

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3368



Introduced by **Hon. Rodolfo G. Biazon**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is a member of the community of nations. As such, "*...it adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the laws of the land and adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with all nations.*" (Section 2, Article II, 1987 Philippine Constitution). Furthermore, it pursues an independent foreign policy and "*... in its relations with other states the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination.*" (Section 7, Article II, 1987 Philippine Constitution).

The crafting and handling of our foreign relations fall within the jurisdictional ambit of the Department of Foreign Affairs pursuant to Republic Act 7157, otherwise known as the Philippine Foreign Service Act. The law also created the Career Foreign Service Corps whose members represent our country abroad and provided for their compensation and other benefits while on such assignment.

Due to technological advances and the ever-changing and evolving political, economic, social and security environments, international relations have become more intricate and complex necessitating the participation and involvement of technical personnel who are tasked to project their respective departments, bureaus and agencies in the international community on such varied subjects as trade, tourism, labor, agriculture and defense. These personnel are designated as service attaches and are provided with assimilated diplomatic ranks while stationed abroad. They receive their compensation, to include other allowances and benefits, from their respective offices/agencies.

However, information from some service attaches disclosed some variance insofar as the allowances and other benefits which they receive *vis-à-vis* their counterparts in the Department of Foreign Affairs. There is therefore a need to standardize the foreign allowances and other benefits of the former by making the same at par with the latter based on their having the same

diplomatic ranks. This will motivate and serve as incentive to these service attaches in the performance of their duties.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rodolfo G. Biazon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RODOLFO G. BIAZON
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3368**

Introduced by **Hon. Rodolfo G. Biazon**

AN ACT

STANDARDIZING THE ALLOWANCES, PER DIEMS, TRAVEL EXPENSES AND OTHER BENEFITS OF SERVICE ATTACHES FROM THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS AND AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ON DETAIL ABROAD WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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

Section 1. *Declaration of Policy* – It is the policy of the government to continuously enhance professionalism in the Civil Service by , among others, standardizing the compensation of its members thereby providing them with the incentive to exert their utmost in the performance of their duties.

Sec. 2. *Appointment of Service Attaches* – The authority to appoint service attaches shall be vested with the secretaries of the departments sending said officials on detail abroad.

Sec. 3. *Assignment and Accreditation of Service Attaches* – The assignment and accreditation of personnel from other departments, bureaus and agencies of the government as service attaches to embassies abroad shall have the prior clearance of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Sec. 4. *Allowances, Per diems, Travel Expenses and Other Benefits of Service Attaches Stationed Abroad* – While stationed abroad, service attaches shall receive, when applicable, the same allowances, per diems, travel expenses and other benefits being received by their counterparts from the Department of Foreign Affairs based on their assimilated diplomatic ranks.

Sec. 5. *Responsibility of the Departments, Bureaus and Agencies of Service Attaches* – The departments, bureaus and agencies of the service attaches concerned shall be primarily responsible for and be the source of the financial requirements in the implementation of this Act.

Sec. 6. *Appropriations* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the government agencies of the service attaches in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

Sec 7. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Act are hereby considered repealed and/or amended accordingly.

Sec. 8. *Separability Clause* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 9. *Effectivity Clause* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,