



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

23 JAN 12 A10:33

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

RECEIVED BY: 

**SENATE**

S.B. No. 1659

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**AN ACT  
CREATING THE "TRABAHO SA ORAS NG PAGBANGON" PROGRAM,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

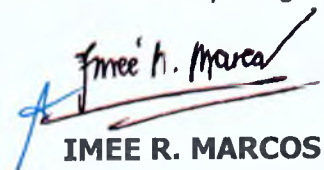
Article II, Section 18 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "*The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare*". Further, Article XIII, Section 3 states, "*The State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all*". Moreover, the Constitution guarantees that they shall be entitled to security of tenure, humane conditions of work, and a living wage".

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down the economy resulting in the closure or minimal operations of several business establishments. Millions of Filipinos, including those working overseas, now face the grim reality of job losses or underemployment, on prospects that the prolonged period of the pandemic will have an overwhelming impact on the survival of many companies.

This “new normal” brought about by COVID-19 is foreseen as a “survival of the fittest” situation where all types of business, whether big, medium, small, and micro will be affected. Economic opportunities will be limited and scarce. The Philippine government, therefore, needs to address this situation to cushion the negative impact of unemployment and job losses and stave off the further complication of the country's economic challenges.

Thus, this bill seeks to create the “*Trabaho sa Oras ng Pagbangon*” Program wherein the departments, agencies, and local government units will coordinate and create job opportunities and trainings, among others for Filipinos. These jobs may be offered for skilled and unskilled workers in government offices, sites, projects, or any government-related undertaking such as infrastructure projects, health programs, cleaning and management of the environment and government-owned infrastructure, reforestation, flood control, conservation projects, development of national parks, forests, and historic sites, among others. Therefore, not only will it create jobs for millions of Filipinos, it will also significantly help our country weather this difficult crisis brought about by the pandemic.

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

The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Imee R. Marcos". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line. Below the line, the name "IMEE R. MARCOS" is printed in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**IMEE R. MARCOS**



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CREATING THE "TRABAHO SA ORAS NG PAGBANGON" PROGRAM,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 "*Trabaho sa Oras ng*  
2 *Pagbangon Act*".

3  
4           **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – The State affords full protection to labor and  
5 ensures living wage and humane conditions at work. The "*Trabaho sa Oras ng*  
6 *Pagbangon*" Program creates various jobs for the distressed and marginalized Filipinos.  
7 The program shall also provide benefits and trainings for thousands of Filipinos,  
8 especially the low-income and disadvantaged.

9  
10           **SEC. 3.** *Trabaho sa Oras ng Pagbangon (TROPA) Program.* – The "*Trabaho sa*  
11 *Oras ng Pagbangon (TROPA)*" Program hereinafter referred to as the "*Program*" shall  
12 be created by the government which shall provide for the creation of jobs. The  
13 government shall take the lead in improving the social and economic life of Filipinos  
14 through a whole-of-government approach and whole-of-society approach.

1           **SEC. 4. Trabaho sa Oras ng Pagbangon (TROPa) Task Force.** – There is hereby  
2 created a "*Trabaho sa Oras ng Pagbangon (TROPa)*" Task Force, hereinafter referred  
3 to as the "*Task Force*," which shall be the body that will spearhead the implementation  
4 of the Program. The Task Force shall be composed of the following:

- 5
- 6       (a) Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
  - 7       (b) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA);
  - 8       (c) Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH)
  - 9       (d) Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
  - 10      (e) Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
  - 11      (f) Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
  - 12      (g) Secretary of the Department of Information And Communications Technology  
13          (DICT);
  - 14      (h) Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOTr);
  - 15      (i) Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority  
16          (TESDA);
  - 17      (j) Chairman of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA);
  - 18      (k) Secretary of the National Economic And Development Authority (NEDA);
  - 19      (l) President of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP); and
  - 20      (m) President of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP).

21

22           The Chairperson of the Task Force shall be the Secretary of the DOLE who shall  
23 have the power to require the participation of such other government agencies or  
24 instrumentalities in the Task Force, as may be deemed necessary.

25           *Provided, That* the Task Force shall, thereafter, formulate a National Plan which  
26 shall incorporate how the Program shall be swiftly implemented and utilized.

27

28           **SEC. 5. Health Care Delivery System and Services.** – The Department of Health  
29 (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)

1 and Local Government Units (LGUs), shall strengthen and modernize the health care  
2 delivery system and services of the country to fight and prevent the spread of the  
3 COVID-19 virus which shall also adopt a comprehensive, consistent, and systematic  
4 approach to current and existing health threats, issues, and concerns to complement  
5 the state-of-the-art technology, including the strengthening of vaccination uptake.

6  
7 **SEC. 6. *Transport Services.*** – The Department of Transportation (DOTr) and  
8 the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with the LGUs  
9 and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), shall undertake to improve and  
10 reform the public transportation system and major highways and thoroughfares for a  
11 more efficient travel and to ease traffic congestion.

12  
13 **SEC. 7. *Education and Training Services.*** – The Department of Education  
14 (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education  
15 and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall provide educational support and  
16 assistance to students especially in adapting to hybrid learning, online learning and  
17 other programs that build back better school systems.

18  
19 **SEC. 8. *Job Provision and Protection.*** – The government shall create a program  
20 which shall provide for the creation of jobs and assistance to unemployed Filipinos.  
21 Jobs may be offered for skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled workers in government  
22 offices, sites, projects, or any government-related undertaking such as infrastructure  
23 projects, health programs, creative projects, cleaning and management of the  
24 environment and government-owned infrastructure, reforestation, flood control,  
25 conservation projects, development of national parks, forests, and historic sites, among  
26 others.

27 The Task Force, in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment  
28 (DOLE) and private sector, shall provide job fairs to fast-track the meeting of  
29 jobseekers, employers, and overseas recruitment agencies in one venue at a specific

1 date to reduce cost, time and effort, particularly on the part of the applicants. The job  
2 fairs shall be open to all unemployed, skilled and unskilled workers, fresh college  
3 graduates, graduates of training institutions, displaced workers and employees seeking  
4 advancement.

5 The public and private sector shall also endeavor to provide, when applicable,  
6 work-from-home arrangements with the use of telecommunication and/or computer  
7 technologies, in accordance to Republic Act No. 11166 otherwise known as the  
8 "*Telecommuting Act.*" *Provided*, That labor protection and benefits such as social  
9 security and/or health insurance shall also be provided to "gig" work arrangements  
10 which shall be based on a pro-rated basis, linking employer-benefit contributions to  
11 time worked, jobs completed, or income earned. *Provided further that*, protection to  
12 non-payment of "gig" work arrangements shall also be made, as may be determined  
13 by the DOLE.

14 For purposes of this Act, "*gig work arrangements*" shall be defined as any  
15 temporary position in a free market system for short-term commitments.

16

17 **SEC. 9. Agri-industry Development.** – The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall  
18 promote the development of agriculture, fisheries and food production to ensure the  
19 sustainability of food supply, food productivity, availability, accessibility, and  
20 affordability. The DA shall provide nationwide programs that will benefit farmers,  
21 fisherfolks, and consumers to increase national agri-fishery output through intensified  
22 use of quality seeds, appropriate inputs, and modern technologies to increase levels of  
23 productivity across all commodities, both in urban and rural areas.

24

25 **SEC. 10. Appropriation.** – Upon its effectivity, an initial amount of Two Hundred  
26 Million Pesos (Php 200,000,000.00) shall be included in the annual General  
27 Appropriations Act (GAA) for the implementation of this Act. Thereafter, the  
28 appropriations necessary shall be determined by the Department of Budget and  
29 Management (DBM).

1           **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from  
2 the effectivity of this Act. Thereafter, the concerned departments and agencies shall  
3 issue the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

4  
5           **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or  
6 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
7 repealed or modified accordingly..

8  
9           **SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
10 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall  
11 remain in force and effect.

12  
13           **SEC. 14. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
14 following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper  
15 of general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*