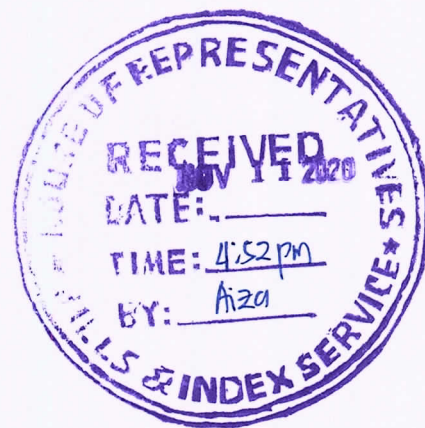


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **8004**



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

AN ACT HONORING AND GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO FILIPINO SENIOR CITIZENS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATIONAL BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our Senior Citizens remain to be one of the most at-risk and economically vulnerable demographic in the Philippines. According to studies, they become more economically vulnerable as they age since they are less likely to find or have employment while their medical expenses continue to pile up due to ill health, disability, or increasing family responsibilities.¹ Moreover, out of the projected 8.8% of the Philippine population which will comprise of senior citizens, studies suggest that only 2 out of 10 of them will benefit from retirement/ old-age pensions.² Meanwhile, only three million seven hundred ninety-six thousand seven hundred ninety-one (3,796,791) of the indigent senior citizens will be covered by the existing government social pension program.³ Thus, under the existing

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). 2019. *Labstat Updates: Decent Work in the Philippines: Statistics on Social Security* (Report No. ISSN 0118-8747) Retrieved from https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/Labstat%20Updates%20Vol%2023%20No%201%20Decent%20Work%20Social%20Security_0.pdf

² *Id.*

³ Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). 2019. *Social Pension Physical Accomplishment Report as of 31 December 2019*.

measures, almost fifty-five percent (55%) of the senior citizens will receive no pension at all.⁴ Thus, our current measures are clearly inadequate to protect our vulnerable senior citizens since it leaves millions of them outside the protection of our government. In addition to the above, the current monthly social pension of five hundred pesos (PhP 500.00) for indigent senior citizens is not enough to augment their daily expenses since the cost of living in the Philippines, not including rent, is now estimated to be around Twenty-six thousand eight hundred forty-nine pesos (PhP 26,849).⁵ Thus, given the facts above, millions of senior citizens are at a high risk of economic insecurity and resulting poverty.

The plight of the senior citizens runs contrary to the 1987 Philippine Constitution which mandates that the State has a duty to care for its elderly members through programs of social security⁶ and the State's policy under existing laws which emphasizes its mandate to re-affirm the valued Filipino tradition of caring for the senior citizens and foster their capacity to attain more meaningful and productive aging.⁷

Thus, this bill seeks to provide all senior citizens with the economic security they deserve and secure their welfare as mandated by the Philippines Constitution and other relevant laws by providing a one thousand pesos (PhP 1,000.00) monthly social pension to all senior citizens, without any distinctions.

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


RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

⁴ Galvez, D. (21 January 2019). Philippines to have an 'aging population' between 2030 and 2035 – CPD.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1075493/philippines-to-have-aging-population-between-2030-and-2035-cpd>

⁵ Numbeo.com. (2020). *Cost of Living in Manila*. [online] Available at: <https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Manila>.

⁶ Phil. Const. Art. XV Section 4.

⁷ Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010.

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

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

SECTION 1. Insertion of new paragraphs (i) and (j) in Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9994 to be read as follows:

"SEC. 2. Definition of terms. – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

" xxx

- (i) SOCIAL PENSION REFERS TO A NON-CONTRIBUTORY MONETARY GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND MEDICAL NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS WHICH SHALL AMOUNT TO NO LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,000.00) PER MONTH.**

- (j) **PENSION PROVIDER REFERS TO ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICE OR AGENCY OR ANY PRIVATE ENTITY WHICH PROVIDES PENSIONS TO ENTITLED RECIPIENTS ON THE BASIS OF CONTRIBUTIONS, GRATUITY, OR AS MANDATED BY ANY GOVERNING LAW OR ISSUANCE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS), THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS) AND THE PENSION AND GRATUITY MANAGEMENT CENTER (PGMC), AMONG OTHERS.**

SECTION 2. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9994 is hereby amended, to read as follows:

" SEC. 5. *Government Assistance.* – The government shall provide the following:

(h) Additional Government Assistance

(1) **MANDATORY** Social Pension

"[Indigent] ALL senior citizens, **WHETHER RECEIVING A PENSION FROM ANY PENSION PROVIDER**, shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to [Five hundred] **AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND** pesos (Php[500] **1,000.00**) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs. [of senior citizens, subject to a review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD.]

THE DSWD SHALL PREPARE A ROSTER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION BASED ON A CENTRAL DATABASE WHICH INCLUDES THE CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING AND A COMPILATION OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF ALL PENSION PROVIDERS. THE SSS, GSIS, PGMC, AND OTHER PENSION PROVIDERS SHALL PROVIDE THE DSWD WITH ACCESS TO THEIR ROSTER OF BENEFICIARIES EVERY MONTH FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY WILL LIKEWISE PROVIDE THE DSWD WITH TIMELY ACCESS TO PERTINENT DATA FOR THIS PURPOSE.

THE DSWD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM), AS WELL AS OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, SHALL REVIEW AND WHEN NECESSARY, ADJUST THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL PENSION EVERY TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND PUBLISHED BY PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES: PROVIDED, THAT THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT INITIALLY SPECIFIED IN THIS ACT.

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THE IMPLEMENTATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE DSWD TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC) WITHIN A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.

Social safety assistance intended to cushion the effects of economic shocks, disasters, and calamities shall be available for senior citizens. The social safety assistance which shall include, but not limited to, food, medicines, and financial assistance for domicile repair, shall be sourced from the disaster/calamity funds of LGUs where the senior citizens reside, subject to the guidelines to be issued by the [DSWD] **NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SENIOR CITIZENS."**

SECTION 3. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC) SHALL FORMULATE AND ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE EXISTING RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994 TO CARRY OUT THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS ACT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF), DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT), THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL (HUDCC), THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (DOTC), NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA), DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED), TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), AND FIVE (5) NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) OR PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS (POs) FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS DULY ACCREDITED BY THE DSWD.

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION. – THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL WITHIN A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT SHALL BE ADDED TO THE REGULAR APPROPRIATION OF THE DSWD BUDGET IN THE GAA. THEREAFTER, THE REGULAR APPROPRIATION FOR THE MONTHLY SOCIAL

PENSION FOR SENIOR CITIZEN SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET OF THE NCSC.

SECTION 5. 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 6. 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 7. 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.