

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9471



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

**AN ACT ENCOURAGING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND
PROVIDING INCENTIVES THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution declares that the State recognizes the indispensable role of the private sector and encourages private enterprise.¹ This policy reveals that national development is not the sole responsibility of the government, but a shared responsibility between the public and private sectors.

In practice, many corporations in the Philippines have already taken on this role through their own Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Various companies have programs for disaster relief, livelihood opportunities, and educational scholarships. These efforts show that more than operating for profit, businesses are able to make lasting social impact on Filipino lives.

This measure seeks to further these programs and private initiatives by providing companies with incentives to expand their CSR programs and make it an integral part of their business models. Thus, this measure encourages all business organizations to observe CSR in their operations. CSR-related activities include charitable programs, scientific research, youth and sports development, services to senior citizens, environmental sustainability, and social welfare, among others.

As an incentive, this measure amends the Revised Corporation Code to allow corporations to retain surplus profits in excess of 100% of their paid-in capital stock for definite CSR projects. Additionally, the DTI shall recognize and reward all business

¹ CONST. Article II, Section 20.

organizations for outstanding, innovative and world-class CSR-related services. Let us work hand in hand to ensure inclusive growth and a better future for all Filipinos.

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



BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
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2nd District, Parañaque City

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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 “Corporate Social Responsibility Act”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes the vital role of the private sector in nation-building and shall encourage its active participation in fostering sustainable economic development and environment protection in the Philippines.

Towards this end, the government shall mobilize its various agencies, in coordination with nongovernment and people’s organizations, to work hand-in-hand for the integration, promotion, and strengthening of corporate social responsibility in all business organizations.

SEC. 3. Corporate Social Responsibility. – All business organizations established and operating under Philippine laws, whether domestic or foreign, are hereby encouraged to observe corporate social responsibility in the operation of their businesses in the country.

As used in this Act, corporate social responsibility (CSR) refers to the commitment of businesses to contribute on a voluntary basis to sustainable economic development by working with relevant stakeholders to improve their lives in ways that are good for business, sustainable development agenda, and society at large. CSR-related activities shall include the following:

- a. Charitable programs and projects;
- b. Scientific research;
- c. Youth and sports development;
- d. Cultural or educational promotion;
- e. Services to veterans and senior citizens;
- f. Social welfare;
- g. Environmental sustainability;
- h. Health development;
- i. Disaster relief and assistance;
- j. Socialized and low-cost housing; and
- k. Employee and worker related CSR activities.

All business organizations are allowed to donate products and services under their CSR-related activities for disaster relief and assistance, in accordance with the regulations to be issued by the appropriate government agency. All existing laws and regulations restricting or prohibiting the right of local government units under a state of calamity and/or during a national emergency to solicit or accept any donation of products and services under the CSR-related activities for disaster relief and assistance of a business organization are hereby amended.

SEC. 4. Deduction from Unrestricted Retained Earnings. – To encourage companies to engage in CSR, Section 42 of Republic Act No. 11232, otherwise known as the “Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 42. Power to Declare Dividends. – x x x

Stock corporations are prohibited from retaining surplus profits in excess of one hundred percent (100%) of their paid-in capital stock, except: (a) when justified by definite corporate expansion **OR FOR DEFINITE CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)** projects or programs approved by the board of directors; or (b) when the corporation is prohibited under any loan agreement with financial institutions or creditors, whether local or foreign, from declaring dividends without their consent, and such consent has not yet been secured; or (c) when it can be clearly shown that such retention is necessary under special circumstances obtaining in the corporation, such as when there is need for special reserve for probable contingencies.”

SEC. 5. Awards and Recognition. – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall recognize and reward all business organizations for outstanding, innovative and world-class CSR-related services, projects and programs. It shall likewise extend endorsement and encouragements to domestic and foreign corporations doing

business in the Philippines which are candidates for recognition in international award-giving bodies for their CSR-related activities.

SEC. 6. Local Government Units. – All local government units where CSR-related activities are conducted shall extend whatever assistance is necessary for business organizations to accomplish their CSR programs and projects and shall encourage business organizations within their territorial jurisdiction to conduct CSR projects/activities.

SEC. 7. Periodic Report. – All business organizations shall submit the list of their CSR activities as part of their annual or regular report to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), DTI, or the Department of Finance, as the case may be.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of the Act, the Secretary of Finance shall, in coordination with DTI and the SEC, promulgate rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. – Section 42 of Republic Act No. 11232 is hereby amended. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,