

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



'19 DEC 18 P3:42

SENATE
S.B. NO. 1250

RECEIVED _____

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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

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, capacity-building, livelihood generation and resources management.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MLNB' followed by a stylized flourish.

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator



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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 “Women’s and Children’s
2 Resource Development and Crisis Assistance Act”.

3
4 **SECTION 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 value the dignity of women and defend the rights of children and to recognize their role
6 in nation-building. Towards this end, the State shall ensure the protection of their
7 fundamental rights and shall provide them with facilities and opportunities that will
8 enhance their welfare and enable them to realize their full potentials in the service of the
9 nation. The State shall also endeavor to provide women and children with utmost support
10 and assistance which shall include among others legal services, livelihood and skills
11 development, psychological counseling and all other assistance necessary to protect them
12 against all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other acts prejudicial to their
13 welfare and development.

14
15 **SECTION 3.** *Establishment of Resource Development and Crisis Assistance Centers.* –
16 In order to carry out the above-declared policy, there shall be established in every
17 province and city of the country Resource Development and Crisis Assistance Centers for
18 Women and Children (hereinafter referred to as the “Centers”). These Centers shall be
19 under the management and supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and
20 Development (DSWD) and shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the
21 President of the Philippines. The Director shall hold a masters or doctorate degree in
22 Social Work or Community Development or similar courses and shall have a minimum
23 experience of five (5) years in counseling, social and psychological services and other
24 related field or experience.

25
26 **SECTION 4.** *Criteria for the Selection of the Sites for the Centers.* – An Inter-Agency
27 Council shall be convened to set the criteria for the selection of the sites of the centers all
28 over the country. The Council shall be composed of authorized representatives from the

1 DSWD, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Health,
2 Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Education, Department of Labor and
3 Employment, Department of Justice, National Economic and Development Authority,
4 National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, National Youth Commission,
5 National Manpower and Youth Council, Philippine National Police Women and Children
6 Protection Center ("PNP-WCPC") and non-government and people's organizations duly-
7 accredited by national government agencies.

8
9 **SECTION 5. *Functions of the Centers.*** – The Centers shall have the following functions:

- 10
11 a. to serve as the venue of consciousness-raising, capacity-building and functional
12 literacy enhancement programs, among others, that will enhance public
13 awareness of issues and promote community participation;
14
15 b. to undertake programs geared towards the development of maternal and child
16 health care, self-enhancement and the development of skills for livelihood
17 generation, social communication, and other related skills which will help
18 women and children to become productive members of society;
19
20 c. to provide free legal services and undertake activities related to moral recovery
21 and gender-sensitive value formation, counseling and psycho-social programs;
22
23 d. to provide free medical assistance, including medico-legal examinations and
24 psychological counseling to victims of rape and other cases of violence against
25 women and children, at all times ensuring the security and privacy of the
26 women and children concerned;
27
28 e. to provide temporary shelter for emergency refuge to women and children;
29
30 f. to serve as half-way house for children awaiting transfer to foster homes,
31 DSWD shelters and those separated from their respective homes;
32
33 g. to provide skills training or livelihood assistance to survivors of violence or
34 abuse;
35
36 h. to strengthen and facilitate linkages of women's and children's groups and
37 organization with relevant government agencies and local government units to
38 maximize the delivery of basic and support services for women and children
39 and advocate for the protection and advancement of their rights; and
40
41 i. to perform such other function as may be necessary to carry out the objectives
42 of this Act.

43
44 **SECTION 6. *Beneficiaries.*** – All women and children under the following
45 circumstances shall be entitled to protection and assistance by the Center:
46

- 1 a. Victims of involuntary or forced prostitution;
- 2
- 3 b. Victims of sexual abuse, harassment or molestation;
- 4
- 5 c. Victims of prostitution;
- 6
- 7 d. Victims of physical abuse;
- 8
- 9 e. Victims of illegal recruitment and/or labor exploitations;
- 10
- 11 f. Victims of armed conflict, natural or environmental disasters who are suffering
- 12 from trauma due to the tragic death or displacement of family members,
- 13 dislocation or loss of livelihood;
- 14
- 15 g. Detained, abandoned and run-away women and children;
- 16
- 17 h. Victims suffering from mental, emotional, psychological and physical disability
- 18 needing special support and assistance; and
- 19
- 20 i. Victims of other circumstances as may be determined by the DSWD.
- 21

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

28
29 The DSWD may call on national agencies and local government units, academic
30 institutions and international organizations to assist in the implementation of this Act by
31 way of program collaboration and funding augmentation, among others.

32
33 **SECTION 8. *Coordination with the Philippine National Police.*** – The PNP-WCPC shall
34 work in close coordination with the Inter-Agency Council constituted herein for the
35 purpose of referring women and children who are victims of domestic violence and abuse
36 to the nearest Crisis Assistance Center.

37
38 **SECTION 9. *Authority to Accept Donations.*** – The DSWD, through the Secretary of
39 Social Welfare and Development, may accept donations and grants, both domestic and
40 foreign, for purposes relevant to the functions of the Centers. The donations and grants
41 shall be allotted to the various centers in such amount may be deemed bests by the
42 DSWD or for the purposes specified by the donor. Such donations and grants shall be
43 subject to pertinent accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

44
45 **SECTION 10. *Funding and Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the effective
46 implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of

1 Social Welfare and Development under the current General Appropriations Act.
2 Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of
3 the Centers shall be included in the regular appropriations for the DSWD in the annual
4 General Appropriations Act.

5
6 **SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
7 regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
8 modified accordingly.

9
10 **SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason, any section or part of this Act is
11 held unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force
12 and effect.

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

16
17 *Approved,*