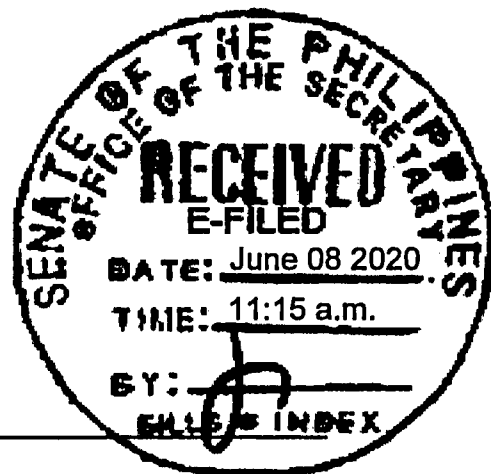


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
S.B. No. 1590



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT
CREATING THE "TRABAHO SA ORAS NG PANDEMYA" 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"

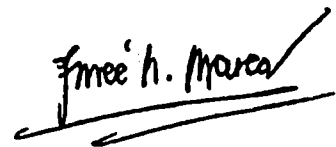
The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down the economy resulting in the closure or minimal operations of several business establishments. Millions of Filipinos, including those working overseas, now face the grim reality of job losses or underemployment, on prospects that the prolonged period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

As of April 2020, the Labor Force Survey (LFS) conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted into the country's unemployment rising to 17.7 percent, equivalent to 7.3 million unemployed Filipinos. The unemployment rate was only 5.3 percent in January 2020. The declines in employment covered three (3) major sectors of the economy: agriculture (down to 8.7 million from 9.1 million a year ago); industry (down to 5.8 million from 8.1 million); and services (down to 19.3 million from 24.6 million).

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 Pandemya*" program wherein the departments, agencies, and local government units will coordinate and create job opportunities 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 significantly help our country weather this difficult crisis brought about by COVID-19.

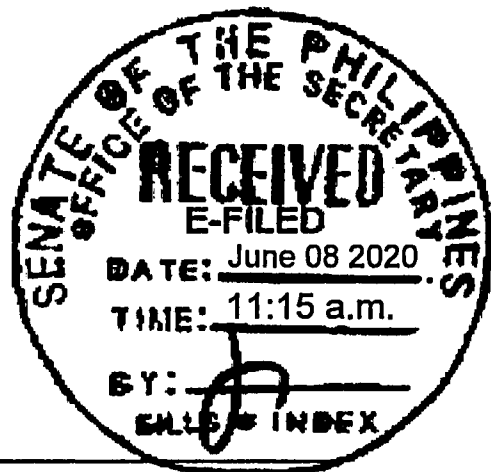
In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Imee R. Marcos". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

IMEE R. MARCOS

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
S.B. No. 1590



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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 *Pandemya Act.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State affords full protection to labor and
4 ensures living wage and humane conditions at work. The "*Trabaho sa Oras ng*
5 *Pandemya*" program creates various jobs for the distressed Filipinos due to the COVID-
6 19 crisis. The program shall also provide benefits and trainings for thousands of
7 Filipinos, especially the low-income and disadvantaged.

8 Sec. 3. *Trabaho sa Oras ng Pandemya (TrOPa) Program.* – The "*Trabaho sa*
9 *Oras ng Pandemya (TrOPa)*" program hereinafter referred to as the "*Program*" shall
10 be created by the government which shall provide for the creation of jobs and
11 assistance to unemployed Filipinos as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

12 Jobs may be offered for skilled and unskilled workers in government offices,
13 sites, projects, or any government-related undertaking such as infrastructure projects,
14 health programs, cleaning and management of the environment and government-
15 owned infrastructure, reforestation, flood control, conservation projects, development
16 of national parks, forests, and historic sites, among others.

17 Sec. 4. *Trabaho sa Oras ng Pandemya (TrOPa) Council.* – There is hereby
18 created a "*Trabaho sa Oras ng Pandemya (TrOPa)*" Council, hereinafter referred to as

1 the "Council," which shall be the body that will spearhead the implementation of the
2 Program which shall be composed of the following:

- 3 (a) Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
- 4 (b) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA);
- 5 (c) Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH);
- 6 (d) Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- 7 (e) Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
- 8 (f) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
9 (DENR);
- 10 (g) Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOTr);
- 11 (h) Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development
12 Authority (TESDA);
- 13 (i) Chairman of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA);
- 14 (j) President of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP); and
- 15 (k) President of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP).

16 The Chairperson of the Council shall be the Secretary of the DOLE who shall
17 have the power to require the participation of such other government agencies or
18 instrumentalities in the Council, as he may deem necessary.

19 *Provided, That* the Council shall, thereafter, formulate a national plan which
20 shall incorporate how the Program shall be swiftly implemented and utilized.

21 *Sec. 5. Participation and Coordination of Departments, Agencies, and Local*
22 *Government Units.* – The departments, agencies, and LGUs, as mentioned in Sec. 3
23 hereof, shall introduce programs creating jobs, including these already existing such
24 as the "*Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced (TUPAD)*" under
25 DOLE, "*Cash-for-Work*" under DSWD, and "*Unskilled Labor*" under DPWH, among
26 others.

27 *Sec. 6. Wages and Benefits.* – All hired under the program shall be entitled to
28 the following:

- 29 1. A living wage and humane working condition, as may be determined by the
30 DOLE;
- 31 2. Leave privileges, as may be determined on a case-to-case basis;
- 32 3. Health insurance and hazard pay, if appropriate; and

1 4. Social security.

2 **Sec. 7. *Appropriation.*** – Upon its effectivity, an initial amount of two hundred
3 million pesos (PhP 200,000,000.00) shall be included in the annual General
4 Appropriations Act (GAA) for the implementation of this Act. Thereafter, the
5 appropriation necessary shall be determined by the Department of Budget and
6 Management (DBM).

7 **Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from
8 the effectivity of this Act, the concerned departments and agencies shall issue the
9 necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

10 **Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
11 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
12 repealed or modified accordingly.

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

16 **Sec. 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
17 the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of
18 general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,