

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

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8154



Introduced by Hon. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Today there are about 8 million Filipinos who are over 60 years of age and the number and proportion of senior citizens is growing. From 6.3 million in 2010 to 7.6 million in 2015¹, the number of senior citizens is expected to reach 11.7 million by 2025, and 22.6 million in 2045.² By 2020, the elderly population is estimated to increase from 6.8% in 2010 to 9.5% of the population. According to the Commission on Population (2018), the estimate places the Philippines closer to having an aging population.

Population ageing is one of humanity's greatest triumphs. The World Health Organization explains that population ageing partly reflects our successes in dealing with childhood disease, maternal mortality and in helping women achieve control over their own fertility. However, population ageing is "poised to become a major issue in developing countries"³. This includes possible strain to pension and social security system, increasing demand for acute and primary health care and long term care, and larger and better health workforce.

In response to these challenges and in affirming the significant contribution of the senior citizens, the Philippines recognizes the need to put in place policies and programs that do not only entitle the senior citizens to adequate social services, promotion of their full employment and to raise their standard of living but also actualize opportunities for continued and active participation in national development.⁴ In fact, the Philippine Constitution clearly articulates the broad policy framework relative to older persons. Article XV, Section 4 provides that "it is the duty of the family to take care of its elderly members while the state may design programs of social security for them".

¹ Philippines Statistics Authority, Census of Population and Household

² Philippines Statistics Authority, Population Estimates

³ 2002 Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing

⁴ Lucentales (n.d) The Philippine Response to the Challenges of Ageing.

A number of laws has also been passed to meet the needs of the ageing population which includes the following: Republic Act 9994 or Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010; Republic Act 10645 or the Mandatory PhilHealth Coverage of All Senior Citizens; and Republic Act 7876 or the Senior Citizens Center Act of the Philippines.

On the other hand, the Philippines supports global agreements on ageing as formulated during the 1982 First World Assembly on Ageing in Vienna and also has affirmed its support to the 1992 UN General Assembly's commitment to formulate a Plan of Action on Ageing for the 21st Century.⁵ During the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid, the Philippines also supported the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA 2002).

Translating into action the enabling policies of global and domestic dimensions, the Office of the President issued last July 17, 2000 Executive Order No. 266 which approved and adopted the Philippine Plan of Action for Older Persons (PPAOP) for 1999-2004. The Executive Order mandated for the organization of National Inter-Agency Committee (NIAC) that will shepherd the implementation of the action plan. The PPAOP, now the Philippine Plan of Action for Senior Citizens (PPASC), contained the country's vision for senior citizens and the major action steps to institute appropriate policies, strategies, mechanisms and programs/projects.

Despite the tremendous efforts to pursue policies, programs, and plans for senior citizens' welfare and development, a recent report reveal that "the nation is not prepared to meet the needs of the influx of aging Filipinos".⁶ Challenges remain in concretizing long-term and cohesive plans and programs for the ageing population and mandating a budget allocation.

This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize PPASC that will serve as the point of synergy of all efforts directed towards the promotion of the wellbeing of the senior citizens and mandates government agencies, local government units, government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and other instrumentalities to allocate at least 5% of their respective total budgets for programs, activities and projects (PAPs) that address the needs and uphold the rights of senior citizens.

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



MILAGROS AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Badana, Adrian & Andel, Ross. (2018). Aging in the Philippines. *The Gerontologist*. 58. 212-218. 10.1093/geront/gnx203.

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AN ACT
MANDATING ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS,
OFFICES, AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS, GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNMENT OWNED AND CONTROLLED
CORPORATIONS AND, STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES TO
ALLOCATE FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THEIR ANNUAL ALLOTMENT
FOR PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the roles of senior citizens in nation-building and community development. Thus, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide senior citizens with programs, projects and activities that will effectively address their needs.

SECTION 2. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover all national government agencies, executive departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, commissions, state universities and colleges.

Consistent with the provisions of this Section 6 of this Act, government financial institutions, government owned and controlled corporations and local government units shall create and issue separate guidelines to their respective Boards or Sangguniang Bayan.

SECTION 3. *Special Allocation for Senior Citizens.* – All local government units, government controlled and owned corporations, government financial institutions, government agencies, commissions and state universities and colleges and other concerned offices shall annually allocate at least five percent (5%) of their respective budget for the implementation of plans, projects, activities and services for senior citizens, in accordance with the Philippine Plan of Action for Senior Citizens.

SECTION 4. *Philippine Plan of Action For Senior Citizens.* – All local government units, government controlled and owned corporations, government financial institutions, government agencies, commissions and state universities and colleges and other concerned offices are hereby enjoined to submit their annual plans and projects for senior citizens, within the context of their mandate, to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, through the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board, or through any agency as mandated by Congress. This ensures consistency with the national policy for senior citizens.

SECTION 5. *Submission of the Annual Budget to the DBM.* – In relation with Section 3 and 4 of this Act, all national government agencies, executive departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, commissions, state universities and colleges shall include the same special allocation in their respective detailed budget estimates before complying with the Annual Budget Call of the Department of Budget and Management.

SECTION 6. *Programs, Projects and Activities for Senior Citizens.* – In conforming with the Philippine Plan of Action for Senior Citizens, the funds shall be utilized for the implementation of programs, projects, activities and services which will address the needs of senior citizens, in either, but not limited to the following:

A. *Information and Communication Campaign and Advocacy* -

Increase the level of awareness of the general public and policy makers on aging, and prevention of discrimination against and abuse of senior citizens, contextualizing the concept of people empowerment and creating venues for the various sectors to express their own opinions and views on the national and local issues on the matter; Inform the general population on the programs and services of

specific agencies on senior citizens; Develop information tools to highlight the roles of senior citizens in community development; generate additional resources and needed technical support for programs, projects, activities and services for subject sectors.

- B. Education, Human Resource Development and Capability Building** – Formal and non-formal education program; livelihood training; vocational skills training, care-giving training for family members of senior citizens; counseling, professional guidance and family therapy for emotional support for family caregivers; specialized skills training for professionals and service providers.
- C. Provision of Employment Opportunities either in self, open or sheltered employment**
- D. Protection and Safety Program for Senior Citizens** – In compliance with the requirements of Batas Pambansa 344 (Accessibility Law), to provide senior citizens friendly facilities
- E. Advancement of Health and Well-being** – Senior Citizens-focused programs and policies on health specifically for disease prevention, health promotion and wellness of mind, body and spirit. Health programs shall include preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care services and facilities in all government hospitals which includes maintenance medicines, health supplements, laboratory services, check-ups, among others.
- F. Group Home/Foster Home for Neglected, Abandoned, and Detached Senior Citizens**
- G. Senior Citizens Centers, Local Health Facilities and other Community-based Facilities for Senior Citizens**
- H. Policy Development and Legislation in promoting the rights, full participation and equality of senior citizens in the development process**
- I. Other programs, projects, activities and services the agencies may implement to address the need of the senior citizens as in relation**

to their respective mandates. The budget allocated for the existing client-focused and organizational focused programs and activities for senior citizens should be attributed as part of the five percent (5%) allocation.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Budget and Management, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, shall issue rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,