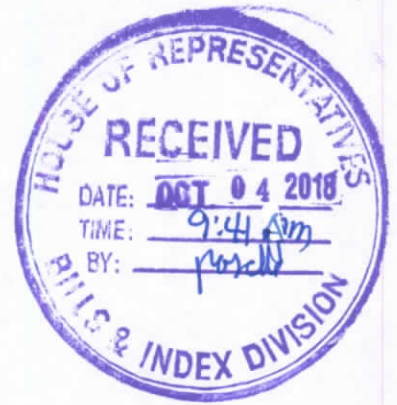


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Third Regular Session

**House Bill No. 8366**



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Introduced by **1-CARE Representative Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta**

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**Explanatory Note**

Being located in what is known as the Typhoon Belt, the Philippines is one of the most prone countries to the onslaught of natural disasters and calamities. The Philippines has consistently been in the top five (5) of most disaster-prone countries. In 2017 alone, 22 tropical cyclones entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) while 6 major earthquakes with the magnitude greater than 6.0 shook the grounds. Natural hazards like these pose a great danger to the general welfare of the people as well as destruction to property and infrastructure. Accordingly, electricity, which plays a very vital role in our everyday lives, is one of the first to go down after such occurrences. Its importance is magnified as rescue and relief operations and ensuring national security after a calamity depend greatly on the availability of electricity.

As such, the national government has made it a top priority to ensure the continuous supply of electric service after natural disasters and calamities. In 2002, the National Electrification Administration (NEA), headed by then Administration and Presidential Adviser on Rural Electrification, Fr. Francisco Silva, launched the Task Force Kapatid (TFK). The TFK is a volunteer service whereby Electric Cooperatives (ECs) work together to mobilize their personnel and logistics to assist other ECs needing immediate rehabilitation and reconstruction of their infrastructures and distribution lines damaged by natural disasters and calamities to restore their services.

The TFK has effectively mobilized thousands of volunteers for the immediate restoration of power in provinces badly damaged by natural disasters and calamities. These volunteers have worked for hours on end under adverse and unforgiving conditions in disaster-stricken areas in order to immediately restore power in those calamity and disaster affected areas. To this day, there are at least twenty-seven (27) TFKs that were mobilized, with TFK-Lanao del Sur being the first to be mobilized. It has since benefited twenty-one (21) lakeshore barangays and re-energized eight (8) towns in the said province. In 2013, the world's strongest typhoon to make a landfall in the Philippines, Yolanda, set record-high damages to the infrastructures of ECs causing nationwide power outages. Thereafter, TFK-Yolanda was immediately mobilized setting a record high of around one thousand two hundred (1,200) volunteers from seventy (70) ECs and eleven (11) industry partners who worked 24/7 to restore power. TFK-Yolanda volunteers tirelessly and painstakingly worked to rehabilitate damaged power lines, dig holes, and erect poles while helping burying dead bodies and clearing the streets of tons of debris without due regard to their own security and safety.

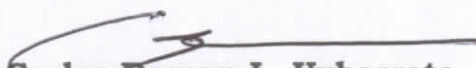
For their bravery, the House of Representatives and the Department of Energy passed a resolution to commend the Task Force Kapatid for their heroism, selflessness and sacrifice.

The TFK not only are confronted with adverse conditions left behind by typhoons or calamities but they are also put to the danger of losing lives and limbs. Such is the case when a lineman, Jomar D. Betonio of Southern Leyte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOLECO), was deployed as part of Typhoon Kapatid Lawin to restore the services of Cagayan I Electric Cooperative Inc., (CAGELCO I). Mr. Betonio died of electrocution while fixing a power line in Solana, Cagayan. Another lineman-member of the Typhoon Kapatid Lawin also suffered from electrocution but fortunately survived.

The dangers and unfortunate incidents which may befall upon the TFK has not hindered them from continuing to help others. Once again, they have responded to the call of the cooperatives stricken by Typhoon Ompong. The TFK Ompong is composed of 105 linemen from various electric cooperatives deployed to Cagayan to help in the restoration of power.

Indeed, TFK volunteers have been giving selfless and generous service notwithstanding the dangers they face each time they are deployed. TFK volunteers should have been given what is due them a long time ago. Granting them a hazard pay is a way of returning the favor and showing gratitude and appreciation for all the help that they have extended.

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

  
**Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta**  
Representative, 1-CARE Party-List

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**AN ACT GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO ALL LINEMEN VOLUNTEERS OF THE  
TASK FORCE KAPATID AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**Section 1.** This Act shall be known as the 'Task Force Kapatid Hazard Pay Act of 2018.'

**Section 2.** Every *bonafide* member of the Task Force Kapatid shall be granted a hazard pay upon deployment, in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (2000.00 PHP).

**Section 3.** The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) under the General Appropriations Act.

**Section 4.** The NDRRMC shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within six (6) months from the approval thereof.

**Section 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.