverty alleviation strategies, forge formal convergence arrangements with the National Irrigation Administration, the Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Cooperative Development Authority, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Information and Communications Technology, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, and other relevant agencies.

Such convergence shall be operationalized through inter-agency memoranda of agreement to be executed within twelve (12) months from the effectivity of this Act, and shall focus on the enhancement of operational efficiency, the provision of additional financing, access to resources, enhancement of program modules and capability-building activities, technology adoption, market linkages, and the strengthening of external partnerships.

Existing Associations Organized by Other Government Agencies shall be prioritized for appropriate SLP livelihood assistance that complements and strengthens their existing government-supported initiatives.

SECTION 18. *Digital Infrastructure and Information Systems.* — The DSWD shall develop, operate, and continuously enhance the SLP Information System, which shall serve as the integrated platform for participant identification and profiling, project tracking, grant disbursement, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting. The SLP Information System shall be interoperable with the Listahanan, the CBMS, the PhilSys, the BSP financial inclusion infrastructure, and the management information systems of converging agencies, subject to the data protection standards under Section 22 hereof. The DSWD shall ensure that program participants in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas are provided with digital onboarding support and reasonable accommodation for participants with disabilities or limited digital literacy.

SECTION 19. *Monitoring, Reporting, and Transparency.* — The DSWD, through the SLP-NPMO and SLP-RPMO, shall regularly monitor the implementation of the SLP to ensure the attainment of the goals enumerated

in this Act. The DSWD shall annually publish, on its official website and on the websites of its Field Offices, a full report covering the previous fiscal year, including: (a) the total number of households and individuals served, disaggregated by region, province, sector, 4Ps status, gender, ethnicity, age, and disability status; (b) physical and financial accomplishments; (c) success rates by Track and modality; (d) notable achievements, success stories, and innovative practices; (e) compliance with the non-4Ps coverage floor under Section 9; (f) the Field Implementation Personnel Roster under Section 15; and (g) recommendations for enhancement.

SECTION 20. *Periodic Impact Evaluation.* — Every five (5) years following the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD shall commission an independent third-party impact evaluation of the SLP, using rigorous quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The evaluation shall, at the minimum, examine: (a) household-level income and welfare effects; (b) sustainability of microenterprises and continuity of employment of program participants; (c) graduation rates and post-graduation outcomes; (d) cost-effectiveness; (e) equity of coverage across regions, sectors, and demographic groups; and (f) performance of converging agencies. The evaluation report shall be submitted to the President of the Philippines, the Senate of the Philippines, the House of Representatives, and the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, and shall be made publicly available within sixty (60) days from receipt thereof.

SECTION 21. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.* — There is hereby created a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor the implementation of this Act, composed of five (5) Senators and five (5) Representatives appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The Committee shall be co-chaired by the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development and the House Committee on Social Services. Members shall be drawn from the Committees on Poverty Alleviation, Social Services, Labor and Employment, Agriculture and Food, and Appropriations or their Senate counterparts.

The Joint Congressional Oversight Committee shall conduct periodic reviews to ensure the proper implementation of this Act with respect to the expenditure of funds, cost parameters of modalities, accomplishments of the Program, performance of implementing offices, compliance with the non-4Ps coverage floor and field personnel ceilings, and the findings of the periodic impact evaluations. The Committee shall submit an annual review report to both Houses of Congress.

SECTION 22. *Compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012.* — The DSWD, in implementing the SLP, shall strictly comply with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012,” and its implementing rules and regulations. The DSWD shall institute and maintain organizational, physical, technical, and security measures designed to ensure the security, integrity, and lawful processing of personal data of program participants and personnel.

SECTION 23. *Data Sharing.* — Data sharing between government agencies for the purpose of carrying out a public function or providing a public service under this Act shall be covered by a Data Sharing Agreement consistent with the Data Privacy Act of 2012. All information collected in the implementation of the SLP, including data filed with the SLP, the Listahanan, the CBMS, and other databases used by the DSWD, may be made available to authorized stakeholders, institutions, government agencies, and non-government organizations, subject to obligations to protect personal data and information.

SECTION 24. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Social Welfare and Development for the year of its effectivity. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act, including the funding requirements of the indexed statutory grant floors, the field personnel ceilings, the periodic impact evaluation, the SLP Information System, and the operations of the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

In no case shall the annual appropriation for the SLP fall below the appropriation of the immediately preceding fiscal year, adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index, except when otherwise expressly provided by Congress through a clear legislative determination.

SECTION 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall, in coordination with the heads of the converging agencies enumerated in Section 17, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Budget and Management, the Civil Service Commission, the National Anti-Poverty Commission, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, the National Commission on Disability Affairs, the Council for the Welfare of Children, the leagues of local government units, and after public consultations with civil society organizations, people's organizations, and recognized SLP participant federations, promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 26. *Transitory Provisions.* — All existing SLP participants and Sustainable Livelihood Program Associations duly enrolled under prior DSWD issuances upon the effectivity of this Act shall continue to receive their entitlements and shall be deemed covered under this Act, without need of re-application, until the completion of their program cycle. The Implementing Rules and Regulations shall provide for the seamless transition of program participants and personnel into the framework established by this Act.

SECTION 27. *Separability Clause.* — If, for any reason, any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions or parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 28. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 29. *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, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,