

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4068**



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Introduced by Representative Alfred Delos Santos

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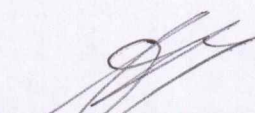
#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) form the backbone of the productive economy. More than 90% of the firms from all over the Philippines are of the nature of an MSME. Also due to their large numbers, MSMEs also contribute the largest share in terms of employment opportunities for Filipinos. However, many challenges face today's MSMEs. These include the constant fight for market share, lack of access to decent financial services, and the lack of training or capacity for the entrepreneur or their employees to successfully carry out their business.

To address the issue of capacity-building, the Department of Trade and Industry launched the *Kapatid Mentor Me* program. This program seeks to assist MSMEs scale up and sustain their enterprises by equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills through the introductions to business theories via lectures and mentoring and coaching sessions.

This bill would seek the institutionalization of the *Kapatid Mentor Me* programs by making the program a mainstay amongst the Negosyo Centers in the provinces so that MSMEs in the provinces are able to face the challenges of owning their own enterprise. Through this program, the up-an-coming Filipino entrepreneur is sure to be able to contribute more and more to local economic life and at the same time provide jobs for their towns and provinces. It is not unlikely that this would be one of the many steps necessary towards attaining development in the rural areas of the Philippines.

It is for these foregoing premises that the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS**  
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party List



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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE MENTOR-ME PROGRAM FOR MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES AND CLASSIFYING AS ORGANIC EMPLOYEES OF THE DTI THE BUSINESS COUNSELLORS OF THE NEGOSYO CENTERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10644, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GO NEGOSYO ACT"**

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10644, otherwise known as the "Go Negosyo Act", shall be amended to read as follows and the subparagraphs renumbered accordingly:

"SEC. 4. Functions of the Negosyo Centers. - Negosyo Centers shall have the following functions:

- (a) xxx
- (b) xxx
- (c) Accept and facilitate all registration application FOR BUSINESS PERMITS, LICENSES, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS of MSMEs;  
xxx
- (j) Co-organize with the local chambers of commerce and other business organizations a mentoring program for prospective and current entrepreneurs and investors;
- (K) INSTITUTIONALIZE THE CONDUCT OF THE MENTOR-ME PROGRAM, A JOINT UNDERTAKING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI) WITH THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP (PCE), AIMED AT COACHING THE MENTEE - MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES (MSEs) ON THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS;

The succeeding subparagraphs of Section 4 shall be renumbered accordingly.

xxx

SEC. 2. A new section, Section 4-A, is inserted after Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10644, to read as follows:

“SEC. 4-A. THE BUSINESS COUNSELLORS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO PROVIDE BUSINESS REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE, BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES, AND BUSINESS INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY TO MSMES IN THE NEGOSYO CENTERS SHALL BE INSTITUTIONALIZED AND BE MADE ORGANIC EMPLOYEES OF THE DTI.”

SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* -The amount necessary to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DTI. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DTI shall formulate and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from its approval. The implementing rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Section shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* — If any part or section of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, proclamations, issuances or ordinances that are contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,