

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

7 JUL -3 1975

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

Senate Bill No. 612

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The first six years of life are known as the formative years. The kind and quality of care given during this period is, therefore, very crucial.

The parents, under normal circumstances, play a major role in enriching the child's environment as the primary sources of learning and developmental experiences. However, this may not be the case in over seventy percent of the Filipino homes where many poor parents have insufficient resources, knowledge, and opportunities to promote early childhood training.

The increasing number of street children, the low achievement levels in elementary education despite huge investments by the Government, and the inability of many young children to complete schooling are among the problems attributed to inadequate parental guidance and attention.

Mothers may become so preoccupied with office or farm work that they can no longer attend to the needs of the children. In families where there are many children, mothers may not be able to attend to the needs of their pre-school children as priority has to be given to the care of infants and younger children.

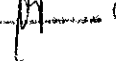
It is for these reasons that Women's Community Support Centers are sought to be established. The centers will not only provide substitute maternal care for children, but would also serve as a center through which the livelihood programs, literacy programs and the population program of the Government may be brought to the grassroots. It is hoped that the centers may serve as a complete support system for working women.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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7 JUL -3 09:00

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A BARANGAY DAY CARE AND WOMEN'S SUPPORT
CENTER IN EVERY BARANGAY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "*Barangay Day Care and Women's Support Center Act of 2007.*"

SEC 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to support the establishment and maintenance of Barangay Day Care and Women's Support Centers in depressed barangays in order to assist disadvantaged women in the care of their pre-school children and in the improvement of their productivity and, hence, uplift the economic status of their families. In the pursuit of this policy, due consideration shall be given to the right and needs of the children, age zero to six, to services necessary for their wholesome physical, mental, and social development.

SEC 3. Establishment of a Barangay Day Care and Women's Support Center. - A Barangay Day Care and Women's Support Center, hereinafter referred to as the "Center", shall be established in every depressed barangay in the Philippines as shall be determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), taking into accounts the socioeconomic profile of barangays, sanitation, conditions, health status of residents, number of disadvantage women, number of children aged zero to six, presence of support mechanisms/structures for women and Children in the community. e.g., day care, child minding, supplemental feeding etc. and other factors that shall be deemed indicative the need for a Center: Provided, That priority shall be given to the most economically depressed areas with the highest percentage of disadvantaged women and children.

Initially, fourteen (14) pilot Centers shall be established in fourteen (14) regions in barangays chosen as priority areas. Subsequently, it is envisioned that other Centers may be set up under the auspices of the local government and/or non-government organizations to implement these provisions.

SEC 4. Integration of Barangay Day Care Center with the Center. - Whenever a Center is established in a barangay, the resources and/or services of the existing barangay day care center, set up by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 1567, shall be assumed by the Center. However, all existing barangay day

care centers shall continue to exist and function as such until the Centers are established in these barangays.

SEC 5. Programs and Services. - The Center shall be a barangay-based facility that shall offer a support program to disadvantaged women and pre-school children belonging to the most indigent families in the barangay, as shall be determined by the DSWD based on the criteria prescribed in section 3 hereof, and in consultation with the prescribed in Section 3 hereof, and in consultation with the respective Barangay Councils. The Center shall also serve as a "Drop in and information Center" for women in difficult circumstances, e.g., battered, abused, victims of involuntary prostitution and victims of illegal recruitment. In particular, the Center shall provide among others:

1. Skills Training Services - The skills training their knowledge and skills to develop appropriate values in:

a) Self-care and child care skills development which refers to the provision of knowledge and skills, teaching of values on self/child care, including personal hygiene, breastfeeding and weaning, child spacing, breast examination; environmental sanitation focusing on safe water supply, proper refuse disposal, use of sanitary toilets; nutrition education including growth monitoring and promotions; usage of herbal plants; common children's disorders, encouraging a more active participation in immunization.

b) Livelihood skills development which refers to the provision of opportunities to engage in productive undertakings/income generating projects either through open, sheltered or self-employment. This includes the following social works intervention: practical skills development, including but not limited to backyard-gardening, home based aqua culture and livestock raising, job referral and counseling, basic business management skills development, etc.

c) Social communication skills development which refers to the enhancement of basic communication skills of women to enable them to express/communicate better their thoughts, ideas and feelings;

d) Self-enhancement skills development which refers to the provision of opportunities for empowerment of women/value inculcation and value transformation to discover their strengths and limitations as well as develop and enrich their self-image; and

e) Community participation skills development which refers to the mobilization of women to create opportunities to relate and interact with other women in the community, raise issues and concerns affecting women's welfare and initiate actions on these issues at the community levels.

2. Child Minding Service. - This is a scheme of day service whereby children aged zero to two (0-2) whose need cannot be met in day care centers because they are too young to benefit from their services are taken care of while their mothers attend to their work at home or outside the home.

3. Day Care Service. - It is an arrangement whereby substitute mothering is provided to children aged two to six (2-6), who are neglected or potentially neglected during the day when mothers cannot attend to them due to the following reasons: work, large family size, emotional immaturity ill-health of mother or member of the family, and poor environment.

4. Health and Nutrition Service. - This encompasses the periodic monitoring of the nutritional status of children and the provision of food assistance to combat the problem of malnutrition among the pre-school children zero to six (0-6) years old to enable them to improve their nutritional level.

The services may include immunizations and other medical services for common diseases suffered by children aged zero to six (0-6) years old.

5. Library. - This refers to the setting of a portion of the center whereby reading and other reference materials are made available for use of the women and the pre-school children in the community.

6. Protective and Counseling Services. - These shall include identifying/monitoring, providing sanctuary within the barangay and/or referring abused, exploited or maltreated women and children to the proper authorities.

7. Other Support Mechanisms - These shall encompass, among others, referral and support systems for safe child delivery by pregnant women.

The Center shall also have a Foster Mother Pool that shall provide part-time or full-time mothering to children aged zero to six (0-6) years old. The Barangay Council/Barangay-level Council for the Protection of Children shall be responsible in enlisting and selecting the participants to the Foster Mothers Pool from among retirees and volunteers in the community. These may undergo a Foster Training course conducted by the DSWD with the assistance of the Office of the Municipal Mayor.

Barangay officials shall encourage the participation of residents and solicit the support of various organizations to establish and/or maintain facilities contributory to making the environment in the barangay more salutary for the wholesome physical, mental and social development of children.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Agriculture (DA) and other government agencies shall coordinate their programs in support of the development of women and children with the DSWD. The Secretary of the DSWD and the Secretaries of these Departments shall work out how those programs can be integrated into the services that shall be provided by the Centers are made available for use of the women and the pre-school children in the community.

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SEC 6. *Operation and Maintenance.* –

(a) **Minimum Requirements.** - A Center must be located in an area which is safe and well-ventilated and must have adequate toilet and washing facilities within or near its premises.

(b) **Maintenance.** - Local Government Units (LGUs) are hereby encouraged to solicit the support of non-government organizations (NGOs) and other civic-minded individuals in maintaining the Centers and in establishing a network of support mechanisms, e.g., volunteer manpower.

(c) **Overall Authority Over Activities.** -The DSWD shall have overall authority over the activities/services offered by the Center.

SEC 7. *Personnel.* - The Center shall be staffed with at least one (1) female and one (1) social worker of good health and competent enough to provide, assist and/or supervise the services offered by the Centers. Nursery workers in the Centers and accredited barangay day care centers shall receive a monthly allowance of not less than five hundred pesos (P 500.00). Furthermore, support manpower for the Centers may consist of the following;

1. Members of the Foster Mothers Pool;
2. Other Volunteers from the private or public sector, including members of socio-civic organizations, out of school youths or students on vacation;
3. Mothers;
4. Students enrolled in practicum courses majoring in social works and other related fields: and
5. Orders as may be determined by the DSWD in consultation with the local Government Units.

The Barangay Council/Barangay level Council for the Protection of children shall arrange the shifting of the volunteers to help run the Center. In case where there are few volunteers, the Barangay Council/Barangay level Council for the Protection of Children shall take charge in devising a system whereby women in the barangay may take turn in providing the support manpower. The Barangay Captain shall be responsible in coordinating the schedules of the community participants with the local DSWD personnel in charge of a certain barangay.

SEC 8. Sponsorship of Centers Barangay Day Care Centers. – Any private person, group, organization or business entitle with juridical personality may sponsor a Center barangay day care center. An applicant for sponsorship must submit a letter of application to the DSWD stating its purpose and *objectives in sponsoring a Center/barangay day care center and also indicating the location of the Center/barangay day care center which the applicant wishes to sponsor.* The DSWD shall act on the application and issue a notice of approval or disapproval of sponsorship within thirty (30) days after the receipt of the application.

A sponsor cannot revise or alter the curriculum of the Sponsored Center/Barangay day care center. It may not sponsor or hold activities which are not duly approved by the DSWD.

The DSWD shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement these provisions.

SEC 9. Donations. - The DSWD may receive donations or request of property or services which shall be utilized only for the implementation of the program. Such donations or requests of property shall be covered by the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) exempting such from taxes and other fees and/or procedures.

SEC 10. Funding/Appropriation. - An initial outlay of Fifteen Million Pesos (P15,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated to establish Centers in depressed barangays chose as priority areas by the DSWD and to support the strengthening of the National Center and Laboratory/or Women's Welfare and Development located in Metropolitan Manila.

Thereafter, the fund for the establishment, maintenance and operation of Centers in every barangay shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Funds for the monthly allowance of nursery workers in accredited barangay day care centers shall also be charged to the annual appropriations of the DSWD.

Local Government Units shall provide for their unexpected balance, financial assistance for the establishment and maintenance of Centers and barangay day care centers within their respective locality.

A portion of health programs available to the Philippines under official and/or unofficial debt arrangement from foreign countries, the amount to be determined by the Office of the President, shall be extended in support of Centers and barangay day care centers. Commodities under the aid program may be sold to augment the allowances of workers of Centers and barangay day care centers.

SEC 11. Rules and Regulations. - The DSWD, in consultation with the DILG, DOH, DOLE, DECS, DA and others, shall formulate the rules and regulations and issue orders and directives as may be needed to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from the approval of the Act.

SEC 12. *Repealing Clause.* - The provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1567 and any other laws, decrees and executive orders contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect upon its approval and completion of its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation,

Approved,