CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8097

BY REPRESENTATIVES FORTUN, TORRES-GOMEZ, JIMENEZ, DALIPE, ROBES, BROSAS, CASTRO (F.L.), ELAGO, CULLAMAT, ZARATE, GAITE, TAMBUNTING, TAN (A.S.), DY (F), DY (F.M.C.), ROMAN, SANGCOPAN, BARBERS, RODRIGUEZ, CRISOLOGO, PADUANO, PEÑA, CO (E.), OLIVAREZ, PADIERNOS, KHO (W.), ALONTE, PINEDA, ROMERO, GONZALES (A.), EBCAS, SAVELLANO, BORDADO, SY-ALVARADO, LAZATIN, VILLARAZA-SUAREZ, SUAREZ (D.), ARAGONES, CASTELO, TEVES (J.), FERNANDEZ, CAMINERO, FERRER (L.), SALO, ROMUALDEZ (Y.M.), LEGARDA, HERNANDEZ, SAKALURAN, ABAYA, GUICO, NIETO, MACEDA, AGABAS, DELOS SANTOS, SALCEDA, TAN (S.A.), PACQUIAO (A.), VARGAS, VILLAFUERTE, TIANGCO, DELOSO-MONTALLA, CHUNGALAO, SUANSING (E.), SINGSON-MEEHAN, UY (J.), YAP (E.), ERMITA-BUHAIN, CUA, VIOLAGO, GASATAYA, MATUGAS, GONZAGA, NUNEZ-MALANYAON, HARESCO, LIMKAICHONG, CAMPOS, MOMO, FRASCO, ZAMORA (W.K.), PLAZA, ABUNDA, NAVA, FORTUNO, TUTOR, DIMAPORO (A.), BALINDONG, BOLILIA, GARCIA (J.E.), GATCHALIAN, LUSOTAN, NATIVIDAD-NAGAÑO, REVILLA, SANCHEZ, VERGARA, FARIÑAS (R.C.), BELMONTE, ARENAS, VELASCO AND TAN (A.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 616

AN ACT
GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO SOLO PARENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000"

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8972 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"**SEC. 2**. *Declaration of Policy*. – **[**It is the policy of the State to promote [the family as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total development. Towards this end, it shall develop a comprehensive program of services for solo parents and their children to be carried out by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the National Housing Authority (NHA), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and other related government and non government agencies**]** **IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE TO PROMOTE A JUST AND DYNAMIC SOCIAL ORDER THAT ENSURES THE PROSPERITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE NATION AND FREE THE PEOPLE FROM POVERTY THROUGH POLICIES THAT PROVIDE ADEQUATE SOCIAL SERVICES, PROMOTE FULL EMPLOYMENT, A RISING STANDARD OF LIVING AND AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE. THE STATE SHALL ALSO PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ALL PHASES OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VALUE THE DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN PERSON AND GUARANTEE FULL RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. TOWARDS THESE ENDS, THE GOVERNMENT SHALL SUPPORT THE NATURAL AND PRIMARY RIGHT AND DUTY OF SOLO PARENTS IN REARING THEIR CHILDREN BY PROVIDING FOR THEIR BASIC NEEDS, AND EXTENDING TO THEM ASSISTANCE IN SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELFARE BENEFITS, WITH THE END VIEW OF UPLIFTING THEIR STATUS AND CIRCUMSTANCES.**"

SEC. 2. Section 3 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"**SEC. 3**. *Definition of Terms* – **[**Whenever**]** **AS** used in this Act**[**, the following terms shall mean as follows**]**:

(a) **[**"Solo parent" – any individual who falls under any of the following categories:

(1) A woman who gives birth as a result of rape and other crimes against chastity, even without a final conviction of the offender: *Provided*, That the mother keeps and raises the child;

(2) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to death of spouse;

(3) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood while the spouse is detained or is serving sentence for a criminal conviction for at least one (1) year;

(4) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to physical and/or mental incapacity of spouse as certified by a public medical practitioner;

(5) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to legal separation or *de facto* separation from spouse for at least one (1) year, as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;

(6) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to declaration of nullity or annulment of marriage as decreed by a court or by a church as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;

(7) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to abandonment of spouse for at least one (1) year;

(8) Unmarried mother/father who has preferred to keep and rear her/his child instead of having others care for them or giver them up to a welfare institution;

(9) Any other person who solely provides parental care and support to a child or children; and

(10) Any family member who assumes the responsibility of head of family as a result of the death, abandonment, disappearance or prolonged absence of the parents or solo parent.

A change in the status or circumstance of the parent claiming benefits under this Act, such that he/she is no longer left alone with the responsibility of parenthood, shall terminate his/her eligibility for these benefits.] **CHILD MINDING CENTER REFERS TO A FACILITY OR AREA WITHIN THE WORKPLACE PROVIDED BY THE EMPLOYER WHERE THE CHILDREN OF A SOLO PARENT EMPLOYEE AGED SEVEN (7) YEARS OLD AND BELOW ARE HABITUALLY RECEIVED FOR PURPOSES OF CARE AND SUPERVISION DURING WORKING HOURS.**

(b) Children **[**–**]** refer to those living with and dependent upon the solo parent for support who are unmarried, unemployed and not more than eighteen (18) years of age, or even over eighteen (18) years but are incapable of self-support because of mental **[**and/**]**or physical **[**defect/**]** **DISABILITY**.

(c) **[**"Parental responsibility" – with respect to their minor children shall refer to the rights and duties of the parents as defined in Article 220 of Executive Order No. 209, as amended, otherwise known as the

"Family Code of the Philippines.] **FLEXIBLE WORK SCHEDULE REFERS TO A WORK ARRANGEMENT GRANTED TO A SOLO PARENT EMPLOYEE TO VARY THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIME IN THE WORKPLACE WITHOUT AFFECTING THE CORE WORK HOURS AS DEFINED BY THE EMPLOYER.**

(d) [**"**Parental Leave"– shall mean leave benefits granted to a solo parent to enable him/her to perform parental duties and responsibilities where physical presence is required.] **PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT REFER TO THE ACTS OF PROVIDING FOR THE BASIC NEEDS, HEALTH CARE, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL SAFETY, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND FORMATION OF THE PERSONALITY OF THE CHILD.**

(e) [**"**Flexible work schedule" – is the right granted to a solo parent employee to vary his/her arrival and departure time without affecting the core work hours as defined by the employer.] **PARENTAL LEAVE REFERS TO LEAVE BENEFITS GRANTED TO A SOLO PARENT TO ENABLE THE PERFORMANCE OF PARENTAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WHERE PHYSICAL PRESENCE IS REQUIRED.**

(F) QUALIFIED SOLO PARENT REFERS TO A SOLO PARENT WHO IS EARNING LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P250,000.00) ANNUALLY, SUBJECT TO ADJUSTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS ON THE EXEMPT TAXABLE INCOME UNDER THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE (NIRC), AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10963, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE *"TAX REFORM FOR ACCELERATION AND INCLUSION (TRAIN)"*.

(G) SPOUSE REFERS TO A HUSBAND OR WIFE BY VIRTUE OF A VALID MARRIAGE OR A PARTNER IN A COMMON-LAW RELATIONSHIP."

SEC. 3. Section 4 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. [*Criteria for Support.* - Any solo parent whose income in the place of domicile falls below the poverty threshold as set by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and subject to the assessment of the DSWD worker in the area shall be eligible for assistance: *Provided, however*, That any solo parent whose income is above the poverty threshold shall enjoy the benefits mentioned in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of this Act.] ***CATEGORIES OF SOLO PARENT.* - A**

SOLO PARENT REFERS TO ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO FALLS UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

(A) A PARENT WHO PROVIDES LONE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN DUE TO –

(1) BIRTH AS A CONSEQUENCE OF RAPE, EVEN WITHOUT FINAL CONVICTION: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE SOLO PARENT UNDER THIS CATEGORY MAY STILL BE CONSIDERED A SOLO PARENT UNDER ANY OF THE CATEGORIES IN THIS SECTION;

(2) DEATH OF THE SPOUSE;

(3) DETENTION OF THE SPOUSE FOR AT LEAST THREE (3) MONTHS OR SERVICE OF SENTENCE FOR A CRIMINAL CONVICTION;

(4) PHYSICAL OR MENTAL INCAPACITY OF THE SPOUSE AS CERTIFIED BY A PUBLIC MEDICAL PRACTITIONER;

(5) LEGAL SEPARATION OR *DE FACTO* SEPARATION FOR AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS, AND THE SOLO PARENT IS ENTRUSTED WITH THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN;

(6) DECLARATION OF NULLITY OR ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE, AS DECREED BY A COURT, OR DUE TO DIVORCE, SUBJECT TO EXISTING LAWS, AND THE SOLO PARENT IS ENTRUSTED WITH THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN; OR

(7) ABANDONMENT BY THE SPOUSE FOR AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS;

(B) UNMARRIED MOTHER OR FATHER WHO PREFERS TO KEEP AND REAR THE CHILD OR CHILDREN INSTEAD OF HAVING OTHERS CARE FOR THEM OR GIVE UP TO A WELFARE INSTITUTION;

(C) ANY LEGAL GUARDIAN, ADOPTIVE OR FOSTER PARENT WHO SOLELY PROVIDES PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT TO A CHILD OR CHILDREN;

(D) ANY FAMILY MEMBER WHO ASSUMES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HEAD OF THE FAMILY AS A RESULT OF THE DEATH, ABANDONMENT, DISAPPEARANCE OR

ABSENCE OF THE PARENTS OR SOLO PARENT FOR AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS;

(E) A PREGNANT WOMAN WHO PROVIDES LONE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT TO THE UNBORN CHILD OR CHILDREN.

SEC. 4. Section 5 of the same Act is is hereby amended to read as follows

"SEC. 5 . *Comprehensive Package of Social Development and Welfare Services.* – A comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo parents and their families **[**will**]** **SHALL** be developed by the **[**DSWD, DOH, DECS, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, NHA and DILG, in coordination with local government units**]** **SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) IN COORDINATION WITH THE HEADS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED), COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF), DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA), DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE (BIR), PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH), NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA), CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC), PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON WOMEN (PCW), UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES (ULAP), LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUS) AND** a non-governmental organization with proven track record in providing services for solo parents.

The DSWD shall coordinate with concerned agencies**[**,**]** the implementation of the comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo parents and their families. The package **[**will**]** **SHALL** initially include:

(a) x x x

(b) x x x

(c) x x x

(d) x x x

(e) Special projects for individuals in need of protection which include temporary shelter, counseling, legal assistance, medical care, self-concept or ego-building, crisis management and spiritual **[**enrichment**]** **NOURISHMENT**."

SEC. 5. Section 8 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"**SEC. 8.** *Parental Leave.* - In addition to leave privileges under existing laws, parental leave of not more than seven (7) working days **WITH PAY** every year shall be granted to any solo parent employee, **REGARDLESS OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS**, who has rendered service of at least **[**one (1) year**]** **SIX (6) MONTHS.**"

SEC. 6. Section 9 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 9. *Educational Benefits.* – **[**The DECS, DEPED, CHED and TESDA shall provide the following benefits and privileges:

(1) Scholarship programs for qualified solo parents and their children in insitutions of basic, tertiary and technical/skills education; and

(2)Nonformal education programs appropriate for solo parents and their children**]** **THE DEPED, CHED AND TESDA SHALL PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS FOR QUALIFIED SOLO PARENTS AND A FULL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FOR ONE (1) CHILD OF A QUALIFIED SOLO PARENT IN INSTITUTIONS OF BASIC, HIGHER AND TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL SKILLS EDUCATION: *PROVIDED,* THAT THE OTHER CHILDREN, IF ANY, OF A QUALIFIED SOLO PARENT SHALL BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN THE EDUCATION PROGRAMS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10687, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE *"UNIFIED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION (UNIFAST) ACT,"* REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE *"UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT,"* AND OTHER LAWS RELATING TO EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF THE GOVERNMENT. NON-FORMAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS APPROPRIATE FOR QUALIFIED SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN MAY, LIKEWISE, BE PROVIDED.**

FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE CHILDREN MUST BE LIVING WITH AND DEPENDENT UPON THE SOLO PARENT FOR SUPPORT, UNMARRIED, UNEMPLOYED AND NOT MORE THAN TWENTY-ONE (21) YEARS OF AGE.

The **[**DECS**]** **DEPED**, CHED and TESDA shall promulgate rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this program."

SEC. 7. Sections 10, 11, and 12 of the same Act shall be renumbered as Sections 12, 13, and 14, respectively.

SEC. 8. A new section to be denominated as Section 10 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

"SEC. 10. *CHILD MINDING CENTERS.* – THE DOLE AND THE CSC SHALL ENDEAVOR TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF APPROPRIATE CHILD MINDING CENTERS IN ALL WORKPLACES."

SEC. 9. A new section to be denominated as Section 11 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

"SEC. 11. *BREASTFEEDING IN THE WORKPLACE.* - IN KEEPING WITH THE POLICY OF THE STATE UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10028, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE *"EXPANDED BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION ACT OF 2009,"* THE DOLE AND THE CSC SHALL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE WORKING MOTHERS, WHO ARE SOLO PARENTS, TO PRACTICE BREASTFEEDING IN THE WORKPLACE."

SEC. 10. A new section to be denominated as Section 15 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

"SEC. 15. *EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.* –

(A) THE DTI, TESDA, CHED, DEPED, DOLE AND OTHER RELATED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SHALL PRIORITIZE SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN IN THE PROVISION OF LIVELIHOOD, TRAINING AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMS.

(B) THE DTI, DOLE, CHED, TESDA AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES SHALL PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION AND MATCHING SERVICES TO SOLO PARENTS TO ENABLE THEM TO BE PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

(C) PRIVATE ENTITIES THAT EMPLOY AT LEAST TEN (10) QUALIFIED SOLO PARENTS AS DEFINED IN THIS ACT ARE ENTITLED TO AN ADDITIONAL DEDUCTION FROM THEIR GROSS INCOME, EQUIVALENT TO FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAID AS SALARIES AND WAGES TO QUALIFIED SOLO PARENTS, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 34 OF THE NIRC, AS AMENDED.

THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE, THROUGH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BIR COMMISSIONER, SHALL PROMULGATE THE NECESSARY RULES AND REGULATIONS TO PARAGRAPH (C) OF THIS SECTION."

SEC. 11. A new section to be denominated as Section 16 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

"SEC. 16. *SOCIAL SAFETY ASSISTANCE.* – DURING DISASTERS AND CALAMITIES, THE SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN ARE ENTITLED TO SOCIAL SAFETY ASSISTANCE SUCH AS FOOD, MEDICINES AND FINANCIAL AID FOR DOMICILE REPAIR IN THE LGUS WHERE THE SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN ARE RESIDING, SUBJECT TO THE GUIDELINES OF THE DSWD. THE LGUS SHALL ENSURE THAT THE BUDGET FOR SOCIAL SAFETY ASSISTANCE IS INCLUDED IN THE CALAMITY FUNDS OF LGUS."

SEC. 12. A new section to be denominated as Section 17 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

"SEC. 17. *ADDITIONAL BENEFITS* – QUALIFIED SOLO PARENTS, IN SUPPORT OF THEIR CHILDREN, ARE ENTITLED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:

(A) TEN PERCENT (10%) DISCOUNT AND EXEMPTION FROM THE VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT) ON THE SALE OF THE FOLLOWING GOODS AND SERVICES FROM ALL ESTABLISHMENTS, FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE AND ENJOYMENT OR AVAILMENT OF THE QUALIFIED SOLO PARENTS OR THEIR CHILDREN, AS THE CASE MAY BE:a

(1) CHILDREN'S CLOTHING MATERIALS FOR ALL PURCHASES MADE FROM THE BIRTH OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN UNTIL SIX (6) YEARS OF AGE;

(2) BABY'S MILK, FOOD AND MICRONUTRIENT SUPPLEMENTS, AND SANITARY DIAPERS PURCHASED FROM THE BIRTH OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN UNTIL THREE (3) YEARS OF AGE;

(3) DULY PRESCRIBED MEDICINES, VACCINES, AND OTHER MEDICAL SUPPLEMENTS FOR THE CHILD OR CHILDREN OF THE SOLO PARENT PURCHASED FROM

THE BIRTH OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN UNTIL SIX (6) YEARS OF AGE;

(4) MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES, DIAGNOSTIC AND LABORATORY FEES, AND PROFESSIONAL FEES IN ALL PRIVATE HOSPITALS, MEDICAL FACILITIES, OUTPATIENT CLINICS, AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES RENDERED TO SOLO PARENTS OR THEIR CHILD OR CHILDREN FROM BIRTH OF THE CHILD UNTIL SIX (6) YEARS OF AGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ISSUED FOR THE PURPOSE BY THE DOH;

(5) BASIC SCHOOL SUPPLIES COMMONLY USED BY A STUDENT SUCH AS TEXTBOOKS, NOTEBOOKS, WRITING AND DRAWING INSTRUMENTS AND MATERIALS PURCHASED FROM KINDERGARTEN UNTIL THE AGE OF TWENTY-ONE (21) YEARS;

(6) UTILIZATION OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLIED BY PUBLIC UTILITIES: *PROVIDED,* THAT THE INDIVIDUAL METERS FOR THE FOREGOING UTILITIES ARE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SOLO PARENT RESIDING THEREIN: *PROVIDED, FURTHER,* THAT THE MONTHLY CONSUMPTION DOES NOT EXCEED ONE HUNDRED KILOWATT HOURS (100KWH) OF ELECTRICITY AND THIRTY CUBIC METERS (30 M^3) OF WATER: *PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE,* THAT THE PRIVILEGE IS GRANTED PER HOUSEHOLD REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF SOLO PARENTS RESIDING THEREIN;

(7) FARES FOR LAND TRANSPORTATION TRAVEL IN PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES;

(8) ACTUAL FARES FOR DOMESTIC AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES AND SEA SHIPPING VESSELS; AND

(9) GOODS AND SERVICES IN RESTAURANTS, RECREATIONAL CENTERS, HOTELS AND SIMILAR LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS.

(B) PRIORITY IN THE PROVISION OF FREE MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES, DIAGNOSTIC AND LABORATORY SERVICES IN ALL GOVERNMENT FACILITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE *"UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT,"* WHICHEVER BENEFITS FAVOR SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN THE MOST;

(C) SPECIAL DISCOUNTS ON THE PURCHASE OF BASIC COMMODITIES UNDER SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR SOLO PARENTS, SUBJECT TO THE GUIDELINES TO BE ISSUED FOR THE PURPOSE BY THE DTI AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA);

(D) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND FEASIBLE, THE SAME BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS), THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS), AND THE PAG-IBIG, AS THE CASE MAY BE, TO SOLO PARENTS;

IN THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES ON PROMOTIONAL DISCOUNT, SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILD OR CHILDREN MAY AVAIL OF SUCH DISCOUNT OR THE DISCOUNT PROVIDED HEREIN, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER.

THE ESTABLISHMENT MAY CLAIM THE DISCOUNTS GRANTED UNDER PARAGRAPHS (A) (1) to (5) OF THIS SECTION AS TAX DEDUCTION BASED ON THE COST OF THE GOODS SOLD OR SERVICES RENDERED: *PROVIDED,* THAT THE COST OF DISCOUNT IS ALLOWED AS DEDUCTION FROM GROSS INCOME FOR THE SAME TAXABLE YEAR THAT THE DISCOUNT IS GRANTED: *PROVIDED, FURTHER,* THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CLAIMED TAX DEDUCTION NET OF VAT, IF APPLICABLE, ARE INCLUDED IN THEIR GROSS SALES RECEIPTS FOR TAX PURPOSES AND SUBJECT TO PROPER DOCUMENTATION AND TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE (NIRC), AS AMENDED.

TO AVAIL OF THE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS UNDER THIS SECTION, THE SOLO PARENT SHALL PRESENT A SOLO PARENT IDENTIFICATION CARD (SPIC)."

SEC. 13. A new section to be denominated as Section 18 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

"SEC. 18. *LIMITATION AND TERMINATION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF A SOLO PARENT.* – ONLY A SOLO PARENT EXERCISING SOLE AND LONE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN IS ENTITLED TO CLAIM THE BENEFITS OF A SOLO PARENT UNDER THIS ACT.

WHEN A SOLO PARENT, AS DEFINED UNDER THIS ACT, CEASES TO BE SUCH BY REASON OF CHANGE OF STATUS AND CIRCUMSTANCES, THE SAID SOLO PARENT SHALL BE INELIGIBLE TO AVAIL OF THE BENEFITS UNDER THIS ACT."

SEC. 14. A new section to be denominated as Section 19 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

"SEC. 19. *THE SOLO PARENTS OFFICE OR DIVISION.* - THERE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED A SOLO PARENT OFFICE (SPO) IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY AND A SOLO PARENT DIVISION (SPD) UNDER THE MUNICIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE IN EVERY MUNICIPALITY.

THE HEAD OF THE SPO MUST BE A LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER AND THE HEAD OF THE SPD MUST POSSESS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE. THE HEADS OF THE SPO AND SPD SHALL HOLD PERMANENT POSITIONS WITH SALARY GRADE 12, AND 10, RESPECTIVELY, AND SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE.

THE SPO SHALL HAVE AT LEAST THREE (3) STAFF MEMBERS WHILE THE SPD SHALL HAVE AT LEAST ONE (1) STAFF MEMBER.

THE OFFICES OF THE GOVERNOR, MAYOR OR SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE, AS THE CASE MAY BE, SHALL EXERCISE SUPERVISION OVER THE SPO OR SPD RELATIVE TO THEIR PLANS, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. THE SPO OR SPD SHALL ESTABLISH LINKAGES AND WORK TOGETHER WITH ACCREDITED NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE BARANGAYS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS.

THE SPO OR SPD SHALL:

(A) PLAN, IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR YEARLY WORK PROGRAMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS ACT;

(B) DRAW UP A LIST OF AVAILABLE AND REQUIRED SERVICES FROM THE SOLO PARENTS;

(C) MAINTAIN AND REGULARLY UPDATE, ON A QUARTERLY BASIS, THE LIST OF SOLO PARENTS AND ISSUE FREE SPIC;

(D) ISSUE FREE BOOKLETS TO QUALIFIED SOLO PARENTS;

(E) SERVE AS A GENERAL INFORMATION AND LIAISON CENTER FOR SOLO PARENTS;

(F) MONITOR COMPLIANCE TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, PARTICULARLY THE GRANT OF PRIVILEGES AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS;

(G) REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, MAYOR OR OFFICE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE, ANY INDIVIDUAL, ESTABLISHMENT, BUSINESS ENTITY, INSTITUTION OR AGENCY THAT VIOLATES ANY PROVISION OF THIS ACT; AND

(H) ASSIST THE SOLO PARENTS IN FILING THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST ANY INDIVIDUAL, ESTABLISHMENT, BUSINESS ENTITY, INSTITUTION OR AGENCY THAT REFUSES OR FAILS TO PROVIDE THE PRIVILEGES AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF SOLO PARENTS GRANTED UNDER THIS ACT."

SEC. 15. A new section to be denominated as Section 20 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

"SEC. 20. *DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS*. – FOR PURPOSES OF REGISTRATION AND ISSUANCE OF SPIC AND BOOKLET, THE SOLO PARENT SHALL SUBMIT AUTHENTICATED OR CERTIFIED TRUE COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS TO THE SPO OR SPD WHERE THE SOLO PARENT RESIDES:

(A) FOR THE SOLO PARENT WITH CHILD OR CHILDREN AS A CONSEQUENCE OF RAPE FALLING UNDER SECTION (4) (A) (1) OF THIS ACT:

(1) BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN;
(2) COMPLAINT AFFIDAVIT; AND
(3) MEDICAL RECORD ON THE INCIDENT OF RAPE.

(B) FOR THE SOLO PARENT ON ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH OF THE SPOUSE FALLING UNDER SECTION (4) (A) (2) OF THIS ACT:

(1) BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN;
(2) MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE; AND
(3) DEATH CERTIFICATE OF THE SPOUSE.

(C) FOR THE SOLO PARENT ON ACCOUNT OF THE DETENTION OR CRIMINAL CONVICTION OF THE SPOUSE FALLING UNDER SECTION (4) (A) (3) OF THIS ACT:

(1) BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN;
(2) MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE; AND
(3) CERTIFICATE OF DETENTION OR A CERTIFICATION THAT THE SPOUSE IS SERVING SENTENCE FOR AT LEAST THREE (3) MONTHS ISSUED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAVING ACTUAL CUSTODY OF THE DETAINED SPOUSE, OR COMMITMENT ORDER ISSUED BY THE COURT PURSUANT TO A CONVICTION OF THE SPOUSE.

(D) FOR THE SOLO PARENT ON ACCOUNT OF PHYSICAL OR MENTAL INCAPACITY OF THE SPOUSE FALLING UNDER SECTION (4) (A) (4) OF THIS ACT:

(1) BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN;
(2) MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE OR AFFIDAVIT OF COHABITATION; AND

(3) MEDICAL RECORD OR MEDICAL ABSTRACT EVIDENCING THE PHYSICAL OR MENTAL STATE OF THE INCAPACITATED SPOUSE.

(E) FOR THE SOLO PARENT ON ACCOUNT OF LEGAL OR DE FACTO SEPARATION OF SPOUSE FALLING UNDER SECTION (4) (A) (5) OF THIS ACT:
(1) BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN;
(2) MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE; A N D
(3) JUDICIAL DECREE OF LEGAL SEPARATION OF THE SPOUSES OR AFFIDAVIT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT AND AFFIDAVIT OF TWO (2) DISINTERESTED PERSONS ATTESTING TO THE FACT OF SEPARATION OF THE SPOUSES.

(F) FOR THE SOLO PARENT ON ACCOUNT OF DECLARATION OF NULLITY OR ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE FALLING UNDER SECTION (4) (A) (6) OF THIS ACT:

(1) BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN;
(2) MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE; AND
(3) JUDICIAL DECREE OF NULLITY OR ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE OR JUDICIAL RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN DIVORCE.

(G) FOR THE SOLO PARENT ON ACCOUNT OF ABANDONMENT BY THE SPOUSE FALLING UNDER SECTION (4) (A) (7) OF THIS ACT:

(1) BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN;
(2) MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE OR AFFIDAVIT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT AND AFFIDAVIT OF TWO (2) DISINTERESTED PERSONS ATTESTING T O T H E ABANDONMENT OF THE SPOUSE; AND
(3) POLICE OR *BARANGAY* RECORD OF THE FACT OF ABANDONMENT.

(H) FOR THE SOLO PARENT WHO PREFERS TO KEEP AND REAR THE CHILD OR CHILDREN FALLING UNDER SECTION (4) (B) OF THIS ACT:
(1) BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN;
(2) CERTIFICATE OF NO MARRIAGE (CENOMAR); AND
(3) AFFIDAVIT OF A *BARANGAY* OFFICIAL ATTESTINGTHAT THE SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE *BARANGAY* AND THAT THE CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT;

(I) FOR THE SOLO PARENT WHO IS A LEGAL GUARDIAN, ADOPTIVE OR FOSTER PARENT FALLING UNDER SECTION (4) (C) OF THIS ACT:

(1) BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN;
(2) PROOF OF GUARDIANSHIP, FOSTER CARE OR ADOPTION; AND
(3) AFFIDAVIT OF A *BARANGAY* OFFICIAL ATTESTING THAT THE SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE *BARANGAY* AND THAT THE CHILD OR CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT.

(J) FOR THE SOLO PARENT WHO ASSUMES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HEAD OF THE FAMILY FALLING UNDER SECTION (4) (D) OF THIS ACT:

(1) BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN;
(2) DEATH CERTIFICATE OF THE PARENTS;
(3) JUDICIAL DECREE, OR AFFIDAVIT OF THE SOLO PARENT AND AFFIDAVIT OF TWO (2) DISINTERESTED PERSONS, OR A POLICE OR *BARANGAY* RECORDS EVIDENCING THE FACT OF DISAPPEARANCE OR ABSENCE OF THE PARENT OR SOLO PARENT FOR AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS; AND
(4) AFFIDAVIT OF A *BARANGAY* OFFICIAL ATTESTING THAT THE CHILDREN ARE UNDER THE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT OF THE APPLICANT.

(K) FOR THE SOLO PARENT WHO IS A PREGNANT WOMAN FALLING UNDER SECTION (4) (E) OF THIS ACT:

(1) MEDICAL RECORD OF HER PREGNANCY; AND
(2) AFFIDAVIT OF A *BARANGAY* OFFICIAL ATTESTING THAT THE APPLICANT SOLO PARENT IS A RESIDENT OF THE *BARANGAY* AND THAT THE APPLICANT HAS NO SPOUSE.

(L) FOR A QUALIFIED SOLO PARENT AS DEFINED UNDER SECTION 3(F) OF THIS ACT:

(1) AFFIDAVIT OF NO EMPLOYMENT;

(2) INCOME TAX RETURN (ITR); OR

(3) ANY VERIFIABLE PROOF OF INCOME."

SEC. 16. A new section to be denominated as Section 21 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

"SEC. 21. *SPIC AND BOOKLET*. - THE SPO OF THE PROVINCE OR CITY, OR THE SPD OF THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL ISSUE THE SPIC TO EVERY SOLO PARENT WITHIN THEIR TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION AFTER VERIFICATION BY THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL SOCIAL WORKER OFFICE OF THE DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE SOLO PARENT-APPLICANT TO THE SPO OR SPD. HOWEVER, THE SPO OF THE PROVINCE MAY VERIFY IF AN SPD FAILS TO DO SO. THE SPIC MUST BE ISSUED WITHIN SEVEN (7) DAYS FROM APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION.

THE SPIC IS VALID FOR ONE (1) YEAR ANYWHERE IN THE PHILIPPINES*: PROVIDED,* THAT THE SPIC ISSUED TO A SOLO PARENT UNDER SECTION 4(A)(1) IS VALID UNTIL THE CHILD OR CHILDREN REACH THE AGE OF TWENTY-ONE (21).

THE SPO OR THE SPD SHALL ISSUE A BOOKLET TO QUALIFIED SOLO PARENT AFTER VERIFICATION BY CITY OR MUNICIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE OF ANY DOCUMENT MENTIONED IN SECTION 20 (L) OF THIS ACT. THE BOOKLET SHALL BE VALID FOR ONE (1)YEAR ANYWHERE IN THE PHILIPPINES, RENEWABLE EVERY YEAR IF THE APPLICANT IS STILL A QUALIFIED SOLO PARENT. THE QUALIFIED SOLO PARENT MUST PRESENT THE BOOKLET WHEN AVAILING OF THE BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 17(A)(1)."

SEC. 17. A new section to be denominated as Section 22 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

"SEC. 22. *INTER-AGENCY COORDINATING AND MONITORING COMMITTEE*– AN INTER-AGENCY COORDINATING AND MONITORING COMMITTEE (I A C M C) IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED AND IS COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING:

(A) CHAIRPERSON – SECRETARY OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT;

(B) VICE-CHAIRPERSON – SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT;

(C) MEMBERS:

(1) SECRETARY OF FINANCE;

(2) SECRETARY OF HEALTH;

(3) SECRETARY OF EDUCATION;

(4) SECRETARY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT;

(5) SECRETARY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY;

(6) SECRETARY OF JUSTICE;

(7) CHAIRPERSON OF CHED;

(8) CHAIRPERSON OF CSC;

(9) CHAIRPERSON OF PCW;

(10) DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NEDA;

(11) DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TESDA;

(12) GENERAL MANAGER OF NHA;

(13) PRESIDENT OF PHILHEALTH;

(14) REPRESENTATIVE OF ULAP; AND

(15) REPRESENTATIVE OF A NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION WITH PROVEN TRACK RECORD IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO SOLO PARENTS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE DSWD.

THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE IACMC SHALL MEET QUARTERLY AND SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT EVERY THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IACMC.

THEY MAY DESIGNATE THEIR RESPECTIVE REPRESENTATIVES WHO MUST HAVE AT LEAST A RANK OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

THE IACMC SHALL ACCURATELY GATHER DATA ON THE SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, BY UTILIZING THE COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM (CBMS) UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11315, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE *"COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM ACT."* THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY SHALL CONDUCT A PERIODIC UPDATE OF THE DATA ON SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN."

SEC. 18. A new section to be denominated as Section 23 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows

"SEC. 23. *JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON SOLO PARENTS* – THERE IS HEREBY CREATED A JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON SOLO PARENTS (JCOCSP), TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT. THE JCOCSP SHALL SET THE OVERALL FRAMEWORK FOR REVIEWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT, DETERMINING INHERENT VULNERABILITIES IN THE LAW, AND

RECOMMENDING THE NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE OR EXECUTIVE MEASURES.

THE JCOCSP SHALL BE COMPOSED OF FIVE (5) SENATORS AND FIVE (5) REPRESENTATIVES TO BE APPOINTED BY THE SENATE PRESIDENT AND HOUSE SPEAKER, RESPECTIVELY. THE JCOCSP SHALL BE CO-CHAIRED BY THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY OF THE SENATE."

SEC. 19. A new section to be denominated as Section 24 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

"SEC. 24. *PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES* – (A) ANY PERSON, CORPORATION, ENTITY OR AGENCY THAT REFUSES OR FAILS TO PROVIDE THE BENEFITS GRANTED TO THE SOLO PARENT IN VIOLATION OF THIS ACT SHALL SUFFER THE FOLLOWING PENALTIES:

(1) FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION – A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE (1) YEAR, OR BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.

(2) FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION – A FINE NOT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT LESS THAN ONE (1) YEAR BUT NOT MORE THAN TWO (2) YEARS, OR BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.

IF THE OFFENDER IS A CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP, OR ORGANIZATION OR ANY SIMILAR ENTITY, THE OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES WHO DIRECTLY PARTICIPATED SHALL BE HELD LIABLE.

THE PROPER AUTHORITIES MAY, AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING, ALSO CAUSE THE CANCELLATION OR REVOCATION OF THE BUSINESS PERMIT, PERMIT TO OPERATE, FRANCHISE AND OTHER SIMILAR PRIVILEGES GRANTED TO ANY BUSINESS THAT FAILS TO ABIDE BY THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

IF THE OFFENDER IS A FOREIGNER, THE FOREIGNER SHALL BE DEPORTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE OF SENTENCE WITHOUT FURTHER DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS.

(B) ANY PERSON WHO MISREPRESENTS STATUS OR FALSIFIES ANY DOCUMENT TO AVAIL OF THE BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACT OR ANY PERSON WHO ABUSES THE PRIVILEGES GRANTED HEREIN SHALL BE PUNISHED WITH A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00), BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) AND IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS.

WHEN THE OFFENDER OR THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OFFENSES PUNISHABLE UNDER PARAGRAPHS (A) AND (B) OF THIS SECTION IS A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE AS DEFINED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 292, OR THE " *ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES*," AND THE OFFENSE WAS COMMITTED IN THE EXERCISE OF OFFICIAL DUTIES, SUCH OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY OF REMOVAL FROM OFFICE AND PERPETUAL DISQUALIFICATION FROM HOLDING PUBLIC OFFICE, IN ADDITION TO THE PENALTY PROVIDED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH."

SEC. 20. Section 13 of the same Act is hereby amended and renumbered as Section 25, to read as follows:

"SEC. [13] 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – [An interagency committee headed by the DSWD, in coordination with the DOH, DECS, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, NHA, and DILG is hereby established which shall formulate, within ninety (90) days upon the effectivity of this Act, the implementing rules and regulations in consultation with the local government units, non government organizations, and people's organization.] **WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT, THE SECRETARY OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT SHALL, IN CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE HEADS OF DOH, DEPED, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, NHA, DILG, DTI, DOF, DOJ, NEDA, CSC, PHILHEALTH, PCW AND ULAP ISSUE THE NECESSARY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT."**

SEC. 21. Section 14 of the same Act is hereby amended and renumbered as Section 26, to read as follows:

"**SEC. [14] 26.** *Appropriations.* – [The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of concerned government agencies in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter].

"THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGETS OF CONCERNED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT. THE LGUs CONCERNED SHALL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SPO OR SPD, AS THE CASE MAY BE, IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ANNUAL BUDGETS."

SEC. 22. Sections 15, 16 and 17 of the same Act are hereby renumbered as Section 27, 28 and 29, respectively.

SEC. 23. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 24. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 25. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,