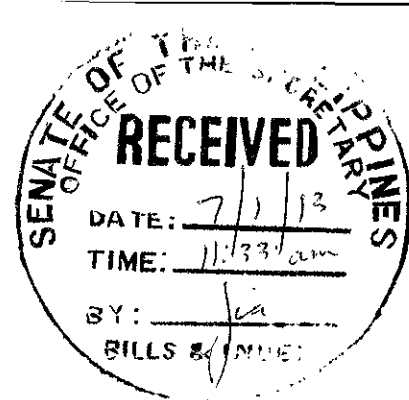


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

SENATE  
S.B. NO. 83



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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 13 and 14 Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides, to wit:

“Section 13. The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

Section 14. The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men.”

Furthermore, Section 3 Article XV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides, to wit:

“Section 3. The State shall defend:

X X X

2. The right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development;

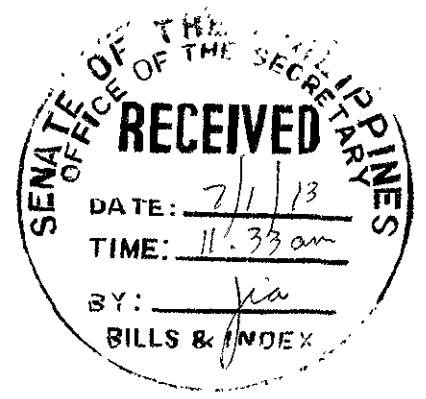
X X X”

In furtherance of the foregoing provisions of the Constitution, the proposed bill aims to establish Centers, particularly in the countryside, that shall undertake programs and projects that will help amplify the skills of women and children in terms of self-enhancement, capability-building, livelihood generation and resources management.

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

  
MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY  
Senator

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



SENATE  
S.B. NO. 33

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

1 AN ACT ESTABLISHING RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE  
2 CENTERS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY OF THE  
3 PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES  
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*  
6 *assembled:*  
7

8 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Women’s and Children’s  
9 Resource Development and Crisis Assistance Act”.

10  
11 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to value  
12 the dignity of women and defend the rights of children and to recognize their role in nation-  
13 building. Towards this end, the State shall ensure the protection of their fundamental rights  
14 and shall provide them with facilities and opportunities that will enhance their welfare and  
15 enable them to realize their full potentials in the service of the nation. The State shall also  
16 endeavor to provide women and children with utmost support and assistance which shall  
17 include among others legal services, livelihood and skills development, psychological  
18 counseling and all other assistance necessary to protect them against all forms of neglect,  
19 abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other acts prejudicial to their welfare and development.  
20

21 **SECTION 3. Establishment of Resource Development and Crisis Assistance Centers.** – In  
22 order to carry out the above-declared policy, there shall be established in every province and  
23 city of the country Resource Development and Crisis Assistance Centers for Women and  
24 Children (hereinafter referred to as the “Centers”). These Centers shall be under the  
25 management and supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development  
26 (“DSWD”) and shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the President of the  
27 Philippines. The Director shall hold a masters or doctorate degree in Social Work or  
28 Community Development or similar courses and shall have a minimum experience of five (5)  
29 years in counseling, social and psychological services and other related field or experience.  
30

31 **SECTION 4. Criteria for the Selection of the Sites for the Centers.** – An Inter-Agency  
32 Council shall be convened to set the criteria for the selection of the sites of the centers all  
33 over the country. The Council shall be composed of authorized representatives from the  
34 DSWD, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, Department of  
35 Trade and Industry, Department of Education, Department of Labor and Employment,  
36 Department of Justice, National Economic and Development Authority, National  
37 Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, National Youth Commission, National  
38 Manpower and Youth Council, Philippine National Police Women and Children Protection

1 Center (“PNP-WCPC”) and non-government and people’s organizations duly-accredited by  
2 national government agencies.

3  
4 **SECTION 5. *Functions of the Centers.*** – The Centers shall have the following functions:

- 5  
6 a. to serve as the venue of consciousness-raising, capability-building and functional  
7 literacy enhancement programs, among others, that will enhance public awareness of  
8 issues and promote community participation;  
9  
10 b. to undertake programs geared towards the development of maternal and child health  
11 care, self-enhancement and the development of skills for livelihood generation, social  
12 communication, and other related skills which will help women and children to become  
13 productive members of society;  
14  
15 c. to provide free legal services and undertake activities related to moral recovery and  
16 gender-sensitive value formation, counseling and psycho-social programs;  
17  
18 d. to provide free medical assistance, including medico-legal examinations and  
19 psychological counseling to victims of rape and other cases of violence against women  
20 and children, at all times ensuring the security and privacy of the women and children  
21 concerned;  
22  
23 e. to provide temporary shelter for emergency refuge to women and children;  
24  
25 f. to serve as half-way house for children awaiting transfer to foster homes, DSWD  
26 shelters and those separated from their respective homes;  
27  
28 g. to provide skills training or livelihood assistance to survivors of violence or abuse;  
29  
30 h. to strengthen and facilitate linkages of women’s and children’s groups and organization  
31 with relevant government agencies and local government units to maximize the  
32 delivery of basic and support services for women and children and advocate for the  
33 protection and advancement of their rights; and  
34  
35 i. to perform such other function as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this  
36 Act.

37  
38 **SECTION 6. *Beneficiaries.*** – All women and children under the following circumstances  
39 shall be entitled to protection and assistance by the Center:

- 40  
41 a. Victims of involuntary or forced prostitution;  
42  
43 b. Victims of sexual abuse, harassment or molestation;  
44  
45 c. Victims of prostitution;  
46  
47 d. Victims of physical abuse;  
48  
49 e. Victims of illegal recruitment and/or labor exploitation;  
50

- 1 f. Victims of armed conflict, natural or environmental disasters who are suffering from  
2 trauma due to the tragic death or displacement of family members, dislocation or loss of  
3 livelihood;  
4  
5 g. Detained, abandoned and run-away women and children;  
6  
7 h. Victims suffering from mental, emotional, psychological and physical disability  
8 needing special support and assistance; and  
9  
10 i. Victims of other circumstances as may be determined by the DSWD.  
11

12 **SECTION 7. *Rehabilitation and Development Program.*** – The DSWD in coordination with  
13 the Inter-Agency Council convened under Section hereof shall within six (6) months form  
14 the approval of this Act, formulate a program for the rehabilitation, development and  
15 protection of women and children, mentioned in Section 6 hereof, The Council shall also  
16 oversee the effective implementation of the programs of the Center and monitor the  
17 accomplishments of participating agencies. It shall also act as an advisory board.  
18

19 The DSWD may call on national agencies and local government units, academic institutions  
20 and international organizations to assist in the implementation of this Act by way of program  
21 collaboration and funding augmentation, among others.  
22

23 **SECTION 8. *Coordination with the Philippine National Police.*** – The PNP-WCPC shall  
24 work in close coordination with the Inter-Agency Council constituted herein for the purpose  
25 of referring women and children who are victims of domestic violence and abuse to the  
26 nearest Crisis Assistance Center.  
27

28 **SECTION 9. *Authority to Accept Donations.*** – The DSWD, through the Secretary of Social  
29 Welfare and Development, may accept donations and grants, both domestic and foreign, for  
30 purposes relevant to the functions of the Centers. The donations and grants shall be allotted  
31 to the various centers in such amount may be deemed bests by the DSWD or for the purposes  
32 specified by the donor. Such donations and grants shall be subject to pertinent accounting  
33 and auditing rules and regulations.  
34

35 **SECTION 10. *Funding and Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the effective  
36 implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of  
37 Social Welfare and Development under the current General Appropriation Act. Thereafter,  
38 such sum as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the Centers  
39 shall be included in the regular appropriations for the DSWD in the annual General  
40 Appropriations Act.  
41

42 **SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations  
43 that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
44 accordingly.  
45

46 **SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason, any section or part of this Act is  
47 held unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and  
48 effect.  
49

1  
2 **SECTION 13. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,