



Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
QUEZON CITY

20<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session

• House Bill No. **6628**



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Introduced by: REP. ROSALIE "MOMMY ROSE" ANG SALVAME

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING A FUEL SUBSIDY FOR MUNICIPAL FISHERFOLKS, APPROPRIATING**  
**FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill emphasizes the urgent need to provide fuel subsidies to municipal fishermen, recognizing their critical role in food security while addressing their vulnerability to rising fuel costs. It underscores the necessity of the subsidy to municipal fishermen, who remain among the most marginalized despite their indispensable role in ensuring national food security. Rising fuel prices have severely burdened small-scale fisherfolk, whose livelihoods depend on daily access to affordable fuel. By institutionalizing a monthly subsidy of not less than ₱1,500, the measure seeks to provide immediate relief, strengthen rural economies, and safeguard the country's fish supply. This initiative not only addresses poverty among coastal communities but also affirms the government's commitment to equity, sustainability, and the protection of those who feed the nation.

**Importance of Fuel Subsidy for Municipal Fishermen**

- **Economic Relief:** Fuel is the largest operational expense for small-scale fishermen. Subsidies directly reduce costs, allowing them to sustain livelihoods and avoid debt traps.
- **Food Security:** By lowering fishing costs, fishermen can continue supplying affordable fish to local markets, ensuring stable access to protein for millions of Filipinos.

- **Poverty Alleviation:** Municipal fishermen often earn below the poverty threshold. A fuel subsidy provides immediate financial support, helping them cover basic needs.
- **Resilience Against Price Shocks:** Global oil price volatility disproportionately affects small-scale fishers. Subsidies act as a buffer, preventing sudden income losses.
- **Equity and Justice:** Subsidies recognize their essential role as food producers and correct systemic neglect.
- **Strengthening Rural Economies:** Municipal fishing communities are vital to coastal towns. Subsidies help sustain local economies dependent on fishing.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** By stabilizing incomes, fishermen are less pressured to resort to destructive practices. Subsidies can be paired with programs promoting sustainable fishing.
- **National Development:** Fisheries contribute significantly to GDP and employment. Supporting fishermen ensures the sector remains productive and competitive.

Given the importance of this Bill, urgent passage is sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosalie' followed by a stylized flourish.

REP. ROSALIE "MOMMY ROSE" ANG SALVAME  
Representative, 1<sup>st</sup> District of Palawan



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

SEC 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Ayuda Para sa Mangingisda Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State acknowledges the vital role of municipal fisherfolk in securing the nation's food supply. It is hereby declared as State policy to extend support to municipal fisherfolk, in recognition of their sacrifices and contributions to national development, and in fulfillment of the Constitutional mandate to uphold social justice in all phases of development.

SEC. 3. The Ayuda Para sa Mangingisda Program. - There is hereby created the Ayuda Para sa Mangingisda Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, which shall grant a monthly fuel voucher valued at not less than One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) to each eligible beneficiary under this Act: Provided, That the amount shall be adjusted annually to reflect inflation. The Program shall be implemented by the Department of Agriculture (DA), through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

**SEC. 4. Beneficiaries.** - The beneficiaries of this Act shall be municipal fisherfolk engaged in fishing within municipal waters, whether coastal or inland, who operate motorized fishing vessels either individually or through a fisherfolk organization, cooperative, or association: Provided, That such beneficiaries are duly listed in the registry system of the Department of Agriculture (DA), particularly in the Municipal Fisherfolk Registration System : Provided, further, That their fishing vessels are properly registered in the integrated boat registry system, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Boat Registration, or the boat registry system of the concerned local government unit.

**SEC. 5. Convergence of Social Protection Programs.** - Beneficiaries of the Program shall be automatically enrolled in and covered under the National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). The Social Security System (SSS) shall likewise extend micro-insurance mechanisms to all beneficiaries of the Program.

**SEC. 6. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DA. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA shall, in consultation with relevant government agencies and stakeholders, promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to carry out the provisions of this Act. Failure of the relevant government agencies to promulgate the IRR within the specified period shall subject the heads of these government agencies to administrative penalties under applicable civil service laws. Should the IRR contain provisions that are contrary to this Act, the heads of the government agencies responsible for such provision, when done in bad faith or with gross negligence, shall be held administratively liable.

**SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

**SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 10. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*