

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Third Regular Session

House Resolution No. 2228



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Introduced by Representatives **WES GATCHALIAN, STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO, JOHN REYNALD M. TIANGCO, and DAVID "JAY-JAY" C. SUAREZ**

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**A RESOLUTION**  
**STRONGLY URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO INCREASE THE FUNDS TO BE APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES, AND THE SMALL BUSINESS CORPORATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 FOR THE BENEFIT OF FILIPINO MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES**

**WHEREAS**, based on the 2020 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority, the recorded micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the Philippines constitute 99.51% of the country's businesses and is responsible for employing at least 5.38 million Filipinos;

**WHEREAS**, our MSMEs, from the fish ball vendor on the street, to the *sari-sari* store around the corner, and even to small home-based businesses, comprise the beating heart of the Philippine economy, but unfortunately, most of these fledgling businesses barely have the wherewithal to sustain their continued operations other than through their perseverance and toil;

**WHEREAS**, our lengthy battle against the COVID-19 pandemic which began in March 2020 has decimated our MSMEs and the stringent lockdown measures imposed to abate the spread of the virus has affected millions of jobs;

**WHEREAS**, despite government efforts in 2021 to help MSMEs by providing responsive government assistance and services, through capitalization and business support to help them adapt to our new normal, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) reported that, as of June 2021, 10% of MSMEs have already been forced to shut down permanently due to lack of sales or inability to cope with meager returns on investments;

**WHEREAS**, the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Rodrigo Roa Duterte, in his final State of the Nation Address, likewise recognized the vital role of MSMEs to economic activity, job creation, and poverty reduction;

**WHEREAS**, there is an immediate need to provide further assistance for the upskilling and reskilling of our MSMEs as we transition to digitalization in these new times and the frontline government agencies primed to assist MSMEs is the DTI, its attached agencies, and the Small Business Corporation (SB Corp.);

**WHEREAS**, these frontline government agencies may extend loans to registered and unregistered micro entrepreneurs ignored by the formal banking sector, give trainings for technology literacy, and provide a safe haven for MSMEs, affording them an opportunity to sustain an existing business or help them recover from the continuing difficulties brought about by the pandemic or;

**WHEREAS**, with the meager budget approved by the Department of Budget and Management for the DTI, its attached agencies, and the SB Corp., ***only a fraction of MSMEs will be served, contrary to the national government's intention for inclusive recovery amidst the worst crisis to affect our generation;***

**WHEREAS**, there is a critical and urgent need to increase the budget of the DTI, its attached agencies, and the SB Corp. for fiscal year 2022 in the amount Php1,623,500,000.00 to protect our country's economic heart and serve the MSMEs severely affected by the pandemic;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, the House of Representatives is urged to increase the funds to be appropriated to the Department of Trade and Industry, its attached

agencies, and the Small Business Corporation for Fiscal Year 2022 for the benefit of Filipino micro, small, and medium enterprises.

Adopted,




**HON. WES GATCHALIAN**  
*Deputy Speaker*



**HON. STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO**  
*Deputy Minority Leader*



**HON. JOHN REYNALD M. TIANGCO**  
*Chairman, Committee on Trade and Industry*



**HON. DAVID "JAY-JAY" C. SUAREZ**  
*Vice Chairperson, Committee on Appropriations*