

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



22 JUL 14 A10:49

SENATE

S. B. NO. 574

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

**AN ACT PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL CASH ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM FOR FILIPINOS TO AID IN MITIGATING THE EFFECTS
OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND SIMILAR NATIONAL
EMERGENCIES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The pandemic revealed some of the systemic issues surrounding our society. From issues concerning on the capacity of our public health system to issues arising on social protection programs that are resilient to all types of emergencies. All of these led to the suffering and hardship of our Filipino families.

Despite the various crises our country is currently facing, the Philippines had one of the smallest amounts in terms of stimulus packages among the key ASEAN countries. *Bayanihan* to Heal as One and *Bayanihan* to Recover as One have provided more than half a trillion pesos (\$10 billion). However, according to data from the Singapore Institute for International Affairs, this amount is still low compared to those of Thailand (around \$75 billion), Malaysia (around \$60 billion), Singapore (around \$40 billion), Indonesia (around \$30 billion) and Vietnam (around \$20 billion).¹

To address this, this bill seeks to introduce a cash assistance intervention in order to save lives and ease the burden of Filipinos who are still reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to the economy. In addition to the current pandemic, the assistance provided under this measure will also be triggered in

¹ Business Mirror, PHL and its Asean neighbors: Economic performance amid the pandemic, December 24, 2020, accessible at <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/12/24/phl-and-its-asean-neighbors-economic-performance-amid-the-pandemic/> (last accessed July 11, 2022).

times of national emergencies that adversely affect the lives and livelihood of our citizens.

Although Filipinos are known for their grit and resilience, assistance to our countrymen is still needed to help them survive and get back on their feet amidst the current pandemic and other national emergencies. Extraordinary times require extraordinary measures to boost both the economy and the lives of the Filipino people. With the foresight that the pandemic may still continue due to newer variations, as well as other issues such as continuous rise in prices of fuel and other basic commodities, it is of primary importance that the welfare of every family in various vulnerable sectors are properly upheld.

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Villanueva', with a circular mark containing the letters 'JV' at the end of the signature.

SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

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NATIONAL EMERGENCIES**

*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 “Bangon
2 Pamilyang Pilipino (BPP) Assistance Program Act of 2022.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the declared policy of the State to
5 free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social
6 services, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.
7

8 The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the country, stunt its
9 economy, and disrupt jobs and livelihoods – especially for the most vulnerable.
10 Extraordinary times require extraordinary measures to uplift both the economy
11 and the lives of the Filipino people. In line with this, the State shall endeavor to
12 help all Filipinos and the economy get the much needed financial boost in the
13 wake of inflation, increased prices of basic commodities, rising fuel costs, and
14 other causes of financial strains and hardships brought about by and during the
15 pandemic.
16

17 Towards this end, it is hereby the policy of the State to prevent more
18 families from going into hunger by providing an immediate financial boost
19 through an additional assistance program.

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SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act:

- a) **Family** refers to a group of persons usually living together and composed of the head and other persons related to the head by blood, marriage, or adoption. It includes both the nuclear and extended family.
- b) **Nuclear Family** shall be composed of a father and a mother with unmarried children or a parent with children.
- c) **Extended Family** refers to the household composed of a nuclear family together with relatives, up to the third degree of affinity or consanguinity.

SEC. 4. BPP Assistance Program. – Over and above and separate and distinct from any financial assistance or social amelioration measure of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the BPP Assistance Program is hereby established to provide cash assistance to all Filipino families and individuals affected by the pandemic and other national emergencies, as enumerated in Section 6 herein, through the most expeditious, transparent, and simple process.

SEC. 5. Amount of BPP Cash Assistance. – Each Filipino family shall receive a one-time cash assistance of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000) or One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500) per Family member, whichever is higher.

SEC. 6. Priority List of Beneficiaries. – The following shall be given priority in the distribution of the BPP Cash Assistance:

- a) Poor Filipinos whose per capita income is insufficient to meet basic food and non-food items;
- b) Senior Citizens;
- c) Persons with Disability;
- d) Indigenous Persons; and
- e) Solo parents whose monthly income is below twice the amount of the monthly income of minimum wage earners;
- f) Displaced, retrenched or separated workers, or otherwise severely affected or have lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic or during other declarations of state of emergency, which include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Freelancers such as entertainers, tour guides, workers in the events industry, etc.;
 - 2. Drivers of public transportation such as pedicab, tricycle, PUJs, PUVs, taxi, bus, etc.;

- 1 3. Owners and workers in microenterprises such as sari-sari
2 stores, market stalls, food carts, etc.;
- 3 4. Farmers;
- 4 5. Homeworkers including family drivers and house helpers; and
- 5 6. Sub-minimum wage earners.
- 6 g) Medical frontliners including Barangay Health Workers;
- 7 h) Families of Overseas Filipino Workers, who were displaced and or
8 suffered job losses or salary deduction on account of global public
9 health emergencies and other extraordinary emergencies of global
10 magnitude;
- 11 i) Those who were not able to receive assistance through any of the
12 Social Amelioration Programs of the national government;
- 13 j) Filipino Citizens holding a Philippine National ID; and
- 14 k) Other members of vulnerable sectors as may be identified under the
15 implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

16

17 **SEC. 7. Enrollment to the Philippine Identification System.** –
18 Pursuant to Republic Act No. 11055, or the Philippine Identification System Act,
19 which aims to promote seamless delivery of service and to improve the
20 efficiency, transparency, and targeted delivery of public and social services, all
21 Filipinos who seek to benefit from the BPP Cash Assistance Program shall
22 enroll in the Philippine Identification System (PIS). Enrollment in the PIS shall
23 merit prioritization of the enrollee in the list of beneficiaries under Section 6 of
24 this Act.

25

26 **SEC. 8. BPP Assistance Program Hotline, Website, and Mobile**
27 **Application.** – The DSWD shall establish, maintain, and operate a telephone
28 hotline, website, and a mobile application in order to effectively and efficiently
29 facilitate the roll-out of the BPP Assistance Program, answer inquiries, receive
30 complaints and grievances from the public, and help disseminate information
31 regarding the Program. A separate hotline shall also be dedicated for those with
32 special needs, such as, but not limited to, senior citizens, persons with
33 disabilities, and the like.

34

35 **SEC. 9. Sources of Funding.** – The amount necessary to carry out the
36 provisions of this Act shall be sourced from the unprogrammed funds and
37 savings from General Appropriations Act. The National Government may also
38 enter into favorable loan agreement(s) to finance the programs and projects to
39 implement this Act.

40

41 **SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60)
42 days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, upon consultation with
43 appropriate government agencies and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the
44 implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

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SEC. 11. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any portion or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, proclamations, rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,