

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 700

Introduced by REP. JUDY J. SYJUCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every Filipino is black and blue from a series of wild punches thrown from all directions. Kidnappings here, inflation there. A dwindling economy. A restive labor sector. A fetid bureaucracy. Traditional alliances have broken up and new and broader formations are coalescing.

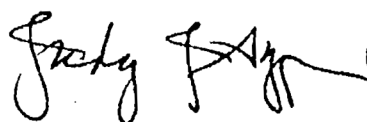
We are thrust into the maelstrom, inured by demands of everyday survival, challenged by oppressions that confront us, and now sinking into the quicksand of our times.

Today, the Filipino family is staggering in poverty and a worsening economic crisis. According to an IBON Foundation-sponsored study, it is estimated that seventy-seven percent (77%) of the Filipino families today are living far below decent standards – an immediate consequence of job scarcity and depressed wage level. Likewise, IBON estimates that thirty-six percent (36%) of the labor force is job-starved and the so-called minimum wage fulfills only forty-nine (49%) of the requirements for decent living.

The worsening poverty breeds numerous economic as well as social problems, as the Filipino families, the parents and their children strive and struggle to live on meager incomes to be able to survive daily and raise themselves from the quagmires of poverty. Because of these and several other problems, granting an exemption from income and withholding taxes for all Filipino employees and workers nationwide receiving less than Fifteen Thousand Pesos (15,000) monthly wage is only humane.

Now, more than ever, the clamor for an income tax and withholding tax exemption for those earning below Fifteen Thousand Pesos (15,000) is just, since it is a positive step towards attaining the level of decent living. It is just, humane, and quite feasible, because it is a clamor for reasonable tax exemptions that is based on workers' productivity and economic viability of business.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JUDY J. SYJUCO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 200

Introduced by REP. JUDY J. SYJUCO

AN ACT
GRANTING ALL FILIPINO EMPLOYEES AND WORKERS NATIONWIDE
RECEIVING LESS THAN FIFTEEN THOUSAND PESOS (P15,000) MONTHLY
WAGE AN EXEMPTION FROM INCOME AND WITHHOLDING TAXES

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Income and Withholding Tax Exemption of 2004."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – Pursuant to Section 9, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, "the State is mandated to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all." Likewise, Section 18, Article II, affirms labor as a primary social economic force and that it shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.

SECTION 3. Granting of Exemption from Income Tax and Withholding Tax. – A tax exemption from income and withholding taxes shall be granted to all Filipino employees and workers nationwide receiving less than Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000) monthly wage in view of the rising costs of living in the country.

SECTION 4. Penal Clause – Any violation of the provisions of this Act shall be penalized with a fine of not less than P 50,000.00 and not more than P200,000.00 depending on the gravity of the offense.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this law are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,