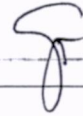


'19 JUL -4 A9 :29

SENATE

S. No. 232

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by SENATOR RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CRISIS CENTER FOR STREET CHILDREN IN EVERY
REGION OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Declaration of the Rights of the Child states that "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth."

As stated by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito when he filed this bill during the Seventeenth Congress, increasing poverty in the country's urban centers such as Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao is causing a corresponding rise in the number of street children. This observation is borne out by reports of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in every budget hearing about the status of street children in the country.

Clearly, there is an urgent need to protect those street children. The vulnerable children that roam our streets should be sheltered from circumstances which endanger their survival and normal development.

Our government's commitment when it signed the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the World Declaration on Children's Survival, Protection and Development is to promote children's right. To fulfill such commitment, the proposed

commitment, the proposed bill seeks to establish Crisis Center in every region so that proper care and nutrition will be provided to them.

Let us build a protective environment for street children. Let us protect their well-being.

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


RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

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FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 Section 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Street Children Crisis Center
2 Act".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared as policy of the State to
4 defend the right of children to assistance, including the proper care and nutrition, and
5 to provide them with special protection against all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty,
6 exploitation and other condition prejudicial to their development.

7 Sec. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover all persons below eighteen (18) years
8 of age and roaming in the streets without supervision of adults, whether parents,
9 relatives or friends.

10 Sec. 4. *Program Framework.* – There shall be a comprehensive program to be
11 formulated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in
12 coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), to protect
13 street children from circumstances which endanger their survival and normal
14 development. Such program shall include but not limited to the following:

- 15 (a) Emergency medical and feeding program;
16 (b) Temporary shelter for street children who have been separated from
17 their respective homes who have been staying in the streets;

- 1 (c) Basic educational, legal and counsel services;
- 2 (d) Immediate rehabilitation program for those identified as substance
- 3 abusers;
- 4 (e) Programs geared towards the acquisition of livelihood, technical, social
- 5 and other related skills, which would help the children become
- 6 productive members of society;
- 7 (f) Support system provided by the Local Government Units;
- 8 (g) Referral network of assistance consisting of other government agencies;
- 9 (h) Program for securing foster homes or employment best suited to the
- 10 individual child's capacity, training and personality;
- 11 (i) A follow-up program for monitoring the progress of each child, after
- 12 certain period of time, to determine other development needed to
- 13 further enhance the normal development of the child;
- 14 (j) Information, education and communication campaign/programs to
- 15 promote the objectives of this Act; and
- 16 (k) Such other functions as may be necessary for the effective
- 17 implementation of this Act.

18 *Sec. 5. Implementing Agency.* – The program shall be implemented by the
19 Department of Social Welfare and Development in close coordination with the Local
20 Government Units (LGUs) concerned.

21 The local officials may call upon private and responsible volunteers of the
22 community to assist in the care of the street children by providing consultative services
23 for medical, educational and other needs of children.

24 *Sec. 6. Functions of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.* – The
25 Department shall:

- 26 (a) Formulate the criteria for the selection and qualification of street children
- 27 who shall be covered by this Act;
- 28 (b) Provide training for crisis center workers, counselors and other
- 29 volunteers;
- 30 (c) Coordinate activities of non-government organizations with the crisis
- 31 center workers and other social workers of the Department on order that

1 their services may be fully utilized for the attainment of the program
2 goals;

3 (d) Protect and assist abused, neglected or exploited children and secure
4 proper government assistance for said street children; and

5 (e) Promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations with in (6)
6 months from the effectivity of this Act.

7 Sec. 7. *Appropriations.* – The funds necessary for the implementation of this
8 Act shall be taken from the following sources:

9 (a) The funds for the establishment, maintenance and operation of the crisis
10 center for street children in every region shall be included in the General
11 Appropriations Act as part of the annual budget of the Department of
12 Social Welfare and Development.

13 (b) Funds for the establishment of sub-regional crisis center, as may be
14 deemed necessary shall be included in the budget of the LGUs
15 concerned.

16 Sec. 8. *Authority to Accept Donations.* – The Department of Social Welfare and
17 Development may accept donations and grants, both domestic and foreign, for
18 purposes relevant to the functions of the crisis centers. These donations and grants
19 shall be allocated among the regional crisis centers nationwide.

20 Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion of this Act be declared
21 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
22 remain in force and effect.

23 Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations
24 and executive orders contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
25 modified accordingly.

26 Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
27 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,