

10 JUL -7 P3 57

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 715

RECEIVED BY: 

---

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

---

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rapid population growth exacerbates many environmental problems, including air and water pollution, loss of wildlife habitat, fisheries depletion, and climate change and seriously impairs nearly all facets of political, economic and social life of the people.

Given the nature and magnitude of its complexity, it not only obstructs growth and development, creating numerous difficulties in daily life, but also causes a setback in developing the intelligence, culture, and physical fitness of mankind. If this population growth remains unabated, in the near future our country will face numerous difficulties and serious danger in various domains.

Albeit the government expends efforts to critically address this predicament, no significant change has been effected because much of these efforts are based on a flawed perspective.

The prevailing paradigm seems to be that population growth is purely a health concern that is entirely distinct and detached from other issues. This is the reason why governmental efforts to address the same are geared towards population growth abatement per se and not aimed at undertaking a holistic approach as demanded by existing population predicaments.

What is more disturbing is the fact that as a result of such perspective, population concerns take a backseat and are accorded low priority. As it is now, for instance, the existing Population Commission is merely an attached agency of the NEDA; thus, making it ineffective in addressing various population issues.

Indeed, the problem on population is so extensive and all-encompassing that if the government is to continue harnessing its resources towards mere growth control, there is no way an effective measure to reduce population can be carried out effectively.

A change in perspective is needed.

It is about time we realize that rapid population growth is more than a health concern, so that it no longer makes sense to justify the enactment of a population policy on health grounds only. Population policy is justified by its multifaceted impact on all aspects of economic and social life.

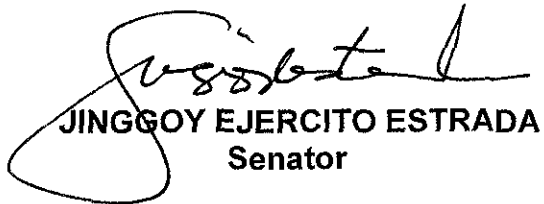
More importantly, it is about time we realize that more than anything else, population issues are directly related to women's concerns for after all the fate of the planet is connected to their participation in this process.

When women, for instance, are educated about various population issues and have access to family planning resources, they shall be able to space their children, delay the timing of their first child, and have longer intervals between each child. As a result, there shall be a decrease in the risk of mortality in both women and children, and there shall be provided a much more conducive environment for pursuing a national population program that will result into significant reduction of the rate of population growth.

In sum, an effective population program should include two components. These are: 1) saving women's lives through provision of vital reproductive health care, including family planning and maternal health programs which include prenatal, postpartum, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted disease education that results in safe pregnancies and safe motherhood; and 2) taking into consideration various socioeconomic and political concerns, mindful of the current view that demographic variables permeate all aspects of economic and social life so that it makes it imperative that population policy be managed in such a way that all the relevant sectors of the economy and society are equitably served by it.

Hence, this bill seeks to promote the welfare of Filipino families and save women's lives and their families through the establishment of a national family welfare program and creation of National Family Welfare Commission, as a separate entity under the Office of the President.

Immediate enactment of this bill into law is earnestly sought.




**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
Senator

10 JUL -7 P3 57

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 715

RECEIVED BY: 

---

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

---

AN ACT  
PROTECTING THE WELFARE OF THE FILIPINO FAMILY THROUGH THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL FAMILY WELFARE PROGRAM,  
CREATION OF THE NATIONAL FAMILY WELFARE COMMISSION AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

*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 "**Family Welfare Act.**"

**SEC. 2. Declaration of State Policy** - It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to promote the welfare of Filipino families and to protect and save women's lives and their families through satisfaction of basic human needs and enhancement of the quality of life of the people in areas such as housing, health and nutrition, education, transportation and environmental conditions through establishment of a national family welfare program. Such program shall be geared towards:

- a) making development planning and policy more comprehensive and effective by the incorporation of the demographic dimension;
- b) achieving a rate of growth of the population that would be sustainable by the economy, thus, establishing a small and prosperous family norm;
- c) contributing towards meeting the basic needs of the people, improving the quality of the people and the family and enhancing utilization of the nation's human resources;
- d) promoting the health and welfare of the people especially those in the high-risk groups of mothers and children;
- e) moderating initially the expected rise in and later reducing progressively population growth rates through the spread of voluntary family planning and small family norms so as to facilitate the attainment of national economic and social targets;
- f) guiding rural-urban migrations, so as to minimize socio-economic problems and optimize benefits to migrants and non-migrants alike in rural as well as urban areas: and

g) allowing women and men to exercise their fundamental human right to plan the size of their families and ensure that every pregnancy is planned and every child is wanted.

**SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms*** - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

(a) Population - anything related to the quantity, main characteristics, growth, disposition, quality, condition of welfare which involves economic, social, culture, religion and environment of the people;

(b) Population Development - the change in population situation and its characteristics within a period of time, either caused by natural process or caused by the influence of social, economic, cultural, and environmental change, which involves the quantity, growth, quality and mobility;

(c) Family Planning - an effort to increase the society awareness and participation through delayed-marriage, birth control, development and increment of family welfare, and other efforts to create the family prosperity based on the Small and Prosperous Family Norm;

(d) Small and Prosperous Family Norm is a standard institutionalized and culturized within each individual, family, and society, to motivate establishment of an ideal number of members within a family and a fair condition to form the physical welfare and mental happiness;

(e) Quality of People and Family - the condition of people and family measures with the criteria of education, health, economy, other socio-cultural, self-reliance and mental-spiritual and religion, which are bases for development of their ability and to enjoy life as a human being, with culture, personality and in a reasonable condition;

(f) Environment - an integration of a space with all its resources, power, condition and creatures, including people and their behavior, which affects the livelihood and welfare of human and other living creatures.

**SEC. 4. *National Family Welfare Commission*** - There shall be created a National Family Welfare Commission (hereinafter known as "Commission"). It shall be headed by a chairman and two commissioners who shall each have a term of four (4) years and shall be constituted by the President of the Philippines from among the list of nominees considered expert in the field of family planning management. The chairman shall have the rank and privileges of a department undersecretary, and the appointive commissioners shall have the rank and privileges of assistant secretaries of a department.

**SEC. 5. *Status and Nature of the Commission*** - The Commission shall be independent and autonomous and shall have the same status as that of a national government agency attached to the Office of the President.

The Commission shall exercise corporate powers. It shall have a seal, may sue and be sued, and shall be the sole policy-making coordinating body of all family welfare management programs.

**SEC. 6. Powers of the Commission.** - The Commission shall have the following powers:

- 1) To appoint the officers and other personnel of the Commission and fix their compensation, allowances and other emoluments, subject to the civil service and other existing applicable laws, rules and regulations;
- 2) To suspend, dismiss, or otherwise discipline for cause, any employee, and/or to approve or disapprove the appointment, transfer or detail of employees, subject to the provisions of existing laws and regulations;
- 3) To enter into contracts;
- 4) To acquire, use and control any land, building, facilities, equipment, instrument, tools, and rights required or otherwise necessary for the accomplishment of the objectives of the Commission;
- 5) To acquire, own, possess and dispose of any real or personal property;
- 6) To accept donations, gifts, bequests, and grants;
- 7) To ensure the implementation by various government departments and agencies of their disaster management programs;
- 8) To issue rules and regulations in pursuance of the provisions of this Act; and
- 9) To perform any and all other acts incident to or required by virtue of its creation.

**SEC. 7. Responsibilities of the Commission** - The responsibilities of the Commission shall revolve around the principal social and economic development sectors and touch areas as varied as maternal and infant health, employment, education, housing and the habitat, child and youth welfare, the environment and sanitation, control of demographic growth, and other related concerns. Specifically, these responsibilities shall be to:

(1) Make family planning means and services to all couples and individuals easily accessible at affordable cost and actively promote the acceptance of contraceptive practice, which shall include:

- (a) expansion of static and mobile maternal and child health family planning clinics;
- (b) intensification of community-based delivery systems of contraceptives to cover those not reached by the conventional delivery channels;
- (c) distribution of conventional non-prescriptive contraceptives, i.e. those not requiring medical prescriptions, through local health center units; and
- (d) where feasible, referral arrangements for counseling and service to health outlets equipped for family planning.

(2) Expand and improve in a culturally acceptable manner the implementation of family planning and population education programs in schools and throughout the nation;

(3) Expand programs for youth to increase participation in community activities and to help avoid pregnancy before marriage and delay the birth of their first child;

(4) Provide incentives to women who delay their first pregnancy until 24 years of age or who space their children at least every three years;

(5) Assist with self-productivity projects and encourage women participation in the labor force:

(6) Sponsor programs that would encourage and prolong higher levels of education so that males and females may better understand the difference and consequences of "quality" children versus "quantity" children.

(7) Improve pregnancy outcomes by encouraging expectant mothers to attend pre-natal clinic sessions early in their first trimester of pregnancy.

(8) Expand population education and family planning counseling efforts to reduce the numbers of high-risk pregnancies;

(9) Effect attitudinal changes among couples through awareness programs to decrease unnecessary fear concerning the potential losses of their infants.

(10) Sponsor training efforts in all areas of maternal and child health care.

(11) Sponsor information campaign projects that would encourage breast feeding which provides nutrients, immunological protection and psychological well-being for the infants, discourage the consumption of cigarettes, alcohol, non-nutritious foods and other harmful substances during pregnancy and encourage the availability of nutritious foods during and after pregnancy.

(12) Submit recommendations to appropriate agencies on ways to improve local food production, utilization and consumption;

(13) Improve the demographic knowledge base, i.e. data collection, processing, analysis, projections and research on population, and development interaction on regular basis;

(14) Promote and facilitate the utilization of the knowledge base in social and economic planning, policies and projects etc;

(15) Promote, clarify and sharpen the awareness and understanding among leaders and the public at large of population and development problems and issues;

(16) Provide men and women with information and education on the value of reasonable family size and child spacing to improve the welfare of the family and its members, the community and the nation;

(17) Pay special attention to selected groups such as young persons and women of reproductive age, members of organized groups in providing information and education relating to family life, fertility regulation, etc.

(18) Improve the quality and availability of maternal and child health care services, through coordination with the Department of Health, so as to reduce infant, child and maternal morbidity and mortality;

(19) Review existing legislation as it pertains to key areas of population policy improved quality of life and enhanced protection of the welfare of men, women and children;

(20) Promote collaboration among the various government agencies and NGOs;

(21) Coordinate implementation of population policies and programs;

(22) Coordinate the preparation and review of a national population action plan to give effect to the national population policy;

(23) Help ensure that population variables are integrated into all stages of socioeconomic planning;

(24) Establish a system for the mutual exchange of general demography, economic and other information from responsible agencies, including Government and research institutions;

(25) Provide demographic data required for population and human resources planning, programming and monitoring;

(26) Help identify research and data gaps and undertake, or collaborate with research institutions in research concerning population development interactions and population policy program management (operations research):

(27) Assist in the design and implementation of programs aimed at spreading knowledge and promoting the small and prosperous family norm; and

(28) Establish a system for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the national population policy.

**SEC. 8. *The Secretariat and the Executive Director*** - The Commission shall organize a secretariat to be headed by an executive director who shall serve as the chief operating officer.

The executive director shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Commission for a term of four (4) years with reappointment for another term, and must have the qualifications, rank and privileges of a bureau director. He must possess executive and management experience of at least three (3) years and with considerable exposure to population management programs. He shall be responsible for the effective implementation of the policies promulgated by the Commission and shall also direct and supervise the day-to-day operations of the Commission.

The staffing pattern and compensation schedule of the secretariat shall be drawn up in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

**SEC. 9. *Duties and Responsibilities of the Secretariat.*** - The Secretariat shall be responsible for:

a) Ensuring an effective and efficient performance of the functions of the Commission and prompt implementation of the programs;

- b) Proposing specific allocation of resources for projects instated under the approved programs;
- c) Submitting periodic reports to the Commission on the progress and accomplishment of programs and projects;
- d) Preparing an annual report on all activities of the Commission;
- e) Providing and performing general administrative and technical staff support; and
- f) Performing such other functions as the Commission may deem necessary.

**SEC. 10 . Structure at Provincial Level** - The structure at the National level will be replicated downwards through the provincial levels. There shall be a Provincial Family Welfare Commission to be chaired by the head of the provincial government unit concerned or his representative. The members will be:

- a) The Head of the Office of Population
- b) The Head of the Office for Planning and Development
- c) The Head of the Provincial Health Office
- d) The Head of the Provincial Education Office
- e) The Head of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
- f) The Head of the Provincial Labor Office

The Provincial Commission will be assisted by a secretariat to be located in the Office of the Head of the provincial government office. While it is not possible to replicate the staffing pattern at the national level, efforts shall be made to staff the provincial secretariat with appropriate personnel. The size and composition of the secretariat shall reflect the magnitude and complexity of the tasks to be performed.

**SEC. 11. Duties and responsibilities of the Provincial Family Welfare Council** - The Provincial Council shall be responsible to the National Family Welfare Commission through the Chief Executive Officer of the province for:

- 1) Determining the relevance of population related goals objectives and strategies and ensuring that such goals, objectives and strategies are set by taking into account prevailing socio-economic realities in the Province and its subdivisions;
- 2) Identifying unmet needs in the sphere of population related activities and services and mobilizing provincial resources for the purpose of strengthening existing services and creating new ones where they do not exist;
- 3) Issuing guidelines on ways and means of financing family planning services;
- 4) Consulting with the Commission in regard to legislative and administrative measures to be taken at the provincial level to make service delivery more effectively accessible to the peoples of the regions;
- 5) Submitting periodic reports to the Secretariat of the National Family Welfare Commission;



- 6) Coordinating the activities of the various sectoral agencies (governmental and non-governmental) undertaking population and development related activities at the Provincial levels;
- 7) *Monitoring and evaluating* population programs in the Province concerned;
- 8) Promoting focused policy relevant research and undertaking research on population and development;
- 9) Establishing technical committees as required for the effective implementation of the population policy at provincial levels;
- 10) Organizing and carrying out events on population issues at provincial levels;
- 11) Participating, actively, in the collection of data on population and development;
- 12) Stimulating community participation through effective IEC;
- 13) Undertaking such activities as may be required by the Office of Population at the National level.
- 14) Ensuring that guidelines for the establishment and effective functioning of a system of registration of vital events-marriage, birth, death and migration-throughout the province are in accordance with principles and formats stipulated by the National Family Welfare Commission;
- 15) Establishing a system for the systematic mobilization of population and related data including those on unemployment and underemployment in accordance with principles and guidelines developed and provided by the Commission;
- 16) Creating conditions that will stimulate and encourage community participation in population and related activities;
- 17) Submitting periodic reports to the Commission; and
- 18) Doing such other things as may be required of it by the Commission.

**SEC.12. National Family Welfare Advisory Council** - There shall be created a National Family Welfare Advisory Council, hereinafter known as "Council" to be composed of the following:

- 1) Secretary, Department of Health (DOH), Chairman
- 2) Secretary, Department of National Defense (DND), Member
- 3) Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Member
- 4) Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Member
- 5) Secretary, Department of Agriculture (DA), Member
- 6) Secretary, Department of Education (DepEd), Member
- 7) Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF), Member
- 8) Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Member
- 9) Secretary, Department of Justice (DOJ), Member

- 10) Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Member
- 11) Secretary, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Member
- 12) Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Member

At least two representatives from non-governmental organizations directly involved with population issues.

The Council shall meet once every three (3) months, or as often as may be necessary upon call of its chairman, advise and be consulted by the Commission on important matters relating to disaster management.

The Council may form task forces which shall convene between the meetings. The Commission shall provide the technical support and the secretariat required by the Council to function according to this Act.

**SEC. 13. Advisory Capacity** - The Council shall be the advisory arm of the Commission, tasked primarily to formulate policy programs which the Commission may adopt. Specifically, the responsibilities of the Council shall be to:

- 1) Develop specific policies and programs pertaining to population and development to be undertaken in the various sectors of the economy and creating conditions conducive to inter-sectoral collaboration;
- 2) Define a broad legal framework within which population and development related information (IEC) are to be accessible to the general population by various governmental and non-governmental groups;
- 3) Review short, medium and long term plans of actions leading to a possible and recommending same for adoption by government;
- 4) Guide the development and articulation of operational programs in the field of population and related activities;
- 5) Coordinate the activities of the various sectoral agencies (governmental and non-governmental) operating population and development related activities at different administrative levels;
- 6) Monitor and evaluate the impact of population programs;
- 7) Promote policy-oriented national research program on population and development;
- 8) Ensure that the programs conducted by various agencies comply with the population policy;
- 9) Establish, through the Commission, multi-sectoral technical committee and special task forces as required to assist in the effective implementation of the Policy;
- 10) Organize and carry out, through the Commission, national and international events (Conferences, symposia, seminars, etc.) on population issues;

- 11) Ensure that inter-sectoral programs in population activities are effectively coordinated by instituting a sound *information exchange system*;
- 12) Review the discharge of functions of the Commission to ensure the effective operation of existing family planning service delivery institutions;
- 13) Facilitate conditions, through their respective resources, that will enable the Commission to promote the creation of domestic capacity for the production of a variety of contraceptives and for the production and distribution of materials and equipment to increase people's access to population and development information;
- 14) Establish effective working relationships with international agencies like the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations Population Fund and other global agencies for the purpose of facilitating the mobilization of technical and material resources that will be useful in goal attainment;
- 15) Make recommendations for the Commission's implementation anent various population control programs;
- 16) Promote and foster an integrated approach to family planning development;
- 17) Promote and encourage integration of the various aspects of family development;
- 18) Provide a venue for undertaking population projects, which shall include:
  - (i) demographic data collection;
  - (ii) population dynamics, that is to say, analysis of demographic data, determinants of fertility, mortality, migration and other population trends, consequences of population, interaction of demographic and socioeconomic variables including modeling and demographic projection;
  - (iii) the formulation and evaluation of population policies and programs and the integration of population factors in development plans and programs;
  - (iv) family planning programs;
  - (v) communication and education, communication for awareness of population issues, population education in school, out-of-school education; and
  - (vi) social programs affecting the status of women, children and youth, the aged, the economically inactive, the disadvantaged and other special groups; and
- 19) Review population laws and regulations to see what effect they may have on national demographic objectives.

All members of the Council shall make available their personnel, facilities and expertise to effectively carry out the functions of the Commission.

**SEC. 14. Family Planning Research, Data Collection, Analysis and Dissemination.** - The Commission, aside from its duties and responsibilities, as

enumerated in this Act, shall give priority attention in program development and implementation processes in order to improve and strengthen domestic capacity for generating, analyzing and disseminating demographic and population related information by making more domestic and external funds available to institutions engaged in demographic and population related research and training.

In addition, collaboration with foreign research and academic institutions shall be actively sought. Further, research activities will focus attention on the study of the complex interrelationship between population factors and development variables. The information generated shall represent critical inputs in development planning processes and provide relatively more accurate bases for forecasting probabilities and trends of development. Work in this important area will be considerably facilitated by:

1) Submitting recommendations to Congress anent enactment of laws and regulations making the registration of vital events (marriage, birth and death) compulsory;

2) Providing existing research institutions with the necessary technical and material support in order to enable them to process and disseminate data generated by censuses, sample surveys (intercensal surveys, demographic and health surveys, household consumption surveys, labour force surveys etc).

**SEC. 15. *Expansion and Strengthening Domestic Capacity for Training in Family Planning Services***- In view of the critical need for more trained personnel to man the 'expanded family planning programs envisaged in this Act, the Commission shall expand existing domestic capacity for training in population. Accordingly:

1) The capacity for the training of high level personnel in demography and population studies will be strengthened by making more resources available to existing institutions;

2) Training for family planning will be integrated into the curricula of:

(a) Medical schools;

(b) Nursing and health assistants' schools; and

(c) Technical and vocational schools (e.g. institutions for the training of home economists and teachers training institutions) in order to accelerate the *integration* of family planning with existing social services, particularly health.

3) In-service training for teachers and other development agents will be organized.

**SEC 16. *Expansion of IEC and Social Mobilization*** - The Commission shall focus on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) pertaining to population and development issues through formulating comprehensive policies and programs that will permit:

1) A wider and more systematic use of multi-media channels to facilitate the use of population IEC in expediting behavioural change relative to family size, reproductive behaviour, reproductive health, family nutrition, personal and environmental hygiene;

- 2) The dissemination of population related information through community organizations, interest groups, political bodies, women and youth groups, NGOs, adult education classes, industrial and other work establishments where there is a significant concentration of workers and so on;
- 3) The incorporation of population and family life education topics as integral parts of formal education curricula at relevant levels of education;
- 4) The incorporation of population related topics in the package of information carried to the rural population by agricultural extension workers, informal community leaders, and other community level development practitioners;
- 5) The strengthening of the capacity of population and women's affairs units in relevant government development agencies to produce and disseminate IEC programmes.

**SEC. 17. Family Welfare Program.** - The Committee, in coordination with NGOs, peoples organization and concerned sectors shall convene, within one year after the effectivity of this Act, in order to formulate and develop a national welfare program, which shall: 1) serve as the guiding principle of the Commission in the implementation of its responsibilities and in the discharge of its functions; and 2) be a main component of every program sponsored and initiated by any government agency and instrumentality.

Such program acknowledges that population growth and other parameters influence and are influenced by different development programmes to varying extent. Hence, the same shall focus not only population issues but also on other political, economic and social issues closely and/or directly related to it,

Under the program, the utilization of demographic data and projections in various development processes shall be intensified. Its primary focus shall be on developing family planning and related mother and child health and educational activities, raising the status of women among others.

Family planning and related information and education components shall be at the center of the national program in three ways: improving the health and welfare of mothers, children and the family; raising the status of women; and reducing fertility and population growth which facilitate socio-economic and human resource development.

Family planning shall be closely integrated with health services, especially its maternal and child health component, and be fully supported by vigorous, imaginative and many sided programs of education and information.

Specifically, the program shall include the following areas:

a) Family Planning - which should be developed and expanded progressively within the context of primary health care and related system and supported by appropriate measures in spheres of law, education, social services etc. to protect and promote the family as the basic unit of society.

b) Health/Maternal and Child Health - which should be strengthened and expanded and proper emphasis should be laid on its component relating to maternal and child health, including family planning, as well as that of community participation;

c) *Information, Education and Communication* - which should play a key role in dispelling misconceptions, doubts, traditional attitudes etc. in population and family formation issues and which should require multi-pronged and sustained action which is a pre-requisite to firm commitment to national population policy by leaders and the public at large and the translation of the policy into practice through adoption of contraceptive practice and the small and prosperous family norm by many couples.

The same should also focus on communication strategies which would be used through the most suitable forms of media should be devised and utilized, to sensitize leaders and the public opinion to population and family welfare issues.

d) *Women in Development* - which should include census, survey and service statistics in spheres such as health, education, employment and whatever feasible, separate data sets for women, since women's participation in economic activities and contribution to national income are grossly underestimated in labour force statistics and national accounts.

The policy should include efforts to promote Women's education at all levels and in various forms and should provide various public extension services such as in the spheres of agriculture, credit and marketing, rural development, social welfare etc.

e) *Education* - which should focus on spread of literacy and education as a component of national development, that would facilitate access to and the understanding of population and family welfare education and information.

f) *Labor and Employment* - which should include ways to develop employment labor intensive methods of production, and others.

g) *Environment* - which should focus on policy measures envisaged for the conservation of land, air and water resources including the following:

- (1) enforcement of laws on reforestation, forest conservation and marine preservation;
- (2) legislation on siting of industries;
- (3) protection of the environment through the control of industrial pollution;
- (4) land rehabilitation by the mining industry

h) *Migration and Urbanization* - which should focus on the development of the rural economy and the improvement of living conditions of the rural community through extension services, self help and other measures and intensification of rural development through measures such as the following:

- (1) provision of reliable, safe water supply;
- (2) provision of adequate power supply for domestic and economic use;
- (3) provision of adequate and accessible health facilities;
- (4) improvement in the quality and expansion, where needed, of primary education and non-formal educational programs;
- (5) dissemination of appropriate technology and other key inputs to raise rural productivity;
- (6) provision of adequate credit, marketing, storage and distribution facilities for rural commodities;
- (7) improvement in transport and communication facilities in rural areas and between villages and small towns;
- (8) decentralization of development planning and programmes and of public administration.

**SEC. 18. Active Participation.** - All government agencies and instrumentalities shall participate in the different strategies and programs of activities of the national population policy. In particular, in family planning service delivery and related activities, the principal agency shall be the Department of Health. In regard to population and family life/family planning information and education, the major participants include the Departments of Health, Education, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Labor, Trade and Industry, Energy and the Philippine Information Agency.

The Commission shall encourage non-governmental organizations to initiate or intensify participation in population activities. The Commission shall likewise give due recognition and support to their work, expertise and experience and shall give them appropriate guidance so that their activities could respond most effectively to community and national needs.

**SEC. 19. Rules and Regulations** - The Commission shall formulate and issue rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 20. Appropriations.** - There is hereby authorized to be appropriated the amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) as additional funding for the Commission to be charged against the unexpended contingency funds of the Office of the President. Thereafter, the amount needed for the operation and maintenance of the Commission shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act: *Provided*, That operating expenses of the Commission itself shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the annual appropriation and that at least ninety percent (90%) of said annual appropriation shall be disbursed for population management programs, projects and activities.

**SEC. 21. Separability Clause** - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SEC. 22. Repealing Clause** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 23. Effectivity Clause** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*