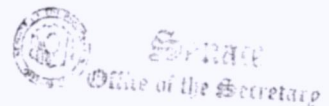


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



SENATE  
S.B. No. 1992

'18 SEP 11 A9:32

Introduced by SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III

RECEIVED

**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR A RURAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to create the Rural Employment Assistance Program for the benefit of qualified head of family or single adult member of poor households in the rural areas and appropriating funds therefor.

This proposed measure is patterned after the National Employment Guarantee Act of 2005 which was enacted by the Parliament of India. Under the National Employment Guarantee Act of India, every household whose adult member volunteered to do unskilled manual work is guaranteed employment of not less than one hundred (100) days in every year. Under that same law, if the adult member is not provided with employment within fifteen (15) days from receipt of his application for employment, the adult member shall be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance.

The Rural Employment Assistance Program, however, is aimed at providing temporary employment to qualified heads of family or single adult members of poor households who volunteer to do unskilled manual work in rural areas where they reside. The Rural Employment Assistance Program is similar to the Cash for Work Program, one of the sustainable livelihood programs of the DSWD. Under this bill, the program will be implemented by the DSWD in coordination with the local government units (LGUs) for a period of five years. The DSWD will take charge of evaluating the qualified head of family or single adult member of poor households can be employed. The qualified head of family or single adult member of poor households is entitled to a wage rate of not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the prevailing minimum wage set by the National Wages and Productivity Commission.

Suffice it to say, this Bill is envisioned to arrest the growing unemployment rate in the country which is the highest in the ASEAN region. But above anything, it is designed to make our rural poor productive in order for them to uplift their lives and their families as well as to spur economic growth in their communities.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is highly recommended.



**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**  
Senator

SENATE  
S.B. No. 1992

'18 SEP 11 A9:32

Introduced by SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III

AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR A RURAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Rural  
Employment Assistance Program Act.”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the declared policy of the State  
to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity  
and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through  
policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a  
rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. Towards this  
end, the State shall provide employment assistance to a qualified head of  
family or single adult member of poor households in rural areas identified  
by the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-  
PR) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

SEC. 3. **Rural Employment Assistance Program.** – There is hereby  
created a Rural Employment Assistance Program (REAP), which shall  
provide temporary employment to every qualified head of a family or single  
adult member of a poor family in rural areas who volunteers to do unskilled



labor for a minimum of forty-five (45) days but not more than ninety (90) days in a calendar year.

SEC. 4. **Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

(a) Poor refers to individuals and families whose income fall below the poverty threshold as defined by the government and/or cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing and other essential amenities of life, or those who have been identified as poor by the NHTS-PR;

(b) *Rural area* refers to any barangay with at least fifty percent (50%) land devoted to agriculture, timberland, forest and/or pasture land as determined by the Comprehensive Land Use Plan of the concerned local government unit (LGU);

(c) *Unskilled labor* refers to a segment of a workforce associated with a limited skill set or minimal economic value for the work performed. It is generally characterized by a lower educational attainment, such as a high school diploma, General Equivalency Diploma (GED) or lack thereof, and typically results in lower wages.

SEC. 5. **QUALIFICATIONS FOR AVAILMENT OF EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.** – The DSWD, in close coordination with the LGUs and other concerned government agencies, shall conduct an assessment of all poor individuals and families in rural areas who signify interest in undertaking

1 work as unskilled labor to determine eligibility in availing of the employment  
2 assistance program. It shall take the lead in the implementation of the REAP  
3 along project identification, implementation and monitoring of the works  
4 and activities.

5 Employment activities for this purpose shall be designed to mobilize  
6 eligible individuals and families to finish a project in a given period. These  
7 projects may include the following:

8 (a) Development, rebuilding/rehabilitation of agri-based livelihood  
9 assets destroyed or lost due to natural disasters such as desilting  
10 of irrigation canals, development of paddy dikes, and rehabilitation  
11 of water impounding dams;

12 (b) Development or rehabilitation of common service facilities, which  
13 are being shared and used by poor families as production or  
14 consolidation centers like postharvest facilities, and public  
15 markets;

16 (c) Development or rehabilitation of physical assets to open up access  
17 to areas necessary to transport rural products such as  
18 construction of farm to market roads and bridges; and

19 (d) Protection of productive assets through mitigation measures such  
20 as mangrove planting and rehabilitation, tree planting and similar  
21 activities.

22 SEC. 6. **Rate of Assistance.** – Every person qualified under this  
23 Program shall be entitled to receive compensation for each day of work at

1 the rate of not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the prevailing  
2 minimum wage set by the concerned Regional Tripartite Wages and  
3 Productivity Board (RTWPB).

4 SEC. 7. **Appropriations.** – The Secretary of Social Welfare and  
5 Development shall include in the DSWD's programs the implementation of  
6 this Act, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current  
7 year's appropriations of the DSWD. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its  
8 continued implementation shall be included in the annual Genereal  
9 Appropriations Act.

10 In addition, the DSWD may accept donations, contributions or  
11 grants from various sources for the implementation of the REAP.

12 SEC. 8. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90)  
13 days after the approval of this Act, the Secretary of the Social Welfare and  
14 Development shall, in Consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and  
15 Local Government, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the  
16 effective implementation of this Act.

17 SEC. 9. **Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared  
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected  
19 hereby shall remain in full force and effect.

20 SEC. 10. **Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
21 its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general  
22 circulation.

*Approved.*