

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



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

8003

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by

Senior Citizens Party-List Representative RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OR 'AN ACT HONORING AND GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO FILIPINO CENTENARIANS,' AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates the State to design programs of social security for our elderly.¹ In consideration of this mandate, the State passed the Centenarians Act of 2016 ("Centenarians Act").² However, while the motivation behind the Centenarians Act was noble, it was not enough. While the law provides a social safety net to those who reached the age of 100, those who also need it the most such as our senior citizens who reached the age of 80 do not get the opportunity to be part of its coverage. In fact, out of over 110 million Filipinos for the year 2020, only 952 of them were able to avail of the PhP 100,000 Centenarian Cash Gift³ or about 0.00000952% of the Philippine population. Furthermore, assuming they do avail of the cash gift, the limitations brought about by their age restrict them from fully enjoying it.

This situation is unfair for our elderly. Thus, this bill seeks to graduate the distribution of the centenarian cash gift and allow those aged 80 to avail of it at PhP 25,000 increments every

¹ 1987 Phil. Const., Art. XV, Sec. 4.

² Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10868, 23 June 2016.

³ Philippine News Agency, *DSWD expects 952 centenarians to get P100K cash gift this year*, 23 July 2020, Retrieved from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1109854>.

5 years until they reach the age of 100. Furthermore, once they reach the age of 100, our elderly will get an opportunity to again avail of the centenarian's gift of PhP 100,000. This policy will help our senior citizens truly enjoy the twilight of their lives and give them the proper recognition they deserve.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RODOLFO' with a stylized flourish.

RODOLFO "OMPANG" M. ORDANES

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10868 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 2. *Letter of Felicitation and Cash Gift.* – All Filipinos who reach the age of one hundred (100) years old, whether residing in the Philippines or abroad, shall be honored with:

(a) A Letter of Felicitation from the President of the Philippines congratulating the celebrant for his or her longevity; and

(b) A [Centenarian] **CASH** Gift in the amount of **TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P25,000.00) WHEN THEY REACH THE AGES OF 80, 85, 90, AND 95 YEARS OLD, AND** one hundred thousand pesos (P 100,000.00) **WHEN REACHING THE AGE OF 100.**

SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any section, clause, or term of this Act is held to be illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, such parts not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, or issuance, executive orders, letters of instruction, rules, or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. *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 general circulation, whichever comes first.

Approved.