FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

SENATE S.B. No. <u>1239</u>

INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Corporate Social Responsibility is defined by the World Bank as "the commitment of business to behave ethically and to contribute to sustainable economic development by working with all relevant stakeholders to improve their lives in ways that are good for business, the sustainable development agenda, and society at large". It is observed, however, that many corporations and other business organizations really care little for the welfare of society, community where they operate and the natural environment around them. Their sole purpose is to maximize their respective returns on investment totally disregarding the impact of their activities on customers, employees, shareholders, communities and environment.

This bill, therefore, seeks to foster sustainable economic and environment development and environment protection, among other things, by institutionalizing the corporate social responsibility of corporations, whether domestic or foreign, partnership and other establishment performing business in the country. Under this bill, all business organizations are mandated to consider the interest of society by taking responsibility for the impact of their activities on customers, employees, shareholders communities and environment. In return, businesses which shall comply with the mandate of this proposed measure shall be entitled to full deductions of the expenses incurred in connection thereto.

In view of the foregoing, the enactment of this piece of legislation is highly recommended.

MANNY VILLAR

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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## AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, PROVIDING INCENTIVES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

- **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the "Corporate Social Responsibility Act".
- **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** The State recognizes the vital role of the private sector in nation building and shall encourage its active, participation in fostering sustainable economic development and environment protection in the Philippines. Towards this end, the government shall coordinate its various agencies and non government organization to work hand in hand for the integration, promotion, and strengthening of corporate social responsibility in all business organization.
- **SECTION 3. Corporate Social Responsibility.** Any corporation, whether domestic or foreign, partnerships and other establishments performing business in the country are hereby mandated to observe its corporate social responsibility or the obligation to consider the interests of society by taking responsibility for the impact of their activities on customers, employees, shareholders, communities and the environment in all aspects of their operations.
- **SECTION 4. Deductibility.** All expenses incurred by any corporation in the exercise of its corporate social responsibility shall be fully deducted from its gross income.
- **SECTION 5. Periodic Report.** All corporations and other business organizations shall submit their annual report of activities relative to their corporate social responsibility not later than January 31 of each 'year.
- **SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The Department of Trade and Industry shall, in coordination with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Labor and Employment shall promulgate rules and regulates for the effective implementation of this Act and shall regularly monitor strict compliance therewith.
- **SECTION 7. Separability Clause**. If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 8.** Repealing Clause. - All laws, orders, rules or regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

**SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY** -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,