

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
17th CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **7870**



Introduced by *Representative* **Wes Gatchalian**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

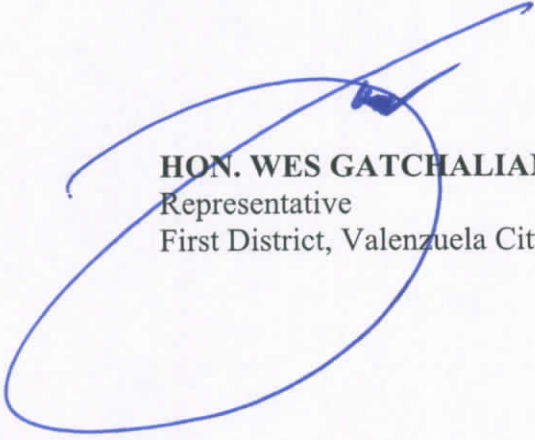
Prosecutors discharge a vital and indispensable role in the Philippine Criminal Justice System. They handle inquests and investigations, during which they come face to face with respondents charged with offences ranging from simple felonies up to the most heinous crimes. They prosecute accused ranging from first time offenders, up to the most hard-core and well-connected criminals.

It is thus without doubt that the risk and perils to prosecutors' lives are real, and yet to this date prosecutors are not among government personnel with Hazard Pay. There is therefore the need to reassess existing policies and measures to protect prosecutors who are vulnerable and are constantly at risk.

Records shows that as of date, Quezon Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Reymund Luna, Mati City Prosecutor Rolando Acido, Quezon City Prosecutor Johanne Noel Mingao, Caloocan Assistant City Prosecutor, Rizal Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Maria Ronatay, Mandaluyong City Prosecutor Pablito Gahol, and Quezon City Deputy Prosecutor Rogelio Velasco were executed in broad day light. Indeed, far too many are the anecdotes of threats and actual killings of our honest men and women whose fault is nothing more than to faithfully do their job.

In addition, granting Hazard Pay is not only a recognition to the risk that prosecutors put themselves in, it is also a mechanism that ensures the independence of our prosecutors. While truly indeed there is no price that can purchase an honest integrity, this added remuneration shields an honest man from the possibility of temptation.

Approval of the bill is earnestly sought.


HON. WES GATCHALIAN
Representative
First District, Valenzuela City

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**AN ACT GRANTING HAZARD PAY
TO ALL PUBLIC PROSECUTORS, ASSOCIATE PROSECUTION
ATTORNEYS AND PROSECUTION ATTORNEYS DURING THEIR
INCUMBENCY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Hazard Pay for all Prosecutors Act."

SECTION 2. *Grant of Hazard Pay.* - All duly appointed public prosecutors, including associate prosecution attorneys and prosecution attorneys of the National Prosecution Service shall be granted hazard pay during their incumbency in the amount equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%) of their basic monthly salary per month.

SECTION 3. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the available appropriations of the National Prosecution Service under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. *Tax Exemption and Non-Diminution of Benefits.* - The hazard pay for prosecutors, associate prosecution attorneys and prosecution attorneys shall not be subject to tax and nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, in any manner, any benefit granted by existing laws, rules and regulations, local ordinances and other issuances especially favorable to duly appointed prosecutors, associate prosecution attorneys and prosecution attorneys of the National Prosecution Service.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Budget and Management, in consultation with the National Prosecution Service, shall within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SECTION. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All existing laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, superseded, or repealed accordingly.

Approved,