



The Social Amelioration Program (SAP) was created in 1974 by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 621 providing for a mandatory payment of a Stabilization Fee of P1.00 per picul, which was later increased to P2.00 per picul pursuant to PD1209.

Prior to its establishment, the workers were provided benefits under Republic Act No. 809, the Sugar Act of 1952, which specifies a 3% workers' share in the sugar production as benefits to workers.

RA 809 otherwise known as the Sugar Act of 1952 is an act to regulate the relations among persons engaged in the sugar industry. It provides that proceeds of any increase in the milling participation granted to planters and above their present share shall be divided between the planters and their laborers/workers in the plantation. The distribution of the workers' share shall be made under the supervision of the Department of Labor. RA 809 covered only three milling districts (a) *Binalbagan-Isabela Sugar Company (BISCOM)*, (b) *Southern Negros Occidental Development Corporation (SONEDCO)* and (c) *San Carlos Milling Company*.

The SAP was further strengthened by the passage of the Sugar Amelioration Act of 1991 (RA 6982) with the provision of additional monetary and welfare benefits for sugar workers and with the institutionalization of a tripartite approach in policy formulation and program development and implementation. Section 7 of RA 6982 provides that effective crop year 1991-1992, a lien of P5.00 per picul of sugar shall be imposed on the gross production of sugar provided that there shall be an automatic additional lien of P1.00 for every two years for the succeeding ten years from the effectivity of this Act.

Also, under RA 6982, the National Tripartite Council also referred to as the Sugar Tripartite Council (STC) was created as the advisory body of the Department of Labor and Employment as regards the effective implementation of the social and economic programs for the workers in the sugar industry. The STC consists of ten members composed of the Secretary of Labor and Employment or his authorized representative as ex-officio Chairman; one representative from the Sugar Regulatory Administration; and two representatives each from planters sector, millers sector, mill workers sector and field workers sector, as members.

From crop year 2001-2002 to 2005-2006, the sugar lien under RA 6982 was P10.00 per picul and was allocated as follows:

Allocation of Sugar Lien of P10.00 per Picul

Items	Allocation
Cash Bonus Fund	80%
Socio-Economic Program Related Funds (SEPRF)	20%
Sugar Workers Maternity Benefit Fund (SWMBF)	3%
Sugar Workers Death Benefit Fund (SWDBF)	5%
Socio-Economic Project Fund (SEPF)	9%
Administrative Expense Fund (AEF)	3%
Total	20%

Sugar Workers Maternity Benefit Program (SWMBP)

As part of the socio-economic program for covered sugar workers, a maternity benefit of P2,000 shall be paid for every complete delivery, abortion or miscarriage of a covered woman sugar worker without prejudice to her enjoyment of other maternity benefits granted under existing laws or existing collective bargaining agreement; Provided, that maternity benefits shall be enjoyed only for the first four (4) deliveries.

Coverage

The maternity benefit shall extend to a woman sugar worker whose employment at the time of her delivery, abortion, or miscarriage has been certified by her employer.

Condition and requirement for entitlement

A claim for maternity benefit shall be filed with the DOLE Provincial Offices having jurisdiction over the workplace or residence of the covered woman worker within three (3) years counted from the date of her delivery, abortion or miscarriage, otherwise her claim shall be barred.

The application of the maternity benefit must be supported by the following documents:

1. In case of live birth:
 - a) Certified true copy of certificate of live birth duly authenticated by the Local Civil Registrar; or
 - b) In case of unavailability of the same, an affidavit by the claimant attesting to the fact of delivery or childbirth; and
 - c) Certified copy of certificate of employment.

2. In case of abortion or miscarriage:
 - a) Medical certificate issued by a competent physician, a midwife or "komadrona" attesting to the fact that such abortion or miscarriage was unintentional; or
 - b) In case of unavailability of an attending physician, a midwife or "komadrona", an affidavit attesting to the fact to the abortion or miscarriage; and
 - c) Certified copy of certificate of employment.

Sugar Workers Death Benefit Program (SWDBP)

Another part of the socio-economic program for covered sugar workers is the provision of death benefit amounting to P7,000 as financial assistance to defray the cost of funeral and related expenses payable to the heirs or beneficiaries of the deceased covered sugar worker.

Coverage

The Sugar Workers Death Benefit Program (SWDBP) shall cover mill and field workers/employees, farm-owners/cultivators and lessees, and employees of planters' association/cooperatives and national organizations of sugar producers.

Order of preference of beneficiaries

The death benefit shall be paid to the beneficiaries of a deceased sugar worker in the following order of preference.

1. *In case the deceased was married:*
 - 1.1) Surviving legitimate spouse; or
 - 1.2) Legitimate, legitimated, legally adopted or acknowledged illegitimate child; or
 - 1.3) Legitimate ascendant; or
 - 1.4) In default of the foregoing, any other person who can show incontrovertible proof of his/her having paid for the funeral and related expenses.

2. *In case the deceased was an unmarried individual and/or head of the family:*
 - 2.1) Legitimate, legally adopted or acknowledged illegitimate child; or
 - 2.2) Legitimate ascendant; or
 - 2.3) Legitimate brother or sister who spent for the funeral and related expenses; or
 - 2.4) In the absence of the above, any other person who can show incontrovertible proof of having paid for the funeral and related expenses.

Condition and requirement for entitlement

The claimant shall file an application for death benefit with the DOLE Provincial Offices having jurisdiction over the workplace or residence of the deceased covered worker within three (3) years counted from the date of death of such covered worker, otherwise her claim shall be barred.

The application shall be supported by an affidavit executed by the claimant attesting to relationship with the deceased covered worker, and the fact that the claimant is the beneficiary to the exclusion of others.