

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session



SENATE

S. B. NO. 2486

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

**AN ACT PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL CASH ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM FOR FILIPINOS TO AID IN MITIGATING THE EFFECTS
OF THE CURRENT CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The pandemic revealed some of the systemic issues surrounding our society, from issues concerning the capacity of our public health system to hurdles in ensuring that social protection programs are resilient to all types of emergencies. All of these led to the suffering and hardship of our Filipino families.

Despite the various crises our country is currently facing, the Philippines has one of the smallest stimulus packages among the key ASEAN countries. “*Bayanihan* to Heal as One” and “*Bayanihan* to Recover as One” have provided more than half a trillion pesos (\$10 billion). However, in the statistics provided by the Singapore Institute for International Affairs, this is still low as compared to those of Thailand (around \$75 billion), Malaysia (around \$60 billion), Singapore (around \$40 billion), Indonesia (around \$30 billion) and Vietnam (around \$20 billion).¹

In 2020, the World Food Programme stated that millions of people worldwide “suffer from acute hunger,” and that the COVID-19 pandemic “could now double the number, putting an additional 130 million people at risk of suffering acute hunger by the end of 2020.”²

¹ Available at <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/12/24/phl-and-its-asean-neighbors-economic-performance-amid-the-pandemic/>

² Available at <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>.

True enough, based on a Rapid Nutrition Assessment Survey conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institution, 62.1% of Filipino households experienced moderate to severe food insecurity in 2020 amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.³ Furthermore, the Asian Development Bank expects that the impact of COVID-19 on food security is expected to last beyond the pandemic.⁴

The bill seeks to introduce a cash assistance intervention to save lives and ease the burden of Filipinos struggling in this pandemic. Although Filipinos are known for their grit and resilience, assistance to our countrymen is still needed to help them survive and get back on their feet amidst the pandemic. Extraordinary times require extraordinary measures to boost both the economy and the lives of the Filipino people. This will drive household consumption up and, in turn, help our economy recover.

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

³Available at

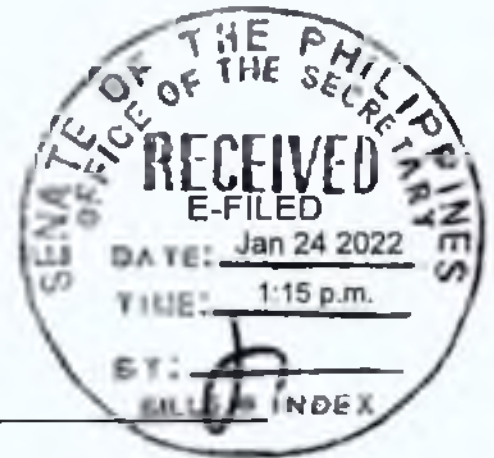
https://cpbrd.congress.gov.ph/images/PDF%20Attachments/Facts%20in%20Figures/FF2021-35_Food_Insecurity.pdf.

⁴ Available at <https://blogs.adb.org/blog/pandemic-has-left-millions-asia-struggling-food>.

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*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 the “Bangon Pamilyang
2 Pilipino (BPP) Assistance Program Act of 2022”
3
- 4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the declared policy of the State to free
5 the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services,
6 a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.
7
- 8 The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the country, stunt its economy,
9 and disrupt jobs and livelihoods – especially for the most vulnerable.
10 Extraordinary times require extraordinary measures to uplift both the economy
11 and the lives of the Filipino people. In line with this, the State shall endeavor to
12 help all Filipinos and the economy get the much needed financial boost in the
13 wake of inflation, increased prices of basic commodities, and other causes of
14 financial strains and hardships brought about by the pandemic.
15
- 16 Towards this end, it is hereby the policy of the State to prevent more families
17 from going into hunger by providing an immediate financial boost through an
18 additional assistance program.
19
20
21
22

1 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** As used in this Act:

- 2 a) Family – a group of persons usually living together and composed of
3 the head and other persons related to the head by blood, marriage,
4 or adoption. It includes both the nuclear and extended family.
5 b) Nuclear Family – composed of a father and mother with unmarried
6 children or a parent with children.
7 c) Extended Family – refers to the household composed of a nuclear
8 family as defined above together with relatives like son-in-law,
9 daughter-in-law, grandson, granddaughter, father, mother, and other
10 relatives.

11
12 **SEC. 4. BPP Assistance Program.** – Over and above and separate and
13 distinct from any financial assistance or social amelioration measure of the
14 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the BPP Assistance
15 Program is hereby created under the DSWD that will hereby provide cash
16 assistance through the most expeditious, transparent, and simple process to all
17 Filipino families and individuals affected by the pandemic, as enumerated in
18 Section 6 herein.

19
20 **SEC. 5. Amount of BPP Cash Assistance.** – Each Filipino family shall receive
21 a one-time cash assistance of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php10,000.00) or One
22 Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00) per Family member, whichever
23 is higher.

24
25 **SEC. 6. Form and Manner of Payment.** – The cash assistance shall be
26 released to target beneficiaries either in cash or via electronic transfer,
27 whichever is more practical and acceptable to the beneficiary, in the most
28 expeditious manner.

29
30 **SEC. 7. Waiver of Fees.** – Any transaction or service fee arising from the
31 electronic payment of the cash assistance to target beneficiaries is hereby
32 automatically waived. For this purpose, the DSWD shall enter into a
33 memorandum of agreement with financial service providers.

34
35 **SEC. 8. Priority List of Beneficiaries.** – The following shall be given priority
36 in the distribution of the BPP Cash Assistance:

- 37 a) Indigent persons;
38 b) Senior Citizens;
39 c) Persons with Disabilities;
40 d) Solo parents;
41 e) Displaced, retrenched or separated workers, or otherwise severely
42 affected or have lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic,
43 which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1 1. Freelancers such as entertainers, tour guides, workers in the
- 2 events industry, therapists, etc.;
- 3 2. Drivers of public transportation such as pedicab, tricycle, PUJs,
- 4 PUVs, taxi, bus, etc.;
- 5 3. Owners and workers in microenterprises such as sari-sari
- 6 stores, market stalls, food carts, etc.;
- 7 4. Farmers;
- 8 5. Homeworkers including family drivers and househelpers; and
- 9 6. Sub-minimum wage earners.
- 10 f) Medical frontliners including Barangay Health Workers;
- 11 g) Families of Overseas Filipino Workers; and
- 12 h) Other members of the vulnerable sectors.

13

14 The definite and actual list of beneficiaries of the BPP Assistance Program shall
15 be finalized by the DSWD and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), in
16 coordination with local government units and relevant government agencies,
17 within three (3) months upon effectivity of this Act.

18

19 **SEC. 9. Enrollment to the Philippine Identification System.** – Pursuant to
20 the policy set out in Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11055, or the
21 Philippine Identification System Act,” which aims to promote seamless delivery
22 of service and to improve the efficiency, transparency, and targeted delivery of
23 public and social services, all Filipinos who seek to benefit from the BPP Cash
24 Assistance Program are enjoined and highly encouraged to enroll in the
25 Philippine Identification System (PIS). Enrollment in the system would merit
26 prioritization of the enrollee in the list of beneficiaries of this Act as stated in
27 Sec. 6.

28

29 **SEC. 10. BPP Assistance Program Hotline, Website, and Mobile**
30 **Application.** – The DSWD shall establish, maintain and operate telephone
31 hotlines, website, a mobile application, on-site helpdesks, and any other means
32 available in order to effectively and efficiently facilitate the roll-out of the BPP
33 Assistance Program, answer inquiries and receive complaints and grievances
34 from the public, and help disseminate information.

35

36 **SEC. 11. Sources of Funding.** – The amount necessary to carry out the
37 provisions of this Act shall be sourced from the unobligated and unreleased
38 funds and savings from R.A. No. 11518 or the 2021 General Appropriations Act
39 (GAA) and R.A. No. 11639 or the 2022 GAA. The National Government may
40 also enter into favorable loan agreement(s) to finance the programs and
41 projects to implement this Act.

42

1 **SEC. 12. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any portion or provision of
2 this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not
3 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

4

5 **SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, proclamations, rules,
6 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the
7 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

8

9 **SEC. 14. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
10 publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.
11 The effectivity of this Act shall cease upon the lifting of the State of Public Health
12 Emergency throughout the Philippines, as stated in Presidential Proclamation
13 No. 922, s. 2020.

14

15 **Approved,**