



**Republic of the Philippines**  
**NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

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**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Resolution No. 1, Series of 2007**

**Adopting A Philippine Definition of Social Protection**

**WHEREAS**, the country's Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP), 2004-2010 laid out five (5) main strategies to achieve the current Administration's 10-point Agenda, namely: (1) stabilizing the economy and promoting growth through fiscal and financial strength; (2) job generation and global competitiveness; (3) improving social services and protecting and empowering the vulnerable groups; (4) decentralizing development; and (5) improving good governance and promoting national harmony;

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 12 of the MTPDP 2004-2010 entitled "Responding to Basic Needs of the Poor" explicitly states that "The vulnerable members of the society shall be given preferential access to social assistance, social protection and safety nets" ;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Development Forum (PDF), chaired by the Department of Finance and co-chaired by the World Bank (WB), is the primary mechanism of the Government for facilitating substantive policy dialogue among stakeholders – national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), civil society, international community, academe, and the private sector – on the country's development agenda. It also serves as a process for developing consensus and generating commitments among different stakeholders toward critical actionable items of the Government's reform agenda;

**WHEREAS**, to operationalize the PDF, working groups were formed, one of which is on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Social Progress and chaired by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

**WHEREAS**, under the Working Group on MDG and Social Progress, the Subgroup on Social Protection is tasked to review social protection programs vis-à-vis needs, as dictated by the risks and vulnerabilities of the poor and marginalized, with a view to articulating and then implementing a national social protection strategy;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to have a common framework in designing and implementing social protection policies and programs;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for government agencies, LGUs and other stakeholders to be guided on the Philippine definition of social protection and its components to appropriately and effectively address the needs of the poor and marginalized groups of our society;

**WHEREAS**, the Sub-Group on Social Protection after several consultations with various stakeholders has come up with the Philippine definition of Social Protection, to wit:

**Social protection** constitutes policies and programs that seek to reduce poverty and vulnerability to risks and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized by promoting and protecting livelihood and employment, protecting against hazards and sudden loss of income, and improving people's capacity to manage risks.

The components of social protection are:

- a. **Labor Market Programs.** Measures aimed at enhancing employment opportunities and protection of the rights and welfare of workers. Employment enhancing measures include trade policies and skills development and training. Labor protection includes compliance with labor standards such as minimum wages or health and safety in the workplace.
- b. **Social Insurance.** Programs that seek to mitigate income risks by pooling resources and spreading risks across time and classes. These are designed in such a way that beneficiaries pay a premium over a given period of time to cover or protect them from loss of income and unemployment as a result of illness, injury, disability, retrenchment, harvest failure, maternity, old-age, etc.. This component includes micro- and area-based schemes to address vulnerability at the community level (such as micro-insurance, agricultural insurance and social support funds).
- c. **Social Welfare.** Preventive and developmental interventions that seek to support the minimum basic requirements of the poor, particularly the poorest of the poor, and reduce risks associated with unemployment, resettlement, marginalization, illness, disability, old age and loss of family care. Social welfare and assistance programs usually comprise direct assistance in the form of cash or in-kind transfers to the poorest and marginalized groups, as well as social services including family and community support, alternative care and referral services.
- d. **Social Safety Nets.** Stop-gap mechanisms or urgent responses that address effects of economic shocks, disasters and calamities on specific vulnerable groups. These are measures that specifically target affected groups with the specific objective of providing relief and transition. Measures include emergency assistance, price subsidies, food programs, employment programs, retraining programs, and emergency loans.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** that the SDC-Cabinet Level recommend the adoption and use of the definition of social protection by all concerned government entities.

Approved this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 2007 in Pasig City.





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