



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5702**



Introduced by Honorable MARK A. VILLAR

AN ACT
INCREASING THE COMBAT DUTY PAY AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE OF
ALL PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES TO
TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%) OF THEIR BASE PAY AND TO TWO HUNDRED
FIFTY (P250.00) PER DAY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The primary task of our armed forces – to protect our people – requires from them an ultimate sacrifice in the service of our nation. Their enormous responsibility includes protection of Filipinos, as well as securing the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory.

Given the risks and discomforts to which our military men and women are exposed, they should at least be paid adequately, not only as a form of compensation, but more importantly to recognize their service under conditions of extreme and uncontrollable risk.¹ And yet, these uniformed men and women are among the lowest paid public servants.

The 1987 Constitution recognizes the adequate remuneration of the Armed Forces as prime concerns of the State. However, reality does not conform to this ideal. The men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) receive only Five Hundred (PhP500.00) per month in combat pay, and One Hundred Fifty (P150.00) per day in subsistence allowance.

¹ Brandon R. Gould and Stanley A. Horowitz, "History of Combat Pay," in *The Eleventh Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation* (2011).

These amounts that the brave men and women of the AFP receive are not commensurate with the tremendous responsibility with which they are burdened. In order to properly give recognition to the service of our uniformed men and women, and to aid in boosting their morale, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Villar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

SECTION 1. Increase in Combat Duty Pay and Subsistence Allowance. -

In line with the declared policy of the State to promote professionalism in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and ensure the adequate remuneration and benefits of its members, the Combat Duty Pay of all AFP personnel is hereby increased from five hundred pesos (P500.00) per month to an amount equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%) of their base pay. Likewise, the Subsistence Allowance of all AFP Personnel is hereby increased from One Hundred Fifty Pesos (P150.00) per day to Two Hundred Fifty Pesos (P250.00) per day.

SEC. 2. Appropriation. - Such amount as may be necessary to implement this Act for the current year shall be charged against the savings of the Department of National Defense (DND). Thereafter, the National Government shall appropriate annually and include in the General Appropriations Act the amount corresponding to the total annual cost of the increase in Combat Duty Pay and in Subsistence Allowance.

SEC. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DND in coordination with the AFP shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 4. Repealing Clause. - All provisions of any other laws, orders, acts, decrees as well as rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. Separability Clause. - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,