

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

8 JUL 24 P6:14

SENATE
S.B. No. 2470

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Communication is vital to building a strong Republic. Thus, the Philippine government operates a nationwide institution established to respond to the information needs of the citizenry.

We live and breathe media. From the newspaper articles that we devour alongside our breakfast to the television shows that we argue about over coffee, media has become a staple that we just cannot do without.

The media has a strong social and cultural impact upon society. This is predicated upon its ability to reach a wide audience which often sends a strong and influential message.

This bill seeks to provide meaningful benefits that would promote the financial independence and economic security for free-lance media practitioners and discourage corruption by news sources.

The welfare fund would be in the form of, but not limited to, free legal assistance, group health and life insurance coverage, as well as hospitalization and disability benefits. Also include discount on tuition fees and seed money for the establishment of media cooperatives.

Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY (PIA),
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 3 AND 9 OF EXECUTIVE
ORDER NO. 100 ALSO KNOWN AS "CREATING THE PHILIPPINE
INFORMATION AGENCY" BY PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL FUNCTION,
ESTABLISHING A NATIONWIDE WELFARE FUND AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. Section 3 of Executive Order No. 100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 3. Functions.

1. Establish and maintain selected regional/provincial information centers on community needs for use in planning communications programs and provide basic information of government and on areas of particular interests to the community it serves;
2. Provide technical assistance to other government agencies on the communications component of their programs;
3. Plan and implement information programs of national scope;
4. Assess information needs of the people through opinion polls and surveys to be used to systematically obtain the public's needs and views on government programs and to plan information programs;
5. Conduct research studies for policy formulation and the evaluation of the information program effectiveness;
6. Upgrade skills of government information officers, rural broadcasters, communicators, journalists and other communications personnel through training services and/or consultancy;
7. **PLAN AND IMPLEMENT A NATIONWIDE WELFARE PROGRAM FOR MEDIA PRACTITIONERS**

[7] 8. Support the development and expansion of indigenous media and information communication technology; **AND**

[8] 9. Perform whatever tasks as may be assigned by the President.

Section 2. Section 9 is hereby added to read as follows, while the subsequent portions of the same Executive Order are numbered accordingly:

SECTION 9. WELFARE FUND.

THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED A NATIONWIDE WELFARE FUND, HEREIN REFERRED TO AS A FUND, TO BE ADMINISTERED AND MANAGED BY THE PIA. THE AMOUNT OF TEN MILLION PESOS (P10,000,000.00) IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED CHARGEABLE TO THE CURRENT FUNDS AVAILABLE IN THE NATIONAL TREASURY. THEREAFTER, SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET OF THE PIA IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT. THE SELECTION OF QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES SHALL BE DONE IN COOPERATION WITH DULY ORGANIZED MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS. THE PIA SHALL PROMULGATE THE NECESSARY GUIDELINES FOR THE UTILIZATION AND DISBURSEMENT OF THE FUND WHICH SHALL INCLUDE ASSISTANCE IN FORMS OF, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MEDICAL ALLOWANCE, HAZARD PAY, GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE, GROUP LIFE INSURANCE, DISCOUNT ON TUITION FEES, AND DISCOUNT ON PURCHASE OF REFERENCE MATERIALS, FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE, AND SEED MONEY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDIA COOPERATIVES.

Section 3. Separability Clause. If any of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 4. Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations that are contrary to the provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended and modified accordingly.

Section 5. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in English or Filipino in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,