

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'22 JUL 18 P4:50

SENATE

RECEIVED BY:

S. B. NO. 731

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM AND PROVIDING JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY IN DETENTION FACILITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), there are approximately 94,098 persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) in 470 jails¹ nationwide who are mostly 18 to 41 years old.² Meanwhile, the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) reported that there are 49,083 PDLs in seven prisons as of May 2022.³ To rehabilitate the PDLs, BJMP and BuCor provided technical-vocational classes or incorporated vocational programs into their job assignments in most correctional facilities.

This bill seeks to institutionalize this practice by mandating the establishment of a skills training program for PDLs in all correctional facilities in the Philippines. The implementation of the Program shall be spearheaded by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Justice (DOJ), and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). In addition, skills advancement or training inside prison will be matched with job search assistance to help ex-inmates find work once outside of prison.

¹ BJMP Actual Jail Population Data as of May 31, 2021.

² BJMP PDL Age Bracket as of May 31, 2021.

³ BuCor Data and Statistics.

Indeed, transition services, especially technical vocational education and training (TVET), can improve the self-esteem of PDLs. With employable skills, they can find new life when they leave detention, never to get back in jail. Tech-voc training will also bring new hope to the offenders because they know they have the skills that can be their passport to employment opportunities once they leave confinement. Aside from these, tech-voc training will also aid in breaking the cycle of recidivism of certain prisoners.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Villanueva', with a stylized flourish at the end.

SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

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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 “*Kabuhayan for*
2 *Offenders through Skills Advancement (KOSA) Act.*”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Establishment of Skills Training Program for Persons Deprived of**
5 ***Liberty (PDLs).*** – The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
6 (TESDA), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Labor and Employment
7 (DOLE), Department of Justice (DOJ) and its relevant agencies, such as the Bureau
8 of Corrections, and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), including
9 the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), shall establish skills training
10 programs for all PDLs in the Philippines.
11

12 In addition, a Job Search and Livelihood Assistance Desk shall be established
13 inside prisons to help ex-offenders create sustainable employment once they are
14 released from prison.
15

16 **SEC. 3. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation of
17 this Act shall be sourced from the current budgets of TESDA, DepEd, DOLE, DOJ,
18 and DILG. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuous implementation of this
19 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
20

21 **SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days after
22 the effectivity of this Act, the TESDA, DepEd, DOLE, DOJ, BuCor, DILG, and BJMP,
23 in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and
24 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

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SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,