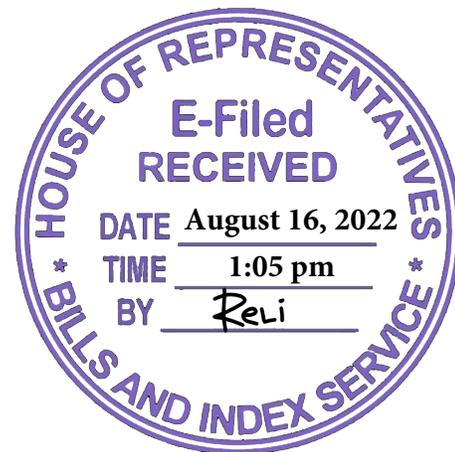


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3657



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Based on the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, "violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women" and it is oftentimes used as "one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men." In line with this is the reality of violence against children which is described by the World Health Organization as a global problem which is confronting every country in the world.

The vulnerability of these sectors to abuse has long been recognized by both the global and local community as one needing to be addressed through social legislation and sound public policies. The Philippines for one, has enacted laws such as Republic Act 9262 also known as the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 and Republic Act 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women.

However, despite numerous laws against violence against women and children, these problems are still recurring to date. The Philippine Commission on Women describes violence against women as one of the country's pervasive social problems. The Commission discusses that it is deemed to be closely linked with the unequal power relations between men and women.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, one in four women have already experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence from their husband or partner. In a study conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund, 80% of the 3,866 respondents aged 13-24 years had experienced some form of violence in their lifetime, whether in the home, school, workplace, community or during dating. The estimated total prevalence of violence against children among males was 81.5 percent and 78.4 percent among females. About 78.8

percent of children aged 13 to 18 years encountered these experiences of violence compared to 80.9 percent among the older group.

Due to this recurring problem despite the existing legislation that we have, it is then incumbent to introduce necessary adjustments to our public policy. Existing protocols need to be updated in order to fully address the issues that our society is facing, especially those of the mentioned marginalized sectors.

Through this legislation, we plan to strengthen further the existing safeguards that we have in order to fully protect the Filipino women and children. It is for these reasons that the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist

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HOUSE BILL NO. 3657

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE TO UPDATE EXISTING
PROTOCOLS OF THE CHILDREN AND WOMEN’S DESKS IN THE
PHILIPPINES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Children and Women’s Desk Act of 2022.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights. It also recognizes the role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. In addition to this, the State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men.

SECTION 3. Scope. – This Act shall apply to all children and women’s desks in the country, whether currently existing or yet to be established.

SECTION 4. Roles and Responsibilities. – The Department of Interior and Local Government, with the assistance of the Philippine National Police, shall identify, prepare, and provide policy guidance and technical resource assistance with regard to the inclusion of updates in the existing protocols of the children and women’s desks in the Philippines in order to ensure the prompt, efficient, and effective response to reported cases of abuse and the necessary rescue protocols therewith.

SECTION 5. *Immediate Rescue.* – The Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police shall partner with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Philippine Commission on Women as regards protocols pertaining to response on the reported cases of abuse and rescue of the victims thereof within twenty-four hours from the receipt of report.

SECTION 6. *Mental Health Assistance.* - There shall be stationed at every children and women’s desk a mental health professional who is tasked with providing assistance, including psychological first aid, to all victims referred to such a desk.

SECTION 6. *Socio-civic organizations and the Private Sector.* – This Act shall also empower the private sector in engaging and partnering with the government in promulgating these protocols. Non-governmental organizations, civic organizations, the academe, people’s organizations, and the like shall be tapped by the government in providing assistance in the promulgation and enforcement of such guidelines.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Agriculture shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,