

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2254



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State aims to ensure the prosperity of the nation and free the people from the cruel bondage of poverty through policies that will provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. Towards this end, the State shall provide employment assistance to a qualified head of family or an unmarried, single adult member of qualified poor households in rural areas identified by the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

As used in this Act, a "rural area" refers to a barangay which has a population size of less than two thousand five hundred (2,500) and which does not have any business establishment with twenty-five (25) or more employees, or five (5) or more establishments with a minimum of ten (10) employees, or five (5) or more facilities within a two (2) - kilometer radius from the barangay hall.


On the other hand, the "poor" refers to individuals and families whose income fall below the poverty threshold as defined by the government or those who cannot afford to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing and other essential amenities of life in a sustained manner or those who have been identified as poor by the NHTS-PR.

The DSWD shall establish and implement the Rural Employment Assistance Program (REAP), in coordination with the local government units (LGUs). REAP shall provide temporary employment to every qualified head of family or an unmarried, single adult member of qualified poor families in rural areas who volunteers to do unskilled manual work for a minimum of forty-five (45) days but not more than ninety (90) days in every calendar year. The DSWD, in close coordination with the LGUs and other concerned government agencies, shall conduct an assessment of all poor individuals and families in rural areas who signify interest to do unskilled labor to determine their eligibility to avail of the services and benefits under the REAP.

Thus, every head of family or an unmarried, single adult member of a poor family in the rural areas who qualifies to avail of the benefits and services under the REAP shall be entitled to receive for each day of work financial assistance equal to the applicable minimum wage set by

the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) in the region. They shall also be entitled to the coverage of mandatory social security benefits such as those extended by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG) and the Social Security System (SSS).

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

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Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR RURAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "*Rural*
2 *Employment Assistance Act*".

3

4 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the declared policy of the State to
5 promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity of the
6 nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate
7 social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an
8 improved quality of life for all. Towards this end, the State shall provide
9 employment assistance to a qualified head of family or an unmarried, single adult
10 member of qualified poor households in rural areas identified by the National
11 Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) of the
12 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

13

14 **Sec.3. Rural Employment Assistance Program.-** The DSWD shall
15 establish and implement the Rural Employment Assistance Program (REAP),
16 hereinafter referred to as the Program, in coordination with the local government
17 units (LGUs). The Program shall provide temporary employment to every
18 qualified head of family or an unmarried, single adult member of qualified poor
19 families in rural areas who volunteers to do unskilled manual work for a minimum
20 of forty-five (45) days but not more than ninety (90) days in every calendar year.

1 As used in this Act, a “rural area” refers to a barangay which has a
2 population size of less than two thousand five hundred (2,500) and which does not
3 have any business establishment with twenty-five (25) or more employees, or five
4 (5) or more establishments with a minimum of ten (10) employees, or five (5) or
5 more facilities within a two (2) - kilometer radius from the barangay hall.

6 The “poor” refers to individuals and families whose income fall below the
7 poverty threshold as defined by the government or those who cannot afford to
8 provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing and other
9 essential amenities of life in a sustained manner or those who have been identified
10 as poor by the NHTS-PR.

11
12 **Sec.4. Assessment to Determine Qualification for Availment of**
13 **Employment Assistance.-** The DSWD, in close coordination with the LGUs and
14 other concerned government agencies, shall conduct an assessment of all poor
15 individuals and families in rural areas who signify interest to do unskilled labor to
16 determine their eligibility to avail of the services and benefits under the REAP.

17
18 **Sec.5. Rate of Assistance.-** Every head of family or an unmarried, single
19 adult member of a poor family in the rural areas who qualifies to avail of the
20 benefits and services under the REAP shall be entitled to receive for each day of
21 work financial assistance equal to the applicable minimum wage set by the
22 Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) in the region. They
23 shall also be entitled to the coverage of mandatory social security benefits such as
24 those extended by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth),
25 Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG) and the Social Security System
26 (SSS).

27
28 **Sec.6. Types of Works and Activities.-** The DSWD, in coordination with
29 the LGUs and other concerned government agencies, shall lead in the
30 implementation of the REAP, particularly in project identification and in the
31 implementation and monitoring of projects and activities. Projects and activities to
32 be identified and undertaken under the REAP should be of the type and nature that
33 can be completed in a specific period of time. These projects may include the
34 following:

1 (a) Development, rebuilding/rehabilitation of agri-based livelihood assets
2 destroyed or lost due to natural disasters such as desilting of irrigation canals,
3 development of paddy dikes and rehabilitation of water impounding;

4 (b) Rehabilitation and or development of common service facilities which
5 are being shared and used by poor families as production or consolidation
6 centers/units such as post-harvest facilities and public markets;

7 (c) Development or rehabilitation of physical assets to open up access to
8 natural assets where the former is necessary to bring out the products of poor
9 families to the market such as farm-to-market roads, slope protection and bridges;
10 and

11 (d) Protection of productive assets through mitigation measures such as
12 mangrove planting/rehabilitation and tree planting.

13 **Sec.7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.***- Within ninety (90) days
14 after the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development
15 shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government,
16 issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this
17 Act.

18
19 **Sec. 8. *Effectivity.***- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,