


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'16 JUL 20 A9:28

SENATE

S. No. 637

RECORDED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

**AN ACT
GRANTING BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO FORMER PRESIDENTS AND
VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES OR THEIR SURVIVING SPOUSES,
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5059, REPEALING
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2087, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Former Presidents and Vice Presidents do not cease in performing many of their public responsibilities upon retirement. As former highest-ranking officers of the land, they have post-presidential and post-vice presidential duties to perform, among which are responding to post-presidency and post-vice presidency mail and invitations and attending to speaking engagements. In cognizance of these social obligations, existing pieces of legislation grant former presidents and their widows/widowers certain benefits and privileges. Aside from franking privilege, Republic Act No. 5059 mandates that a former president shall receive an annual pension of P40,000.00, while Republic Act No. 2087 allows for the former president's widow/widower to be entitled to an annual pension of P24,000.00.

The extent and coverage of said measures, however, is not enough to sufficiently respond to the unique position of said former high officials in the public sphere even after they leave their post. At present, former presidents in the country receive a monthly pension of P8,000.00.¹ In the United States, former presidents, under the Former Presidents Act of 1958, receive a monthly pension equivalent to the salary of a department secretary, among many other benefits. This was enacted to discourage them from being forced into activities deemed unsuitable for a former head of state. Moreover, said measures cater to the needs of former Presidents alone, excluding former Vice Presidents.

This measure seeks to assist our former Presidents and Vice Presidents in the performance of their informal, ceremonial, but, nonetheless, public duties, through the grant of benefits and privileges to them and/or their surviving spouses, in effect expanding Republic Act No. 5059 and repealing Republic Act No. 2087.

¹ M. Villanueva. 2014. *So you still want to be President of the Phil?* Retrieved from <http://www.philstar.com/opinion/2014/03/21/1303393/so-you-still-want-be-president-phi>

It is hoped that the passage of this measure shall honor our former state leaders with the benefits and privileges commensurate to their former post as the highest officers in the land, and will maintain the dignity of the Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President by ensuring that the former occupants thereof are properly taken cared of.

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


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Former Presidents and Vice*
2 *Presidents’ Benefits Act of 2016*”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the state to
5 maintain the dignity of the Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President and to
6 honor former presidents and vice presidents of the Republic by granting them certain benefits
7 and privileges that will allow them to perform the duties and functions often required of a
8 former President or Vice President.

9
10 **SEC. 3. Eligibility.** – All former presidents and vice presidents shall be entitled to the
11 benefits and privileges provided under this Act: *Provided*, That he/she was not removed from
12 office through impeachment; he/she has not been convicted by final judgment of any crime
13 involving corruption or moral turpitude; and he/she has not accepted any appointive
14 employment and/or has not ran for any elective position in the government after his term of
15 office as president of vice president.

16
17 **SEC. 4. Benefits.** – Each former president and vice president eligible under this Act
18 shall be entitled to the following benefits and privileges for the remainder of his/her life:

- 1 (a) Tax-free retirement pension equivalent to the salary of an incumbent department
2 secretary and incumbent department undersecretary for the former president and
3 vice president, respectively;
- 4 (b) Adequate personal security and protection to be provided by the Philippine
5 National Police (PNP). The former president and vice president shall have the
6 right to choose the head of his/her own security detail;
- 7 (c) All mail matters of the former president and vice president addressed for delivery
8 within the Philippines shall be received, transmitted and delivered in the mails of
9 the Philippines free of postage if the envelope or wrapper of such mail matter
10 bears on the left hand comer the name of said former president or vice president;
11 and
- 12 (d) Fifty percent (50%) discount on all public transportation for him and an aide or
13 accompanying person.
14

15 **SEC. 5. *Benefits extended to the immediate family.*** – The immediate family of the
16 former president and vice president shall be entitled to the following benefits:

- 17 (a) Personal security and protection provided by the PNP for the children until they
18 reach the age of 21, and for the surviving spouse for the remainder of his/her life
19 or until he/she re-marries;
- 20 (b) Full scholarship for the former president and vice president's children in any
21 course in any state colleges and/or universities;
- 22 (c) In case of the former president's death, the surviving spouse shall be entitled to a
23 tax-free retirement pension equivalent to the salary of an incumbent department
24 secretary: *Provided*, That if such widow/widower of the former president re-
25 marries, he/she shall lose the benefits and privileges provided under this Act;
- 26 (d) In case of the former vice president's death, the widow/widower shall be entitled
27 to a tax-free retirement pension equivalent to the salary of an incumbent
28 department undersecretary: *Provided*, That if such widow/widower of the former
29 vice president re-marries, he/she shall lose the benefits and privileges provided
30 under this Act; and
- 31 (e) All mail matters of such widow/widower, addressed for delivery within the
32 Philippines, shall be received, transmitted and delivered in the mails of the
33 Philippines free of postage if the envelope or wrapper of such mail matter bears on
34 the left upper comer his/her name.

1 **SEC. 6. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this
2 Act shall be included by the Department of Budget' and Management in the annual General
3 Appropriations Act (GAA).

4
5 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** – If any provision, section or part of this Act shall be
6 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any
7 other provisions, sections or parts hereof but shall be merely confined to the provision,
8 section or part thereof that is directly involved in the issue upon which judgment has been
9 rendered.

10
11 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** – Republic Act No. 2087 is hereby repealed accordingly.
12 Further, all laws, decrees, orders, letters of instruction, rules and regulations or other
13 issuances and parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, including but not
14 limited to Republic Act No. 5059, are likewise amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

15
16 **SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
17 publication in two (2) newspaper of general circulation in the country or in the *Official*
18 *Gazette*.

Approved,