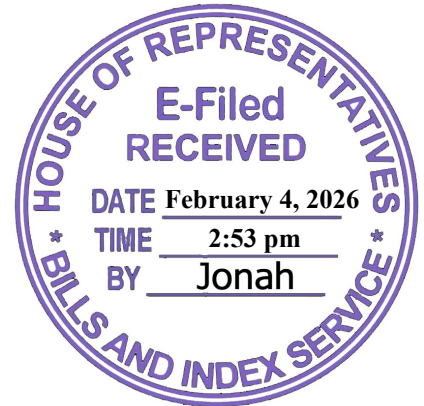


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7619



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fisheries remain a vital pillar of the Philippine economy and a primary source of protein for millions of Filipinos. However, our municipal fisherfolk—those operating boats of three gross tons or less—remain among the poorest sectors in the country.

The relentless volatility of global oil prices has a direct and devastating impact on their livelihoods. For a typical small-scale fisherman, fuel accounts for nearly 80% of total fishing trip costs. When pump prices spike, many are forced to reduce their time at sea or stop fishing altogether, leading to decreased household income and a direct threat to national food security.

While the government has implemented various "Pantawid Pasada" programs for the transport sector, the fishing sector often lacks a permanent, institutionalized mechanism for fuel support.

By providing a targeted fuel subsidy, we are not just handing out aid; we are investing in the resilience of our coastal communities and the stability of our food supply.

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


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 7619

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

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

*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 the "Municipal
Fisherfolk Fuel Subsidy Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote social
justice in all phases of national development. Towards this end, the State shall
provide necessary support services to small-scale fisherfolk to improve their
productivity and ensure their economic well-being.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* –

- Municipal Fisherfolk: Persons directly or indirectly engaged in municipal
fishing and other related fishing activities within municipal waters using
vessels of three (3) gross tons or less.
- Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA): The electronic
database containing relevant information on farmers and fisherfolk.

SEC. 4. *The Fuel Subsidy Program.* – There is hereby established a Fuel
Subsidy Program for Municipal Fisherfolk. This program shall be triggered
whenever the average price of Dubai crude oil reaches or exceeds \$80 per barrel
for three (3) consecutive months.

SEC. 5. *Eligibility.* – To qualify for the subsidy, a fisherfolk must:

1. Be registered under the FishR (Registry System for Municipal Fisherfolk);
2. Own or operate a motorized fishing boat duly registered with the local government unit (LGU) or the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR);
3. Be a resident of the municipality where the application is filed.

SEC. 6. *Implementation.* – The Department of Agriculture (DA), through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), shall be the lead implementing agency. The subsidy shall be distributed through a "Fuel Voucher System" or electronic wallet cards in coordination with the Land Bank of the Philippines.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount of Two Billion Pesos (₱2,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 8. *Penalties.* – Any person who provides false information to avail of the subsidy, or any official who withholds or diverts the funds, shall be subject to administrative and criminal penalties under existing laws, including a fine of not less than ₱50,000.00 but not more than ₱200,000.00.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,