

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9483



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The fisheries sector is one of the major contributors to our country's economy and food security. Yet despite their large contribution to the country, fisherfolk remain among the poorest of the basic sectors. In 2015, a poverty incidence of 34.0% was recorded among fisherfolk. This means that 3 out of every 10 fisherfolk are poor. In fact, fisherfolk have remained among the poorest sectors since 2006.

One reason is low income. According to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the daily income per fishing boat in the Philippines is pegged at P272. Since each boat is manned by 2-3 workers, the daily income per fisherfolk is estimated at around P90-P136. In contrast, the minimum daily wage outside of Manila ranges between Php 310.00 to Php 420.00.

Another key driver of poverty among fisherfolk is the rising proportion of cost to actual yield. According to Greenpeace, the cost of fishing in terms of gasoline and time increased over the years while the resulting yield relative to the cost is at its lowest since the 1950s. At present, it is estimated that fuel accounts for almost 60% of each fisherfolk's production cost. This is likely to increase, as the depletion of fishing grounds will force fisherfolk to venture further into the sea.

As our response, this proposed measure seeks to provide a fuel subsidy for municipal fisherfolk who utilize motorized boats. It proposes to provide a fuel voucher worth at least One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) per month for each eligible beneficiary. In addition, beneficiaries of this program shall also be automatically enrolled and covered under the National Health Insurance program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). The Social Security System (SSS) shall also provide micro-insurance mechanisms to beneficiaries of the program.

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
PROVIDING A FUEL SUBSIDY FOR MUNICIPAL FISHERFOLK, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "Pantawid Pambangka Act".

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes the crucial role of municipal fisherfolk in ensuring the food security of the country. It is hereby declared a policy of the State to provide support to municipal fisherfolk, in recognition of their sacrifices and contributions to the nation, and in pursuit of the Constitutional mandate to promote social justice in all phases of development.

Sec. 3. The Pantawid Pambangka Program. – Pursuant to the declared policy of this Act, there is hereby established the Pantawid Pambangka Program, herein referred to as the Program which shall provide a fuel voucher worth at least One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) per month for each eligible beneficiary under this Act: Provided, that the amount shall be revised every year to account for inflation. The Program shall be administered by the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Sec. 4. Beneficiaries. – This beneficiaries of this Act shall be municipal fisherfolk who fish within municipal waters, whether coastal or inland, and who use motorized fishing vessels of three (3) gross tons or less: Provided, that registration under the National Program for Municipal Fisherfolk Registration of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources shall be a precondition for the receipt of benefits under this Act.

Sec. 5. Convergence of Social Services. – Beneficiaries of this program shall also be automatically enrolled and covered under the National Health Insurance program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). The Social Security System (SSS) shall also provide micro-insurance mechanisms to beneficiaries of the program.

Sec. 6. Non-Diminution of Benefits. – Nothing in this Act shall be construed to reduce existing benefits granted under existing laws, decrees, executive orders, or any contract, agreement, or policy between the employer and employee.

Sec. 7. Appropriations. – The equivalent of ten percent (10%) of any increase in the collections in the excise tax on fuel shall be earmarked for the implementation for this Act, which shall be indicated as a separate line-item under the annual appropriations of the DA under the General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the DA shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 11. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,