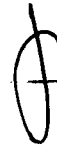


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NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
Third Regular Session }

RECEIVED



SENATE BILL NO. 2848

Introduced by SENATOR FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LIWANAG AT TUBIG ASSISTANCE WELFARE (LITAW) PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN TIMES OF CALAMITIES AND NATURAL DISASTERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Liwanag at Tubig Assistance Welfare (LITAW) bill, is a strategic initiative aimed at providing essential financial assistance to low-income households in the Philippines during natural disasters and calamities. Access to electricity and water is fundamental for daily living and economic participation, yet many vulnerable families struggle to afford these basic utilities, particularly in the wake of disasters that disrupt their livelihoods and infrastructure.

The Philippine archipelago is prone to a variety of natural disasters, including typhoons, floods, and earthquakes, which can devastate communities and exacerbate existing poverty levels. The aftermath of such calamities often leaves low-income families without the means to pay for essential services like electricity and water, resulting in further hardship. The LITAW bill addresses this pressing need by providing timely financial assistance to ensure continuous access to these crucial services during emergencies.

The main objectives of the LITAW bill are as follows: to provide one-time financial assistance of ₱1,000.00 for electricity or water services to eligible low-income households affected by natural disasters; to alleviate the financial burden on families striving to

recover from calamities; and to ensure that low-income households can maintain access to essential utilities even during crises.

The establishment of the LITAW bill is rooted in existing laws and mandates, including Republic Act No. 11032, which emphasizes the need for efficient government service delivery, especially in times of crisis; Republic Act No. 11463, known as the Malasakit Centers Act, which reinforces the government's commitment to social welfare programs; and Executive Order No. 221, which reiterates the functions of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in implementing social protection programs.

LITAW bill includes low-income families defined as those living below the poverty threshold, as determined by government statistics and those families enrolled in the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), ensuring that the most vulnerable populations receive the support they need.

The proposed legislation will be implemented through local DSWD offices and community centers, where social workers will assess eligibility based on income and disaster impact. Upon approval, financial assistance will be disbursed directly to beneficiaries, ensuring that aid reaches those in need quickly and efficiently.

By providing essential financial assistance for electricity and water services, the LITAW bill not only alleviates immediate financial burdens but also contributes to the long-term recovery and resilience of affected households.

Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



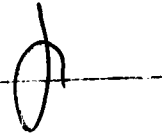
FRANCIS N. "TOL" TOLENTINO

Senator

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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 Liwanag at Tubig
2 Assistance Program "LITAW" Act.

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to ensure that
4 all citizens, particularly low-income households, have access to essential utilities such as
5 electricity and water, especially during times of calamities and natural disasters.

6 **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act, the following terms
7 shall be defined as follows:

8 a. **LITAW Program** - Liwanag at Tubig Assistance Welfare Program designed to
9 assist low-income families in accessing electricity and water services during emergencies.

10 b. **Low-Income Households** - Families living below the poverty threshold as
11 determined by government statistics

12 **SECTION 4. Establishment of the LITAW Program.** - There is hereby
13 established a program to be known as the Liwanag at Tubig Assistance Welfare (LITAW)
14 Program, under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), aimed at

1 providing financial assistance for electricity and water services to low-income households
2 affected by natural disasters.

3 **SECTION 5. Program Coverage.** - The LITAW Program shall cover low-income
4 households identified as vulnerable populations affected by natural disasters and the
5 existing beneficiaries of 4Ps from the government.

6 **SECTION 6. Financial Assistance for Electricity and Water Services.** -
7 Under this program, eligible household beneficiaries shall receive a one-time financial
8 assistance of One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000.00) to subsidize their electricity costs or water
9 service coverage after the occurrence of such natural disaster or calamity.

10 **SECTION 7. Eligibility Criteria.** - The beneficiaries of the LITAW Program shall
11 include:

12 a. Low-income families, particularly those identified as beneficiaries of the
13 Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

14 b. Families living below the poverty threshold as determined by the latest
15 government statistics.

16 **SECTION 8. Funding.** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this
17 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

18 **SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The DSWD shall issue
19 the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty
20 (60) days after its enactment.

21 **SECTION 10. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared
22 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full
23 force and effect.

24 **SECTION 11. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules,
25 and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
26 repealed or modified accordingly.

27 **SECTION 12. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
28 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,