EXPLANATORY NOTE

As provided for in RA 9003 or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000" and in relation to RA 7160 or the Local Government Code 1991, Local Government Units (LGUs) are given the power to enforce laws on cleanliness and sanitation, solid waste management, and other environmental matters. Under these laws, sanitation workers, particularly garbage collectors play a significant role in maintaining not only a clean and healthful environment but also an aesthetically pleasing one.

Households and businesses rely on garbage collection to ensure that their trashes are collected and disposed of properly. Relative thereto, garbage collectors face blatant health risks that endanger their lives. As such, it is but timely that the state provide hazard pay to our garbage collectors for their invaluable service and commitment in ensuring and maintaining cleanliness in cities and municipalities.

It is the duty of the State, particularly the Local Government to protect its workers and provide them an equitable compensation based on the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value. Under this Act, the government shall provide not only hazard pay but also protection for our garbage collectors. This shall enable them to perform their functions in a manner that reduce the health risks they face and to prevent work-related injuries.

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

Rep. Ramon V. Guico III
AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE INCREASE OF HAZARD PAY AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF GARBAGE COLLECTORS

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 “Garbage Collectors’ Hazard Pay and Protection Act.”

SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

a. Hazard Pay as defined by the Department of Budget Management (DBM) refers to the “additional compensation for performing hazardous duties and for enduring physical hardships in the course of the performance of duties.”

b. Personal Protective Equipment as defined by the United States, Department of Labor refers to “the equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses.”

c. Garbage Collectors refer to individuals who works either for the local government or for a private waste management company that is responsible for collecting and managing waste, recyclable goods, or yard debris from residential neighbourhoods, commercial business centres, and public parks.
d. Garbage Operators refer to people who are responsible for the overall operation and maintenance of waste collection services such as garbage collection to solid waste segregation to proper transportation and disposal to sanitary landfills.

SEC. 3. Hazard Pay. – All local government units are hereby mandated to grant monthly hazard pay to garbage collectors amounting to One Thousand Pesos (P1,000). Under this Act, the hazard pay shall be an additional remuneration for their service and shall be separate from their monthly wage and salary.

SEC. 4. Personal Protective Equipment. – Personal Protective Equipment such as safety glasses, reflective vest, proper gloves, fitted, full-body coverage clothing, and non-slip sole steel-toed boots among others, shall be provided by the local government unit to protect garbage collectors from work-related injuries.

SEC. 5. Seminars and Trainings on Proper Waste Management. – Local Government Units shall conduct free seminars and trainings on proper waste management for all operators and garbage collectors.

The training shall include solid waste disposal and management, and in particular the standards, programs and projects for proper and sanitary waste disposal as well as the implementation of other alternative programs intended to reduce, reuse and recycle solid waste.

SEC. 6. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations for the Local Government Unit under the current general appropriations act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, issue rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.
SEC. 8. Separability Clause. — Any provision of this Act declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days upon its approval and publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,