

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
ELEVENTH CONGRESS }  
Second Regular Session }

SENATE

S. No. 468

INTRODUCED BY SENATORS OPLE, LEGARDA-LEVISTE,  
OSMEÑA III, CAYETANO AND DRILON

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL  
FACILITATION SERVICE NETWORK THROUGH THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
SERVICE OFFICE IN EVERY PROVINCE, KEY CITY  
AND OTHER STRATEGIC AREAS THROUGHOUT THE  
COUNTRY

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Public  
2 Employment Service Office Act of 1999."

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is a declared policy of the State  
4 to promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for  
5 all, and for this purpose, to strengthen and expand the existing employment  
6 facilitation service machinery of the government particularly at the local  
7 levels.

1 SEC. 3. *Establishment of Public Employment Service Office.* -  
2 To carry out the above-declared policy, there shall be established in all  
3 capital towns of provinces, key cities and other strategic areas, a Public  
4 Employment Service Office, hereinafter referred to as "PESO", which  
5 shall be community-based and maintained largely by local government  
6 units and a number of non-governmental organizations or community-  
7 based organizations and state colleges and universities. The PESOs shall  
8 be linked to the regional offices of the Department of Labor and  
9 Employment (DOLE) for coordination and technical supervision, and to  
10 the DOLE central office, to constitute the national employment services  
11 network.

12 SEC. 4. *Objectives of the PESO.* - In general, the PESO shall  
13 ensure the prompt, timely and efficient delivery of employment service  
14 and provision of information on the other DOLE programs.

15 Specifically, the PESO shall:

16 (a) Provide a venue where people could explore simultaneously  
17 various employment options and actually seek assistance they prefer;

18 (b) Serve as referral and information center for the various services  
19 and programs of DOLE and other government agencies present in the  
20 province/area;

21 (c) Provide clients with adequate information on employment and  
22 labor market situation in the area; and

23 (d) Network with other PESOs within the region on employment  
24 for job exchange purposes.

1 SEC. 5. *Functions of the PESO.* - The PESO shall have the  
2 following functions:

3 (a) Encourage employers to submit to the PESO on a regular basis  
4 a list of job vacancies in their respective establishments in order to  
5 facilitate the exchange of labor market information between job seekers  
6 and employers by providing employment information services to job  
7 seeker, both for local and overseas employment and recruitment assistance  
8 to employers;

9 (b) Develop and administer testing and evaluation instruments for  
10 effective job and training and counseling;

11 (c) Establish a national manpower registry of skills to facilitate the  
12 provision and packaging of employment assistance to PESO clients and  
13 the setting-up of intra and inter regional job clearance system as part of  
14 the overall employment network;

15 (d) Provide persons with entrepreneurship qualities access to the  
16 various livelihood and self-employment programs offered by both  
17 government and non-governmental organizations at the provincial/city/  
18 municipal levels by undertaking referrals for such programs;

19 (e) Undertake employability enhancement trainings/seminars for  
20 job seekers, as well as those who would like to change career or enhance  
21 their employability;

22 (f) Provide occupational counseling and mass motivation and values  
23 development activities;

24 (g) Conduct pre-employment counseling and orientation to  
25 prospective local and overseas workers;

1 (h) Provide reintegration assistance services to returning Filipino  
2 migrant workers; and

3 (i) Perform such functions as will fully carry out the objectives of  
4 this Act.

5 SEC. 6. *Other Services of the PESO.* - In addition to the functions  
6 enumerated in the preceding section, every PESO shall also undertake the  
7 following programs and activities:

8 (a) Job Fairs - these shall be conducted periodically all over the  
9 country to bring together in one venue job seekers and employers for  
10 immediate matching;

11 (b) Livelihood and Self-employment Bazaars - these will give  
12 clients information on the wide array of livelihood programs they choose  
13 to avail of, particularly in the rural areas;

14 (c) Special Credit Assistance for Placed Overseas Workers - this  
15 type of assistance will enable poor but qualified applicants to avail of  
16 opportunities for overseas employment;

17 (d) Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) - under  
18 this program, deserving students coming from poor families can pursue  
19 their education by encouraging their employment during summer and/or  
20 christmas vacations as provided for under Republic Act No. 7323 and its  
21 implementing rules;

22 (e) Summer Work Appreciation Program (SWAP) - this program  
23 aims to develop the values of work appreciation and ethics by exposing  
24 the young to actual work situations;

1 (f) Workers Hiring for Infrastructure Projects (WHIP) - this  
2 program is in pursuance to Republic Act No. 6685 which requires  
3 construction companies to hire thirty percent (30%) of skilled and fifty  
4 percent (50%) of unskilled labor requirements in areas where the project  
5 is constructed/located; and

6 (g) Other programs/activities developed by DOLE to enhance  
7 provision of employment assistance to PESO clients, particularly for  
8 special groups of disadvantaged workers such as persons with disabilities  
9 and displaced workers.

10 SEC. 7. *Role of DOLE and Local Government Units.* - Upon the  
11 request of the Local Government Units (LGUs) concerned, the  
12 establishment, operation and maintenance of PESOs shall be undertaken  
13 by the DOLE. The DOLE shall enter into memoranda of agreements with  
14 governors and city/municipal mayors for the setting-up and operation of  
15 PESOs in the respective areas of jurisdiction of said LGUs.

16 It shall be the responsibility of the DOLE to:

17 (a) Provide office space, equipment and/or supplies, as well as the  
18 necessary personnel complement to manage, operate and maintain the  
19 PESO;

20 (b) Designate, in consultation with the LGU concerned, a qualified  
21 project manager and/or key personnel who shall be responsible for the  
22 operation and management of the PESO;

23 (c) Provide technical assistance and allied support services to the  
24 PESO;

1 (d) Train PESO personnel in the various aspects of employment  
2 facilitation functions;

3 (e) Extend/facilitate such other package of employment services to  
4 the provision of employment assistance to clients of the LGU concerned,  
5 including the conduct of job fairs and other activities; and

6 (f) Undertake, monitor, assess and evaluate the PESO program  
7 implementation.

8 The DOLE shall also encourage and promote the establishment  
9 and operation of PESOs by non-governmental organizations under  
10 similar arrangements established by DOLE with LGUs.

11 For its part, the LGUs shall extend such assistance and services as  
12 may be necessary in the promotion of employment within the area of  
13 jurisdiction.

14 SEC. 8. *Administration of the PESO Program.* - The DOLE shall  
15 be primarily responsible for the administration of the PESO Program  
16 through its Bureau of Local Employment, as well as its regional offices  
17 throughout the country. The Secretary of DOLE, in coordination with the  
18 Department of Interior and Local Government, shall accordingly promulgate  
19 the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the  
20 Program.

21 SEC. 9. *Funding.* - The amount necessary for the initial  
22 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the existing  
23 appropriation of the DOLE and its other operating agencies. Thereafter,  
24 the amounts needed for the full implementation of this Act shall be

1 included in the budget of the DOLE in the succeeding General  
2 Appropriations Act.

3 SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders,  
4 rules and regulations or any part thereof which are inconsistent herewith  
5 are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

6 SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If for any reason, any section or  
7 provision of this Act or any part thereof, or the application of such  
8 section, provision or portion is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the  
9 remainder thereof shall not be affected by such declaration.

10 SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
11 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,