EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) was created pursuant to Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as “The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002” to be responsible for the efficient and effective law enforcement of all the provisions on any dangerous drugs and/or controlled precursors and essential chemicals.

PDEA, as the lead agency in the government’s anti-drug campaign, exposes its personnel to hazardous situation during and after the conduct of anti-drug operations, and to toxic and carcinogenic chemicals used in manufacturing illegal drugs which can cause life-threatening illnesses. It is therefore apparent that the personnel of PDEA endure varied exposure to hazard.

Personnel of other government agencies performing similar hazardous duty such as the PNP, NBI, and DOH were granted hazard pay due to the nature of their duties, responsibilities, actual services, and location of work which expose them to great danger, occupational risk, perils to life and physical hardships. It is therefore only appropriate that the government grant PDEA personnel who are directly involved in the conduct of anti-drug operations or assigned in hazardous work places similar incentive.

This proposed measure therefore provides eligible PDEA personnel hazard pay in the amount of P2,000 monthly. The job inherent to PDEA is risky. It can be deduced, that by the very nature of the Agency’s work, there exists a clear and present danger to the personnel’s life. It is therefore appropriate for us to provide them the necessary support they need for them to effectively fulfill their mandate.

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

MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List
AN ACT
GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO ELIGIBLE PDEA PERSONNEL

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

SECTION 1. PDEA Personnel Authorized to Receive Hazard Pay. – The following PDEA personnel shall be entitled to hazard pay:

   a) Intelligence Officers, Investigation Agents, Security Officers and Special Investigators who are actually involved in the conduct of anti-drug operations;

   b) Directors who are actually involved or participating in the conduct of anti-drug operations;

   c) S & T personnel from PDEA involved in hazardous undertakings or assigned in hazardous workplaces.

SEC. 2. Hazard Pay. – Qualified PDEA personnel shall receive Php2,000.00 monthly during the duration of hazardous duty.

SEC. 3. Appropriation. – Such sums as may be necessary for the implementation of the provision of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury
not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, the amount needed to implement this Act shall be included in
the annual General Appropriations Act of PDEA.

SEC. 4. Separability Clause. - Should any part or provision of this Act is declared
invalid or unconstitutional for any purpose, none of the other parts or provisions hereof shall
be affected.

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts
thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication
in at least two (2) general newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,
The Office of the Ombudsman, as stated by the Constitution has the power, among others, to investigate on its own, or on complaint by any person, any act or omission of any public official, employee, office or agency, when such act or omission appears to be illegal, unjust, improper, or inefficient. As protectors of the people, they are tasked to promote integrity and accountability in the government.

Republic Act No. 6770 or “The Ombudsman Act of 1989” further empowered the Office of the Ombudsman to fulfil their mandate as protectors of the people by providing functional and structural organization to the office. However, the powers provided in RA 6770 are not enough for the Ombudsman to proactively address administrative grievances of the general public, and promote higher standards of integrity and efficiency in the government service.

The ombudsman must constantly develop its capacity to perform effectively and efficiently in order to strengthen and ensure good governance and eventually promote development. Hence, this measure seeks broaden and enhance the investigative and prosecutorial powers of the Ombudsman by allowing them to the following: employ wiretapping in especially notable cases; the power to issue subpoena and subpoena duces tecum to compel the attendance of any witness or the production of evidence; the authority to inquire into bank and non-bank accounts, records and transactions; and the power to punish for contempt.

Likewise, this measure seeks to provide legal protection and immunity from suits for acts done in line with their duties. It is hoped that thru these additional provisions, the Office of the Ombudsman will be more equipped in effectively fulfilling their mandates as protectors of the people.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List