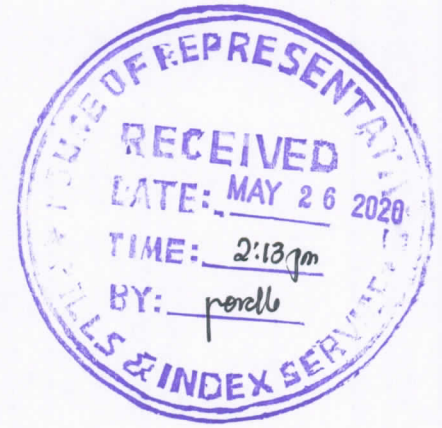


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL No. 6813**



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**INTRODUCED BY CWS PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE ROMEO  
S. MOMO, SR.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

All throughout the Enhanced Community Quarantine period up to Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine period and even during the General Community Quarantine, news reports about construction workers and other members of the labor force being abandoned by their employers and left stranded in their construction or work sites not only without pay, but also without food and other basic necessities, flood various media outlets.

According to the Philippine Contractors Association, almost 1.3 million construction workers were likely displaced during the lockdown caused by COVID19 pandemic. On the other hand, workers from various sectors were displaced due to stoppage of work.


Even though stranded workers are covered by the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) of the DSWD, clearly, some still fall through the cracks and remain unassisted. Because of the direness of the situation, many of the stranded workers, majority is construction workers, were forced to beg or use social media to call for donations and relief goods. The fact that many of them hail from other provinces and are not voters and residents in the areas of their construction site, somehow robbed them of the eligibility to receive monetary assistance precisely because Local Government Units have no allocated fund for them.

Worse, there were also reports of employers who either chose or fail to register their workers under the DOLE's COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP) due to many documentary requirements and difficulty in mobility due to the lockdown.

Indeed government is ready to help, but in some cases, the assistance prepared by various agencies does not reach the intended beneficiaries because of the negligence of some employers or simply due to difficulty in complying with the requirements. In both cases, the ordinary Filipino worker must not be made to suffer.

One would think that as the days progressed, our government might have gained a better handle of the situation and ramped up its assistance and social amelioration. And as a result, we would hear of fewer and fewer instances of distressed workers. The fact remains, however, that many are still stranded, displaced, abandoned, and distressed. Thus the State must come up with a concrete solution to fill the apparent gap in order to protect and ensure the safety and general well-being of its labor force.

This Bill makes it mandatory for employers and Local Government Units - Barangay and Municipality or City, during times of lockdown or community quarantine due to calamities and pandemics, to account and register all stranded or displaced workers in their respective areas of responsibility or territorial jurisdiction and submit its complete list to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for these Agencies' immediate assistance and appropriate action.



**ROMEO S. MOMO, SR.**  
Representative  
CWS Party-list



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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING ALL EMPLOYERS, BARANGAYS, CITIES OR MUNIC-  
IPALITIES TO ACCOUNT AND REGISTER ALL STRANDED OR DIS-  
PLACED WORKERS WITHIN THEIR TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION**  
**DURING TIMES OF LOCKDOWN OR COMMUNITY QUARANTINE**  
**DUE TO CALAMITIES AND PANDEMICS AND FOR OTHER PUR-  
POSES**

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 “Mandatory Registration of All Stranded or Displaced Workers During Times of Lockdown or Community Quarantine Due To Calamities or Pandemics Act.”

**SECTION 2.** Declaration of Policy. - The State affirms labor as a primary social and economic force and that a safe and healthy workforce is an integral aspect of nation building.

The State shall ensure a safe and healthy workplace for all working people by affording them full protection against all hazards in their work environment. It shall ensure that the provisions of the Labor Code of the Philippines, all domestic laws, and internationally - recognized standards on occupational safety and health

are being fully enforced and complied with by the employers, and it shall provide penalties for any violation thereof.

The State shall, at all times, protect every worker against injury, sickness or death through safe and healthful working conditions, thereby assuring the conservation of valuable manpower resources and the prevention of loss or damage to lives and properties consistent with national development goals and with the State's commitment to the total development of every worker as a complete human being.

The State, in protecting the safety and health of the workers, shall promote strict but dynamic, inclusive and gender-sensitive measures in the formulation and implementation of policies and programs related to occupational safety and health.

**SEC. 3. Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to all operations and undertakings in any labor industry and its subdivisions.

**SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

**a. Worker** – any person who is employed to do physical or mental work for wages.

**b. Work place/site** - refers to establishments, sites, projects and all other places where work is being undertaken wherein the number of employees, nature of operations and risks or hazards involved in the business require compliance with the provisions of the Labor Code of the Philippines.

**c. Stranded Worker** – refers to a worker who, by reason of circumstances independent of his or her work and for reasons beyond his or her control, is willing but unable to leave his or her place of work.

**d. Displaced Worker** - refers to a worker who was permanently and involuntarily separated from his or her employment for reasons not attributable to his or her performance, behavior, attitude, or work relations and other factors that are beyond his or her control.

**e. Employer** - refers to any person, natural or juridical, including the principal employer, contractor or subcontractor, if any, who directly or indirectly benefits from the services of the workers/employees.

**f. Local Government Units** - refers to the Barangay, City or Municipality having



territorial jurisdiction over the work place or site;

**g. Pandemic** – an outbreak of disease that occurs over a wide geographic area and affects an exceptionally high proportion of the population.

**h. Calamity** - a state of deep distress or misery caused by major misfortune or loss.

**i. Community Quarantine** - is a state or place of isolation for a community or group of persons who may have been exposed to a contagious disease.

**j. Lockdown** - a state of isolation or restricted access instituted as a security measure.

**Sec. 5. Compulsory Registration.** – During times of lockdown or community quarantine due to calamity or pandemic, all employers are mandated within five days from declaration of such lockdown or community quarantine to submit a list of all its workers with the Barangay and LGU that has territorial jurisdiction over their businesses and with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

The Barangay, the LGU concerned and the DOLE in turn, shall implement necessary procedure to verify the legitimacy and correctness of the said list of workers.

**Sec. 6 Mandate of the LGUs** – With or without the list required under Sec. 5 hereof, all local Government Units are mandated, during times of lockdown or community quarantine due to calamities and pandemics, to account and register all stranded and displaced workers in their respective areas of responsibility or territorial jurisdiction. For the Barangays, the list must be submitted to their respective Cities or Municipalities within 7 days from the declaration of community quarantine or lockdown; while the concerned City or Municipality must, in turn, submit to the Regional Offices of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) within 7 days from receipt of the said list from the Barangays.

**Sec. 7. Role of the DOLE and DSWD** – Upon receipt of the list from the municipality or City as the case may be, the DOLE or the DSWD or both, shall include the names of the stranded or displaced workers in the list of beneficiaries to be given assistance through its social amelioration programs or any similar program with the end in view of helping the stranded or displaced worker during the period of quarantine or lockdown.

**Sec. 8. Purpose.** - The purpose of this mandatory registration is to account all stranded or displaced workers in a particular area during times of pandemic, disaster, lockdown, quarantine or any situation of the same nature in order to expedite implementation of government programs and social amelioration programs.

**SEC. 9. Penalties.** - Without prejudice to any administrative, civil or criminal liability under the Labor Code of the Philippines, Republic Act 6713 (The Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees) and Republic Act No. 3019 (The Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act) and other codes and special laws, any person partnership, corporation or any public officer or employee who violates any provisions of this act shall suffer a fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos ( P5,000.00) nor more than Ten Thousand Pesos (P 10,000.00 or imprisonment of not exceeding one (1) month, or both at the discretion of the court. Any person who prevents a public officer or employee from performing the acts mandated by this law shall suffer the same penalty.

**Sec. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations** - within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOLE and the DSWD in consultation with the DILG shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

**Sec. 11. Repealing Clause.** All laws, Presidential Decrees, Executive Orders, Rules and Regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

**Sec. 12. Separability Clause.** - If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby, shall continue to have full force and effect.

**SEC. 13. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.