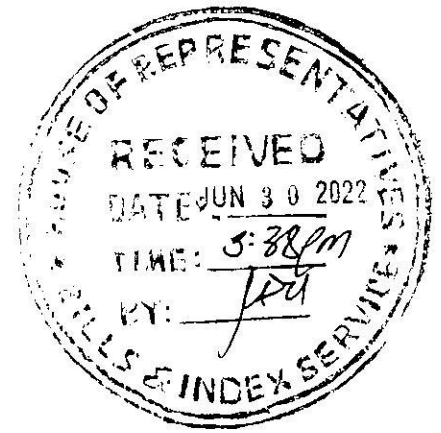


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH (19th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **300**



Introduced by **HONORABLE LORETO "AMBEN" S. AMANTE**
Third (3rd) Legislative District, Province of Laguna

AN ACT
TO AMEND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CENTENARIANS ACT OF 2016
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

An immemorial aphorism is articulated, in the vernacular, as "*Aanhin pa ang damo kung patay na ang kabayo*". Undoubtedly praiseworthy of our Congress is the monumental passage of Republic Act No. 10868 or otherwise known as the "Centenarians Act of 2016". Certainly, this Act wholeheartedly illuminated the Constitutional mandate of providing just programs on social security for the elderly population of our society.

Nevertheless, while this Act is primarily contemplated to honor or pay tribute to our centenarians for longevity, it shall further strengthen our Constitutional commitment to provide adequate social services and improved quality of life to our elders if and when such law will benefit more of our senior citizens, amidst their stage of life needing the most of the blessings of the law.

It is in this light that the undersigned intends to amend the prevailing law by providing staggered manner of benefit availment, owing to the fact that since the implementation commencement of the current law, the allocated budget as per the annual GAA remained in excess of actual recipients. Likewise, due consideration on refraining from any significant budget increase was also taken into account in this proposed bill, given the present national economic position due to the continuing health emergency, the prayed culmination of which still lingered beyond sight.

Regrettably, the country's life expectancy range, at the present time, is at an alarming state whereby available data would evince that an average Filipino residing in the country has a lifespan of only 69.3 years¹ or 71.23 years². And at such age, it may be safely envisioned that most of our elders are already enduring certain health complications. Further, factual evaluation of our annual GAA³ earmarked for the implementation of the 2016 Centenarians Act plainly manifested considerable budgetary excess which can be utilized well to amplify the benefits of the law in favor of other age

¹<http://www.who.int/gho/countries/phl/en/>;

² datacatalog.worldbank.org; <https://knoema.com/atlas/Philippines/topics/Demographics/Age/Life-expectancy-at-birth>;

³ p.94, Vol.1B, GAA, 2017; p. 13, Vol.1B, GAA, 2018; p. 329, Vol.1B, GAA, 2019; p.84, Vol.1B, GAA, 2020; p. 309, Vol.1B, GAA, 2021; and p. 295, Vol.1B, GAA, 2022;

brackets. Thus, the proposed bill seeks to diffuse the P100,000.00 Cash Gift devoted to each of our centenarian by relatively reducing it into P50,000.00 while extending such monetary benefit to those reaching Seventy (70) years old by granting each of them P10,000.00, and to those reaching Eighty (80) and Ninety (90) years old, respectively, by granting each of them P20,000.00.

Indisputably, the scheduled amounts in the proposed bill would not endure throughout the next availment, given the 10-year gap for every prescribed monetary benefit, but the emphatic value of which, most especially to the ailing or underprivileged sector of our elderly population, would be worthy enough to augment their pecuniary or medical needs. Stated differently, it may not be sufficiently enough, but clearly an apparent step of determined assertion that the Government cares.

Foregoing premises considered, the approval of this proposed measure is hereby most solemnly sought.



LORETO "AMBEN" S. AMANTE

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TO AMEND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CENTENARIANS ACT OF 2016
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 **SEVENTY (70), EIGHTY (80) , NINETY (90) AND** 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 **UPON REACHING THE AGE OF ONE HUNDRED (100) YEARS OLD;** and

(b) A [Centenarian] **CASH** Gift in the amount of **TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P 10,000.00) UPON REACHING THE AGE OF SEVENTY (70) YEARS OLD; TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P 20,000.00) UPON REACHING THE AGE OF EIGHTY (80) YEARS OLD; TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P 20,000.00) UPON REACHING THE AGE OF NINETY (90) YEARS OLD AND [one hundred] FIFTY thousand pesos [P100,000.00] (P 50,000.00) UPON REACHING THE AGE OF ONE HUNDRED (100) YEARS OLD.**

PROVIDED, THAT ALL QUALIFIED FILIPINOS WHO HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF SEVENTY (70), EIGHTY (80) AND NINETY (90) YEARS OLD PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT SHALL LIKEWISE RECEIVE THE CORRESPONDING CASH GIFT/S PROVIDED ABOVE.”

SECTION 2. A new section denominated as Section 5 of the same Act is hereby added to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. LEAD IMPLEMENTING AGENCY.- THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC) SHALL IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.”

SECTION 3. Section 5 of the same Act is hereby renumbered as Section 6 and hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. [5] 6. Funding. - [During the initial year of the implementation of this Act, the requisite fund shall be sourced from the available funds of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and subsequently] The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.”

SECTION 4. Section 6 of the same Act is hereby renumbered as Section 7 and hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. [6] 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCSC, IN CONSULTATION WITH the Secretaries of the DSWD, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Health, [and] the Executive Director of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, AND THE UNDERSECRETARY OF THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS OFFICE, shall promulgate the necessary [guidelines for and shall take the lead in] RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR the effective implementation of this Act.”

SECTION 5. Sections 7 and 8 of the same Act are hereby renumbered as Sections 8 and 9, respectively.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules or regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended 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.

Approved.