



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7266

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BY REPRESENTATIVES BATOCABE, GARBIN, CO, ALEJANO, RAMOS, AGGABAO, PALMA, GONZALEZ, ACOSTA-ALBA, KHO, MANGAOANG, MARCOLETA, PADUANO, SALON, NOGRALES (K.A.), CUARESMA, SAMBAR, SANDOVAL, VARGAS, ZAMORA (M.C.), DEL MAR, CAMINERO, DUAVIT, GO (M.), MONTORO, PIMENTEL, RODRIGUEZ (M.), ROQUE (R.), SUANSING (E.), UYBARRETA, ZUBIRI, MANALO, BRAVO (A.), SALCEDA, BRAVO (M.), SAVELLANO, VILLARICA, SY-ALVARADO, TAMBUNTING, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS AND NIETO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 629

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A RURAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

- 1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the  
2 “Rural Employment Assistance Program Act”.
- 3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of  
4 the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will  
5 ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the  
6 people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social  
7 services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and  
8 an improved quality of life for all. Towards this end, the State shall

1 provide employment assistance to a qualified head of a family or  
2 single adult member of poor households in rural areas identified by  
3 the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction  
4 (NHTS-PR) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development  
5 (DSWD).

6       SEC. 3. *Rural Employment Assistance Program.* – There is  
7 hereby created a Rural Employment Assistance Program (REAP),  
8 which shall provide temporary employment to every qualified head  
9 of a family or single adult member of a poor family in rural areas  
10 who volunteers to do unskilled labor for a minimum of forty-five (45)  
11 days but not more than ninety (90) days in a calendar year.

12       SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

13       (a) *Poor* refers to individuals and families whose income fall  
14 below the poverty threshold as defined by the government and/or  
15 cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide their minimum basic  
16 needs of food, health, education, housing and other essential  
17 amenities of life, or those who have been identified as poor by the  
18 NHTS-PR;

19       (b) *Rural area* refers to any barangay with at least fifty  
20 percent (50%) land area devoted to agriculture, timberland, forest  
21 and/or pasture land as determined by the Comprehensive Land Use  
22 Plan of the concerned local government unit (LGU); and

23       (c) *Unskilled labor* refers to a segment of the workforce  
24 associated with a limited skill set or minimal economic value  
25 for the work performed. It is generally characterized by a lower  
26 educational attainment, such as a high school diploma, General

1 Equivalency Diploma (GED) or lack thereof, and typically results in  
2 lower wages.

3 SEC. 5. *Qualifications for Availment of Employment*  
4 *Assistance.* – The DSWD, in close coordination with the LGUs and  
5 other concerned government agencies, shall conduct an assessment  
6 of all poor individuals and families in rural areas who signify  
7 interest in undertaking work as unskilled labor to determine  
8 eligibility in availing of the employment assistance program. It  
9 shall take the lead in the implementation of the REAP along project  
10 identification, implementation and monitoring of the works and  
11 activities.

12 Employment activities for this purpose shall be designed to  
13 mobilize eligible individuals and families to finish a project in a  
14 given period. These projects may include the following:

15 (a) Development, rebuilding/rehabilitation of agri-based  
16 livelihood assets destroyed or lost due to natural disasters such as  
17 desilting of irrigation canals, development of paddy dikes, and  
18 rehabilitation of water impounding dams;

19 (b) Development or rehabilitation of common service facilities,  
20 which are being shared and used by poor families as production or  
21 consolidation centers like postharvest facilities, and public markets;

22 (c) Development or rehabilitation of physical assets to open  
23 up access to areas necessary to transport rural products such as  
24 construction of farm to market roads and bridges; and

25 (d) Protection of productive assets through mitigation  
26 measures such as mangrove planting and rehabilitation, tree  
27 planting and similar activities.

1           SEC. 6. *Rate of Assistance.* – Every person qualified under  
2 this Program shall be entitled to receive compensation for each day  
3 of work employment assistance equal to the applicable minimum  
4 wage set by the concerned Regional Tripartite Wages and  
5 Productivity Board (RTWPB).

6           SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Social Welfare  
7 and Development shall include in the DSWD's programs the  
8 implementation of this Act, the initial funding of which shall be  
9 charged against the current year's appropriations of the DSWD.  
10 Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued implementation  
11 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

12           In addition, the DSWD may accept donations, contributions or  
13 grants from various sources for the implementation of the REAP.

14           SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within  
15 ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the Secretary of the  
16 DSWD shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department  
17 of the Interior and Local Government, issue the necessary rules and  
18 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

19           SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is  
20 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any  
21 provision not affected hereby shall remain in full force and effect.

22           SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
23 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper  
24 of general circulation.

Approved,

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