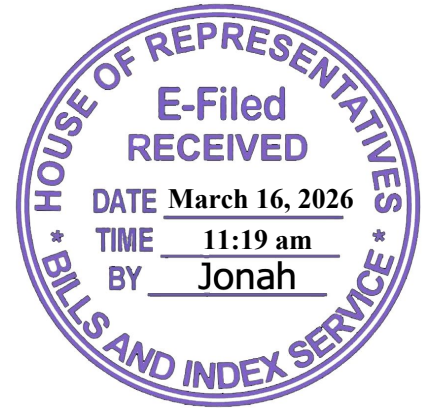


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8510



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Life expectancy is widely recognized as a key indicator of a nation's quality of life and level of development. Countries with higher life expectancy rates generally demonstrate stronger economies, better access to health care and social services, and improved living conditions for their citizens. Recent data from the World Bank indicates that the average life expectancy of Filipinos remains at approximately seventy-one (71) years.

While this reflects gradual improvements in public health and living standards, many Filipino senior citizens continue to face significant challenges associated with aging. Rising healthcare costs, the increasing price of basic commodities, and the growing need for maintenance medicines place considerable financial strain on elderly individuals, many of whom rely on limited or fixed sources of income. These realities underscore the importance of strengthening existing policies that recognize and support elderly Filipinos who have reached advanced ages.

In recognition of the remarkable achievement of reaching one hundred (100) years of age, Congress enacted Republic Act No. 10868, which grants monetary incentives and public recognition to Filipino centenarians, both in the Philippines and abroad. The law honors these individuals as living symbols of wisdom, resilience, and longevity, acknowledging their invaluable role in society and their contributions to the nation's collective heritage.

Since the enactment of the Centenarians Act, demographic trends indicate that the Philippines is steadily transitioning toward an aging society. According to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, more than one million Filipinos are now aged seventy (70) years and above, and a substantial number are reaching ages well beyond eighty (80). These figures reflect the increasing

longevity of the Filipino population and highlight the need for policies that respond more effectively to the realities of aging.

Consistent with the policy of honoring the wisdom and longevity of our elders, this bill seeks to expand the coverage of the Centenarians Act by extending recognition and assistance to more senior citizens who have reached significant age milestones. By doing so, the State affirms its commitment to ensuring that elderly Filipinos are not only celebrated for their longevity but are also supported in meeting the practical challenges associated with aging.

The measure is likewise consistent with the State's broader policy framework on the protection and welfare of senior citizens, including Republic Act No. 9994 and Republic Act No. 11350, which collectively recognize the rights, dignity, and well-being of older persons. By providing additional recognition and modest financial assistance to elderly Filipinos who have reached advanced ages, this bill strengthens existing social protection measures without duplicating or conflicting with current statutory benefits.

At a time when the cost of healthcare and essential goods continues to rise, the modest assistance provided under this measure can help alleviate some of the immediate burdens faced by elderly Filipinos, particularly with respect to maintenance medicines, healthcare needs, and daily living expenses. More importantly, it affirms society's respect and gratitude toward those who have lived long lives and whose experiences and wisdom continue to enrich our communities.

The Constitution envisions a just and humane society that respects the dignity of every person and ensures the protection and care of the elderly. By expanding the recognition and support provided to our senior citizens, this measure advances that constitutional mandate and reaffirms the nation's commitment to valuing the contributions of its aging population.

It is for these foregoing premises that the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist

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HOUSE BILL NO. 8510

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**AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO FILIPINO CENTENARIANS,
RECOGNIZING OCTOGENARIANS AND NONAGENARIANS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘CENTENARIANS
ACT OF 2016’**

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10868, otherwise known as the Centenarians Act of 2016, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 2. *Benefits for Centenarians.* - All Filipinos who reach the age of 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 on one’s longevity; and
- b) A Centenarian Gift in the amount of one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00)
- c) All Filipino Centenarians who reach the age of one hundred and one (101) years old shall receive a cash gift in the amount of one million pesos (P 1,000,000.00) on their birthday.

SECTION 2. A new section denominated as Section 3 of the same Act is added to read as follows:

“Sec. 3. *Benefits for Octogenarians and Nonagenarians.* - All Filipinos who reach the age of eighty (80), eighty-five (85), ninety (90) and ninety-five (95)

years old shall also receive a letter of felicitation from the President and a cash gift of twenty-five thousand pesos (P 25,000.00)

SECTION 3. Sections 3 and 4 of the same Act are renumbered as Sections 4 and 5, respectively.

SECTION 4. A new section denominated as Section 6 of the same Act is added to read as follows:

“Sec. 6. *Lead Agency.* - The National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) shall implement the provisions of this act.”

SECTION 5. Section 5 of the same Act is renumbered as Section 7 and amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 7. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.”

SECTION 6. Section 6 of the same Act is renumbered as Section 8 and amended to read as follows:

“Sec 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the NCSC shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, the Secretary of Health, the Executive Director of the Commission on Filipino Overseas, and the Undersecretary of the Philippine Statistics Office, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this act.”

SECTION 7. Sections 7 and 8 of the same Act are renumbered as Sections 9 and 10, respectively.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, and proclamations, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

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

Approved,