

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Second Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 7921



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Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Service volunteers are the lifeblood of any relief and/or rescue operations following disasters and emergencies. Local government units rely on the contributions of service volunteers on times of emergencies to augment their limited workforce.

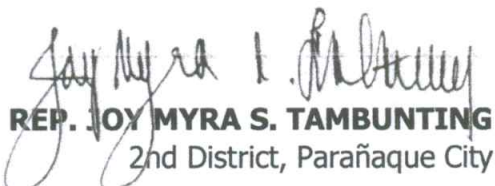
Filipinos take both joy and pride in extending help to their kababayans. The concept of volunteerism is deeply ingrained in the consciousness of Filipinos. Volunteerism is rooted from the practice of Bayanihan during the early Filipino society. Bayanihan is a system of mutual help and concern which was the backbone of family and village life throughout the Philippine archipelago. The virtue of Bayanihan is what compels Filipinos to extend aid to their neighbors in times of calamities, disasters and such.

Whilst volunteers extend their help to communities without any expectation of any reward or remuneration, I believe it is appropriate that we show gratitude to volunteers for devoting their time to the service of their communities.

Moreover, this is also founded in the belief that disaster response is primarily the responsibility of the State and as much as volunteers are appreciated, the fulfillment of these activities must not be banked on them.

In this end, this proposed measure aims to provide allowances to service volunteers, as a token of appreciation for the service they provide. In the same way, the provision of allowances could also allow agencies to employ people to aid in disaster response, should they need more people for such activities.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.

  
**REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**  
2nd District, Parañaque City

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**AN ACT**  
**GRANTING DAILY ALLOWANCE TO SERVICE VOLUNTEERS DURING PERIOD OF**  
**DISASTERS**

*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 "Volunteer Allowance Act".

**Section 2. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

- a. Disaster – refers to any hazardous event, crisis or condition which may or may not be foreseen, and which creates chaos, confusion and destruction of lives and property.
- b. Government Agency – refers to any office or subdivision of the government that is tasked to address the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions.
- c. Volunteer – refers to a person who is of legal age and who possesses the requisite knowledge and skills required to help alleviate the chaos and adverse effects wrought by the unexpected disaster, condition or calamity.

**Section 3. Amount of Allowance.** – There is hereby established a daily allowance for community/service volunteers in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (Php 500.00).

**Section 4. Who are entitled to a Daily Allowance.** – Any service volunteer shall be entitled to the said allowance provided that he/she has been duly accredited by the appropriate government agency/ies that is/are primarily tasked to address the subject disaster, calamity or condition.

**Section 5. Source of Funds.** – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be appropriated from the national budget as may be necessary for each fiscal year.

**Section 6. Rules and Regulations.** – The Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in coordination with the concerned government agencies, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

**Section 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive issuances, rules and regulations contrary or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**Section 8. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*