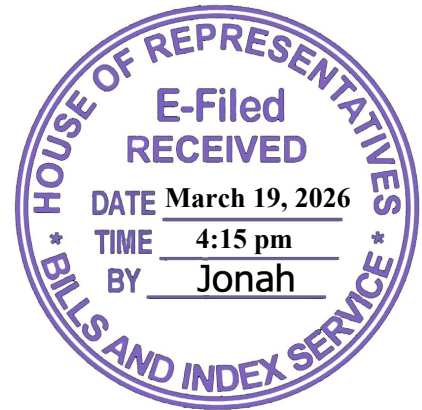


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8715



Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS “TOBY” M. TIANGCO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, importing over 90% of its oil primarily from the Middle East, faces acute vulnerability to global oil shocks, as evidenced by consecutive weeks of fuel price hikes through early March 2026, with diesel and gasoline increases totaling several pesos per liter. These surges, driven by geopolitical tensions and supply disruptions, have escalated domestic energy, transport, and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) costs, contributing to inflation pressures, particularly in housing or utilities (up to 3.3% in January 2026) and secondary effects on food and agriculture comprising 36% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Data by *GMA Integrated News Research* shows that this is the ‘first time in Metro Manila that the price of diesel has exceeded Php 100 per liter.’ One jeepney driver interviewed by GMA News also mentioned that ‘it is his first time to experience such an oil price in the three decades he has been jeepney driver.’

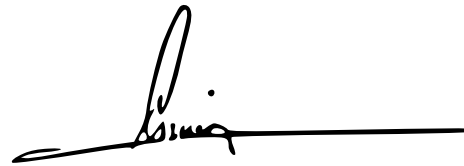
Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which account for 99.6% of businesses nationwide, are among those most affected. Operating on thin margins, even modest increases in logistics and input costs can significantly strain their finances and, in many cases, threaten their ability to remain operational. The situation is further complicated by the weakening peso, which reached ₱60 to \$1 for the first time, and projections that economic growth could be trimmed by about 0.2–0.3% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). At the household level, residential renters also face mounting pressure, as some landlords have recently raised rents by about 2–4%, increasing the risk of evictions. This adds to the financial strain on families in an economy where fuel costs indirectly affect roughly 28% of consumer prices.

This bill provides immediate economic relief by imposing a temporary freeze on increases in residential and MSME commercial rental rates, allowing the deferment of housing loan payments without penalties, authorizing emergency loans from the SSS and GSIS and declaring a moratorium on the accrual of interest on government loans. The measure aims to stabilize markets and protect vulnerable sectors from the adverse effects of rising fuel costs.

Moreover, this measure authorizes government agencies and its subsidiaries to partner with duly registered transport providers to deliver free public transportation during national or local emergencies, ensuring continued mobility for the riding public. It likewise mandates the DTI and DOE, in coordination with relevant agencies, to keep prices of petroleum products, basic commodities and utilities including telcos and internet service providers remain reasonable by preventing unjustified increases, with authority to impose or recommend price ceilings, curb hoarding and profiteering, and implement necessary interventions such as requiring price justification, subsidies, or buffer stocking to stabilize supply and protect consumers.

Grounded in data from the *Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)* and the *Department of Energy (DOE)*, the proposed interventions are designed to help temper inflationary pressures, projected to exceed four percent (4%) while providing regulatory clarity and enforceability through the appropriate government agencies.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Toby', is written over a solid horizontal line.

TOBIAS “TOBY” M. TIANGCO
Representative
Lone District, Navotas City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8715

Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS “TOBY” M. TIANGCO**

**AN ACT PROVIDING IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC RELIEF MEASURES IN RESPONSE
TO FUEL PRICE HIKES**

*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 “Fuel Crisis Relief Act of 2026”

SEC 2. *Declaration of State Policy.*— It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect vulnerable households from the adverse effects of sudden fuel price hikes, which exacerbate inflation and strain disposable incomes. Toward this end, the State shall provide temporary but immediate relief, while ensuring fiscal sustainability and equitable burden-sharing.

SEC. 3. *Coverage Period.*— The relief measures under this Act shall apply for six (6) months from its effectivity, or until the President certifies via proclamation that national average fuel prices (as reported by the Department of Energy) have stabilized below P60 per liter for gasoline and diesel, whichever comes first.

SEC 4. *Relief Measures.*— *The following temporary measures are mandated:*

(a) Freeze on Increase of Residential Rental Rates. —Residential rental rates for dwelling units shall be frozen at their current levels for the duration of the coverage period provided in this Act. No landlord, lessor, or property manager shall impose any increase in rental payments during such period.

(b) Freeze on Increase of Commercial Rental Rates for MSMEs.—Rental rates for commercial establishments, specifically those operated by micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), shall likewise be temporarily frozen, and landlords shall be prohibited from increasing lease payments during the coverage period of this Act.

(c) Deferred or Staggered Payment of Housing Loan Amortizations.—Borrowers with housing loans under the PAG-IBIG (Pagtutulungan sa Kinabukasan: Ikas, Bangko, Industriya at Gobyerno), Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) are allowed temporary deferment or

staggered payment of mortgage amortizations during the coverage period, without the imposition of penalties, surcharges, or additional interest, subject to implementing guidelines.

(d) *Emergency Loans from SSS and GSIS.* — The SSS and GSIS shall provide emergency loans of up to Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) to eligible members at a concessional interest rate not exceeding five percent (5%) per annum, repayable in up to twenty-four (24) monthly installments. Eligibility requires active contribution status and proof of impact from fuel price surges; applications shall be processed within fifteen (15) days via digital or agency channels.

(e) *Moratorium on Interest Accrual for Government Loans.* — No interest shall accrue on the principal balances of loans extended by government financial institutions, including the Social Security System (SSS), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Pag-IBIG Fund, and Land Bank of the Philippines, for qualified borrowers during the coverage period. Qualified borrowers must be in good standing as of the effectivity of this Act and certify economic hardship due to fuel price hikes, subject to guidelines issued by the Department of Finance (DOF) in coordination with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

SEC.5. *Public-Private Transport Partnership for Free Public Transportation.* — During periods of national or local emergency as may be declared by the President or the appropriate Local Chief Executive, all National Government Agencies (NGAs), Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), and Local Government Units (LGUs) are hereby authorized and directed to enter into contracts, memoranda of agreement, or other lawful arrangements with duly registered transport service providers, including but not limited to public utility vehicles (PUVs), transport cooperatives, and Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS) operators, for the purpose of providing free transportation services to the riding public.

SEC. 6. *Price Stabilization and Anti-Profiteering Measures During Emergencies.* — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), shall ensure that the prices of petroleum products, basic commodities and utilities including telcos and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) remain *reasonable and free from unjustified increases*, and may impose or recommend price ceilings when necessary. Upon the declaration of a national or local emergency, the State shall protect the public by directing the DTI, DOE, and other relevant agencies to prevent hoarding, profiteering, cartelization, and other anti-competitive practices; require justification for price increases when warranted; and implement appropriate measures, including subsidies or buffer stocking, to stabilize supply and prices, consistent with existing laws.

SEC. 7. *Prohibited Acts.*— It shall be unlawful for any person or business entity to:

- (a) Refuse implementation of relief measures or impose prohibited increases/fees.
- (b) Evict tenants/lessees for non-payment during grace periods, absent abandonment or non-use.
- (c) Charge interests, penalties and surcharges on deferred/staggered payments under this Act.
- (d) Charge interest, penalties, or surcharges on moratoriums, emergency loans, or staggered electricity payments under this Act;

- (e) Deny eligible applications for emergency loans or staggered payments without just cause.
- (f) Demand, solicit, collect, or receive any fare, fee, donation, or any form of compensation from passengers for the use of free transport services provided under this Act.
- (g) Any unjustified increase in prices or violation of this Section shall be subject to penalties in accordance with existing laws, including but not limited to Republic Act No. 7581, as amended, otherwise known as the “Price Act,” and other applicable laws and regulations.

SEC. 8. *Penalties.*— In addition to existing laws, violations shall incur imprisonment of two (2) to six (6) months, a fine of P10,000 to P1,000,000, or both, at the court’s discretion. Corporate offenders’ responsible officers are jointly liable.

SEC. 9. *Enforcement and Monitoring.*— The Department of Trade Industry (DTI), in coordination with Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Energy (DOE), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), Social Security System (SSS), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and Local Government Units (LGUs), shall monitor compliance, handle complaints via hotlines/portals, and submit quarterly reports to Congress.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*— Within thirty (30) days from effectivity of this Act, the SSS, GSIS, ERC, DTI, DOF, BIR, DHSUD, BSP, DOE, and Pag-IBIG shall issue joint IRR, including eligibility forms and awareness campaigns.

SEC. 11. *Appropriation.*— Necessary funds shall be sourced from agency budgets or unprogrammed appropriations under the Office of President.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,