



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **9009**



INTRODUCED BY REP. JOSE “BONG” J. TEVES, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to a report of Philippine Institute for Development Studies in 2017, Filipinos remains to have uneven access to medicines due to poverty and lack of doctors. It recommended that the government strengthen and expand the local medicine markets in the countryside especially in the far-flung areas in order to close the gap of unavailable and unaffordable medicines to the public.

In 2016, under the administration of former President Rodrigo Duterte, the *Botika ng Bayan/Barangay* (BNB) was revived as a program of the Department of Health (DOH)¹. It aims to improve access to medicines and health services which is in line with the goals of the Universal Health Care. The BNB program was initially established in 2003 and the DOH had an estimate of eight thousand (8,000) outlets across the Philippines, providing access to low-priced generic over-the-counter medicines.

However, since it is only a program of the national government, its implementation varies from administration to administration. In order to establish its certainty, there is a need to institutionalize the BNB program through legislation. There has been efforts from past Congresses to pass the said legislation but unfortunately it was never enacted into law.

¹ <https://pharma.doh.gov.ph/fourmula-one-plus-botika-ng-bayan-f1-plus-bnb-and-botika-ng-bayani-f1-plus-bnbi-program/>

Under the 1987 Constitution, “the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost.”

Thus, this proposed measure seeks to help our fellow countrymen to have easy access to medicines through the establishment of *Botika ng Barangays* throughout the country. The said BNBs shall provide medicines which are listed by the Philippine National Drug Formulary and other medicines as may be prescribed by the Department of Health as essential.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'T' inside a circle, with a long diagonal stroke extending upwards and to the right.

HON. JOSE “BONG” J. TEVES, JR.
Deputy Majority Leader
Representative, TGP Party-List



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY DRUGSTORES,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “BOTIKA NG BARANGAY”

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as “Botika ng Barangay Act”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Towards this end, the State shall provide adequate social services and endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to every barangay at affordable cost.

SECTION 3. Botika ng Barangay. – The Department of Health shall, within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act, undertake a three-year program for the establishment of barangay drugstores or Botika ng Barangay (BNB) in every barangay, giving priority to barangays on the basis of population, poverty incidence, extent of medical health care and services, geographic conditions, financial and other socio-economic factors and such other considerations as may be deemed necessary in undertaking the program within the context of national plans and policies on social services, health and medical care.

SECTION 4. Establishment Priority. – The DOH shall, in the establishment of BNB, undertake prior consultations with the Municipal Development Council concerned; *Provided*, that in the establishment of the BNB, highest priority shall be given to economically depressed barangays. Existing BNBs shall be maintained and shall be covered by relevant provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. Drugs Available. – The BNB shall make available, only those medicines included in the “core list” of the National Drug Formulary, and the names thereof listed in their respective generic and trade names made available to the public.

SECTION 6. Botika ng Barangay Aide. – Sale of medicines at the BNBs shall be facilitated by an aide, known as the Botika ng Barangay Aide, who shall be chosen by and trained under the direction of the Municipality or City Health Office, in close coordination with the Punong Barangay and head of the Barangay Health Center.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Secretary of Health shall issue the necessary rules and regulations as may be needed to fully implement the provisions of this Act. In addition, the DOH shall also embark on a sustained promotional campaign to increase the community’s awareness of the BNBs through its personnel, barangay officials and the media.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any section or provisions of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national papers of generical circulation or Official Gazette.

Approved,