



Implementation *Bulletin*



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RA 11291: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF THE POOR

This law calls on the government to establish a system to provide the requirements, conditions and opportunities for the full enjoyment of the following rights of the poor: (1) right to adequate food; (2) right to decent work; (c) right to relevant and quality education; (d) right to adequate housing; and (e) right to the highest attainable standard of health. It mandates the implementation of a social protection system and a system for targeting beneficiaries. A National Poverty Reduction Plan (NPRP) will be crafted to set the thresholds to be achieved by the government for each of the recognized rights of the poor. It also encourages private sector participation in the government's anti-poverty programs and projects, and provides for tax exemptions for contributions to initiatives implemented under the NPRP.

National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) Secretary and Lead Convenor Atty. Noel K. Felongco informed the Senate that the IRR of this law is awaiting the signature of the President, who is Chairperson of the NAPC.

To craft the IRR, the NAPC Secretariat held seven inter-agency technical meetings, a two-day "writeshop", and regional consultations with local government units (LGUs) and civil society organizations in all 17 regions of the country. During the crafting of the IRR, NAPC consulted with 30 government agencies, 4,040 LGU officials and staff, and 3,338 civil society and basic sector representatives.

National Poverty Reduction Plan (NPRP)

While awaiting the signature of the President, the NAPC secretariat has begun the process of crafting the NPRP. Under Section 8, NAPC is mandated to compile and

Offices and organizations that concurred with or endorsed the draft IRR

Department of Agriculture
Department of Budget and Management
Department of Education
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Department of Finance
Department of Health
Department of Interior and Local Government
Department of Labor and Employment
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Department of Trade and Industry
National Economic and Development Authority
National Irrigation Administration
Cooperative Development Authority
Office of Civil Defense
Philippine Commission on Women
National Housing Authority
League of Cities of the Philippines
NAPC Sectoral Representatives Council

harmonize the NPRP based on inputs from government agencies, as well as the development plans of provinces, cities, and municipalities. The law defines the NPRP as the “aggregation and consolidation of sectoral and local plans through a bottom-up approach, from the Local Poverty Reduction Action Plan towards the formulation of the national plan.”

A preliminary inter-agency technical meeting was held on March 3, 2020 to set the stage for the inventory of output and outcome indicators for the programs, activities, and projects involved in implementing this law. Moreover, the NAPC is preparing a draft NPRP formulation process for review by the partner agencies.

Covid 19 impact

Sec. Felongco said that these initial efforts were overtaken by the community quarantine measures resulting from the Covid 19 pandemic. However, he also noted that the NPRP “represents a timely opportunity for enacting poverty reduction planning relative to the impacts of the Covid 19 crisis and the country’s transition to the new normal.” Thus, the NAPC Secretariat took the initiative to implement a Post Distribution Monitoring tool to assess the appropriateness, effectiveness, and immediate outcomes of the assistance provided to vulnerable Filipinos under the Social Amelioration Program of RA 11469. He said that it would augment the agency’s ongoing efforts on community monitoring and reporting through field personnel and “Ka-Sambayanihan” volunteers. Moreover, NAPC is studying the possibility of collaborating with the Department of Social Welfare and Development for the re-evaluation of the situation of poor households in light of the pandemic. Sec. Felongco said that this activity is “essential to setting the baselines and thresholds to be achieved by the government for each of the recognized rights of the poor under the NPRP.”

Issues and concerns

Sec. Felongco noted the lack of funds for the consultations to be done once the IRR is signed by the President. Under Section 9 NAPC is mandated to ensure that basic sectors and LGUs are engaged in formulating the NPRP.

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