

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9509, October 21, 2008 ]**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING LIVELIHOOD AN SKILLS TRAINING CENTERS IN FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH CLASS MUNICIPALITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Barangay Livelihood and Skills Training Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policies.* - It is hereby declared a policy of the State to:

- a. give the highest priority to social reform and focus its intervention to poverty alleviation through rural empowerment;
- b. ensure that national economic development programs will promote the diffusion and more equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth across all provinces, cities and municipalities in the country;
- c. strive to enhance the quality of life for all its citizens, especially the underprivileged, by expanding their capacities for economic productivity and increase their incomes to enable them to avail of essential goods and services for their own direct benefit; and
- d. pursue rural development with social inclusion.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* - Pursuant to the aforementioned policies, this Act shall have the following objectives:

- a. To promote and support the establishment and maintenance of livelihood and skills training centers in every fourth, fifth and sixth class municipalities;
- b. To ensure that all livelihood and skills training being offered by the government are properly coordinated and implemented at the municipal and barangay levels;
- c. To ensure that available livelihood and skills training are made available to barangay communities that need the most help from the government;
- d. To ensure that the training needs of barangay communities based on local development plans are properly identified and adequately provided; and
- e. To prioritize rural areas with the highest poverty incidence in the provision of programs and services under this Act.

SEC. 4. *Establishment of a Livelihood and Skills Training Center.* - A livelihood and skills training center, hereinafter referred to as the "Center", shall be established in every fourth, fifth and sixth class municipalities: *Provided*, That other municipalities shall be covered by this Act upon determination of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), taking into account the municipality's population density and demographic status, poverty incidence, Income class, level, abundance of raw materials which have potential for commercial production, and the availability and

accessibility of existing livelihood skills training programs and services.

SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of the Center.* - The Center shall provide educational and instructional activities designed to enhance the knowledge, skills and attitudes of intended beneficiaries and to a better prepare them to engage in gainful employment and/or entrepreneurship. It shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Conduct periodic training needs determination and skills mapping of barangays within their jurisdiction: *Provided*, That the Center shall coordinate closely with the local development councils, the local planning offices and other national and local government offices to determine and orchestrate the livelihood training skills required by the rural barangays concerned;
- b. Gather information and maintain an inventory of all existing livelihood and skills training under the various programs of the government;
- c. Coordinate the provision of livelihood and skills training and institute measures to ensure that such trainings are responsive to the needs of the barangays concerned;
- d. Coordinate and orchestrate the conduct of livelihood and skills training independently or in partnership with national government agencies, private sector or civil society organizations;
- e. Facilitate the development and implementation of capability-building programs and services that will ensure effective skills development and target the most number of people and communities in poor barangays;
- f. Develop its capability to devise and formulate training curricula an training designs;
- g. Develop its own capacity as a resource center for livelihood and skills training by developing in-house trainers to provide training services;
- h. Monitor and evaluate the progress of the individuals or groups undergoing training as well as the implementation of training programs and services to ensure that such programs and services are relevant and useful to the needs of the communities; and
- i. Ensure that the Center is networked with government efforts covering other aspects of livelihood development such as marketing and financing, under the livelihood development system.

SEC. 6. *Creation of a Municipal Advisory Board.* - The municipal governments shall be responsible for instituting and maintaining the Center with the assistance of a Municipal Advisory Board to the chaired by the municipal mayor and to be composed of the representatives from the following stakeholders;

- a. Business organizations, chamber of commerce and cooperatives;
- b. Micro, small and medium-scale enterprises;
- c. Rural bankers;
- d. Civil society organizations; and
- e. People's organizations undertaking livelihood and skills training.

The following shall act as *ex officio* members of the Municipal Advisory Board:

- a. Provincial officer of the Department of the Interior and Local Government;
- b. Provincial officer of the Department of Agriculture;
- c. Provincial officer of the Department of Trade and Industry; and
- d. Provincial officer of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.