

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **11317**



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create a Botika ng Barangay (BNB) in every barangay in the country and make essential medicines more accessible and affordable to Filipino families. It directs the Department of Health (DOH) to implement a nationwide establishment program within three (3) years, with priority to economically depressed and underserved communities.

The DOH's BNB program has brought affordable medicine closer to communities, but the continuing need to strengthen access to essential medicine calls for its institutionalization. A nationwide program of this scale requires a framework that shall ensure its continued implementation beyond administrative issuances.

This measure establishes operational standards to make BNBs responsive to community needs. Each BNBs shall carry medicines included in the core list of the Philippine National Drug Formulary and shall be managed by a trained BNB Aide. It further requires the establishment of a standardized inventory monitoring and replenishment system, with medicine supplies replenished at least once every quarter to prevent prolonged stockouts.

A Botika ng Barangay must be a dependable community source of essential medicines, particularly for families who have limited access to commercial drugstores. Ensuring that every barangay has a reliable source of affordable medicines shall strengthen the State's commitment to bringing essential health services closer to every Filipino.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING DRUGSTORES IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE COUNTRY,
TO BE CALLED AS “BOTIKA NG BARANGAY”, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREOF

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

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

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to 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, and ensure that such services remain continuously available through sustainable funding, efficient management, and a reliable supply of medicines.

SEC. 3. *Botika ng Barangay.* – The Department of Health (DOH) shall, within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act, undertake a three (3)-year program for the establishment of barangay drugstores, to be called “Botika ng Barangay” (BNB) in every barangay in the country.

SEC. 4. *Establishment Priority.* – The DOH shall, in the establishment of BNB, undertake prior consultations with the Municipal/City 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. It shall give 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.

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

SEC 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 of City Health Office, in close coordination with the Punong Barangay and head of the Barangay Health Center. The BNB shall undergo mandatory training on proper drug dispensing, inventory management, and basic health education prior to assumption of duty, and shall undergo further refresher training at least once a year.

Each BNB shall operate for a minimum of six (6) days a week, for at least six (6) hours each operating day, or as may be adjusted by the concerned local government unit (LGU), based on community needs and subject to DOH guidelines. The BNB Aide shall be entitled to a reasonable honorarium or incentive, to be sourced from the revolving fund established under Section 8 of this Act or from LGU funds, as determined by the concerned LGU.

SEC. 7. *Inventory Management and Replenishment System.* – The DOH, in coordination with concerned LGUs and accredited Pharmaceutical Distribution Networks (PDNs), shall establish a standardized inventory monitoring and replenishment system for all BNBs to ensure the timely and adequate resupply of medicines. Each BNB shall submit periodic stock and sales reports to the Municipal or City Health Office, which shall consolidate and submit the same to the DOH regional office concerned. The DOH shall prescribe minimum replenishment schedules, which shall in no case be less frequent than once every quarter, to prevent prolonged stockouts.

SEC. 8. *Funding and Sustainability.* – To ensure the continuous and sustainable operation of BNBs, the following funding mechanisms shall be observed:

a. Proceeds from the sale of medicines at each BNB shall be treated as a revolving fund, to be used exclusively for the replenishment of medicine stocks, minor repairs, and other operating expenses of the BNB concerned, subject to accounting and auditing rules and regulations;

b. Pursuant to the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Mandanas v. Ochoa* (G.R. Nos. 199802 and 208488) on the just share of local government units in national taxes, LGUs are enjoined to allocate a portion of their National Tax Allotment to support the establishment, funding, and sustainability of their respective BNBs;

c. LGUs may likewise draw from the Special Health Fund established under Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the “*Universal Health Care Act*”, to support BNB operations, consistent with its implementing rules and

regulations;

d. LGUs may utilize a portion of their mandated budget allocation for senior citizens and persons with disabilities to support BNB operations that directly address the medical needs of these sectors; and

e. The DOH may continue to source financial assistance from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and other government and private entities, consistent with existing laws, rules, and regulations, to augment funding for the establishment and sustainability of BNBs.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DOH, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations as may be needed to fully implement the provisions of this Act. In addition, the DOH and the DILG 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.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,