SENATE
S.B. No. 2132

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Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CONSOLIDATED POVERTY DATA COLLECTION
SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the first semester of 2015, the Philippine Statistics Authority estimated poverty incidence, which is the proportion of people living below the poverty line to the total population, among Filipinos at 26.3 percent. This is slightly lower than the 27.9 percent that was recorded during the same period in 2012.
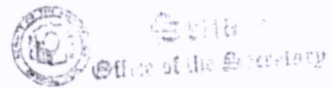
While the government, through its national agencies, continues to exert effort to end extreme poverty in the country, the poverty incidence among Filipino families remained at 21.1 percent during the first semester of 2015. Furthermore, the subsistence among Filipino families, which is the proportion of Filipino families living in extreme poverty, was recorded at 9.2 percent during the same period.

Data collection continues to play a crucial role in the determination of a baseline for poverty and measurement of the success of efforts directed toward its eradication. It is important to know who the poor are and where they are, and what interventions will work for them in order to focus and provide specifically for their needs.

This bill aims to establish a Consolidated Poverty Data Collection (CPDC) System, which shall generate updated and disaggregated data necessary in targeting beneficiaries, conducting more comprehensive poverty analysis and needs prioritization, designing appropriate policies and interventions, and monitoring impact over time. The data will provide the evidence base to ensure that policies are timely, well targeted, and effective for the poor and most vulnerable.

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

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CONSOLIDATED POVERTY DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 *"Consolidated*

2 *Poverty Data Collection (CPDC) System Act."*

3   SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to free the

4 people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services,

5 deliver a rising standard of living, promote full employment, and make available

6 an improved quality of life for all.

7   Pursuant to this policy, the State recognizes the need to adopt focused

8 and specific measures that will ensure poverty reduction wherein citizens have

9 access to social protection and welfare programs that address their minimum

10 basic needs. The State further recognizes that a system of public spending that

11 warrants government allocation on areas and populace that are most wanting is

12 necessary in lifting people out of poverty.

13   Towards this end, the State shall adopt a consolidated poverty data

14 collection (CPDC) system which generates updated and disaggregated data

15 necessary in targeting beneficiaries, conducting more comprehensive poverty

16 analysis and needs prioritization, designing appropriate policies and

17 interventions, and monitoring impact over time.

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

1   (a)   *Community Based Monitoring System* refers to an organized mobile

2   technology-based system of collecting, processing and validating necessary

3   disaggregated data that may be used for planning, program implementation and

4   impact monitoring at the local level while empowering communities to participate

5   in the process;

6   (b)   *Consolidated Poverty Data Collection (CPDC) System* refers to the

7   generation of data at the local level, which serves as basis in targeting poor

8   households in the planning, budgeting and implementation of government

9   programs towards poverty alleviation. This system merges the methodologies

10   used in data collection activities of all national agencies, geo-tagging, and the

11   Community Based Monitoring System. It entails a census of households

12   undertaken by the local government units with the participation of the community

13   using accelerated poverty profiling system in the data collection, processing,

14   mapping and analysis of data;

15   (c)   *Geo-tagging* refers to the process of adding metadata about

16   government projects to various media and of uploading to a web-based

17   application. This enables the mapping of all areas in the Philippines and allows

18   the government, the citizenry, and other stakeholders to check the progress of

19   projects in real time;

20   (d)   *Local government unit (LGU)* refers to cities and municipalities;

21   (e)   *Poverty data* refers to the information to be generated by the

22   consolidated poverty data collection system which includes the compendium of

23   localized facts, figures, and pictures on the different dimensions of poverty such

24   as nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter and housing, healthcare, education,

25   work, social protection, healthy environment, peace, and people participation;

26   (f)   *Repository* refers to the agency tasked with receiving, storing, and

27   managing socio-economic data which are collected and submitted by cities and

28   municipalities to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA); and

29   (g)   *Respondent* refers to any citizen who participates as a data-source

1   in the surveys conducted under the CPDC System.

2   SEC. 4. **Poverty Data Collection.** – A consolidated poverty data

3   collection system is hereby established and instituted in every LGU as an

4   economic and social tool towards the formulation and implementation of poverty

5   alleviation and development programs, which are specific, targeted and

6   responsive to the basic needs of the poor.

7   Each LGU is the primary data collecting authority within its locality. For

8   this purpose, each LGU shall have a statistician, whose primary function is data

9   collection, preservation and safekeeping of the data retained at the city or

10   municipal level. Further, the PSA shall create additional positions for statisticians

11   at the provincial level to monitor and manage enumeration activities of LGUs

12   under their jurisdiction.

13   SEC. 5. **Periodicity of Data Collection.** – Regular and synchronized

14   data collection shall be conducted by every LGU at an interval not longer than

15   every three (3) years for the first six (6) years of implementation of this Act.

16   Annual synchronized data collection shall be conducted thereafter. In the conduct

17   of data collection, the LGU shall receive financial and technical assistance from

18   the appropriate national government agencies.

19   Notwithstanding this period of regular and synchronized data collection, all

20   LGUs are enjoined to collect data at shorter intervals and at their own expense

21   for purposes peculiarly useful to them.

22   SEC. 6. **Lead Agency.** – The PSA shall serve as the lead agency in the

23   implementation of the Consolidated Poverty Data Collection (CPDC) System. It

24   shall have the following functions:

25   (a)   Set standards, develop and review data collection forms;

26   (b)   Capacitate the LGUs in the collection of poverty data at the local

27   level through the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute, in

28   collaboration with state universities and colleges;

29   (c)   Conduct cross-posting as follow-up capacity building of the LGUs;

1   (d)   Monitor the data collection by LGUs to ensure adherence to official
2   concepts, definitions, and standards of poverty statistics;

3   (e)   Act as the national repository of all poverty data collected by the
4   LGUs;

5   (f)   Process the poverty data generated and submitted by the LGUs;

6   (g)   Generate poverty statistics at higher levels that will complement
7   and supplement the local level data; and

8   (h)   Perform such other functions as may be necessary or incidental to
9   the proper implementation of this Act.

10   SEC. 7. *Information Dissemination.* – The Department of Information
11   and Communications Technology is tasked to develop institutional arrangements
12   on data sharing. The Department of the Interior and Local Government is tasked
13   to regularly disseminate information relating to activities of the CPDC System.
14   The National Statistician of the Philippine Statistics Authority is tasked to submit
15   an annual report to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House
16   of Representatives containing collective poverty statistics generated by the
17   CPDC System, where identities of respondents, cities and municipalities are kept
18   confidential.

19   SEC. 8. *Storage and Access of Data.* – The LGUs are allowed to
20   maintain their own CPDC System database for use in local level planning and
21   program implementation. The PSA shall receive and store all data gathered by
22   the LGUs to create a national CPDC System databank of collated information. It
23   shall undertake measures to ensure the integrity and safety of the gathered
24   information against unnecessary leakage and access by unauthorized persons.

25   Provinces shall have access to their respective local and territory-specific
26   data. Through an institutional arrangement, national government agencies shall
27   request the PSA for specific CPDC System data to be used for their particular
28   social protection and welfare programs and projects.

1   The PSA shall not be responsible for any release of data from or access to
2   the CPDC System database maintained by the LGUs.

3   SEC. 9. **Confidentiality of Information.** – The right to privacy of every
4   respondent remains inviolable. Participation in all data collection activities is
5   purely voluntary. Notwithstanding Section 4 of this Act, respondents may refuse
6   to answer any question or reveal any information at any point, or terminate data
7   collection activities with no further action needed. The person conducting the
8   data collection shall ask the respondents whether they would like to make an
9   explicit waiver to authorize the LGU to disclose their identity and other relevant
10   information about their household to the government agency, which provides
11   social protection programs for them.

12   SEC. 10. **Prioritization of Assistance to LGUs.** – The income class of
13   LGUs shall be considered in the allocation of financial assistance to implement
14   the provisions of this Act. Fourth, fifth and sixth class LGUs shall be given
15   assistance in the first three (3) years of implementation of this Act. Thereafter,
16   other LGUs shall progressively be given assistance to ensure the full
17   implementation of this Act.

18   SEC. 11. **Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.** – Upon the
19   effectivity of this Act, a Congressional Oversight Committee, hereafter referred to
20   as the CPDC Oversight Committee, is hereby constituted. This Committee shall
21   set the overall framework to review the implementation of this Act. It shall
22   likewise determine inherent weaknesses in the law and recommend necessary
23   remedial legislation or executive measures. The CPDC Oversight Committee
24   shall be composed of fourteen (14) members with the Chairpersons of the
25   Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the House of Representatives, and the
26   Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development of the Senate as
27   Co-Chairpersons; and six (6) members from each House, to be designated by
28   the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Senate President,
29   respectively. For purposes of determining remedial legislation, the CPDC

Oversight Committee shall, within two (2) years after the effectivity of this Act, conduct a systematic evaluation of the impact of this Act, accomplishments of the system, and the performance of the LGUs on data collection, and of the PSA on its functions as the lead agency.

SEC. 12. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) under the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Statistician of the PSA, in consultation with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Education, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Anti-Poverty Commission, National Privacy Commission, Department of Information and Communications Technology, League of Cities of the Philippines and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act. The PSA shall work in consultation with the appropriate government offices and other stakeholders from both the private and public sectors in the relevant fields to be covered by the data collection initiative.

SEC. 14. *Transitory Provision.* – The national government agencies which currently collect poverty data for purposes of targeting deserving beneficiaries to their respective social protection programs shall continue to perform their duties and responsibilities in a holdover capacity for a period one (1) year from the effectivity of the Implementing Rules and Regulations, or for such period as may be determined by the PSA to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Act.

SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall

1 remain in full force and effect.

2   SEC. 16. **Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree, executive

3 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or

4 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or

5 amended accordingly.

6   SEC. 17. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its

7 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

8   Approved,

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