


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SENATE
P.S. RES. NO. **945**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Pia S. Cayetano

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF THE SOCIAL PENSION PROVISION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF UPLIFTING THE WELFARE OF THE FILIPINO SENIOR CITIZENS

WHEREAS, Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines provides that the “family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security;”

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9994 or the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010” was enacted in February 2010;

WHEREAS, one of its salient provisions is the grant of Social Pension to indigent senior citizens, found in Section 5 (h) (1) to wit:

“(h) Additional Government Assistance

(1) Social Pension

Indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to Five hundred pesos (Php500.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens, subject to a review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD.” (Emphasis supplied.)

WHEREAS, Section 3 (h) of R.A. No. 9994 defines indigent senior citizen as, “any elderly who is frail, sickly or with disability, and without pension or permanent source of income, compensation, or financial assistance from his/her relatives to support his/her basic needs, as determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in consultation with the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board (NCMB);

WHEREAS, it is high time to review this social pension provision by the Congress given that it has been four (4) years since the enactment of the said law;

WHEREAS, in particular, one of the aspects that must be closely examined is the current 77-year-old and above age requirement in the social pension implementation, hence, impeding the full implementation of the law;

WHEREAS, following the passage of R.A. No. 9994, DSWD issued Administrative Order No. 15, Series of 2010 which set age priorities for the recipients of the social pension with senior citizens aged 80 years old and above as first priority, aged 70 to 79 years old as second priority, and aged 60 to 69 years old as third priority, subject to the availability of funds;

WHEREAS, during the 2011 implementation of the social pension, DSWD A. O. No. 3, Series of 2011 identified only indigent senior citizens aged 77 years old and above as beneficiaries of the social pension;

WHEREAS, as stated in DSWD A.O. No. 4, Series of 2012, to qualify for the social pension, an indigent senior citizen must be 77 years old and above¹ while senior citizens aged 76 years old and below were only regarded as potential social pensioners for the succeeding years of its implementation, which is still subject to the availability of funds, or as replacements in case there will be no more qualified individuals aged 77 years old and above;

WHEREAS, the 2012 DSWD census showed that there are approximately 1.3 million indigent senior citizens in the Philippines²;

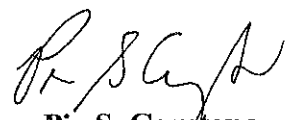
WHEREAS, in 2012 only 181,001 indigent senior citizens received the monthly stipend of P500.00³, while as of December 2013, DSWD reported that 254,175 indigent senior citizens received their stipend⁴, these are individuals aged 77 and above only;

WHEREAS, in addition to the coverage of the social pension, the amount of the monthly stipend must be studied and reconsidered taking into account the higher costs of medicines and other daily necessities;

WHEREAS, there is a need to regularly assess the quality of social services that the State extend to its citizens, particularly to those who belong to the vulnerable sectors, such as the country's senior citizens;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate Committee on Social Justice conduct a review of the social pension provision of R.A. No. 9994.

Adopted,


Pia S. Cayetano
Senator

¹ Interaksyon.01/05/2014.Indigent elders to continue to get P500 monthly stipend in 2014-DSWD.

<http://www.interaksyon.com/article/78051/indigent-elders-to-continue-to-get-p500-monthly-stipend-in-2014---dswd>

² Journal online. March 2014. Enrol more elderly in pension program.

<http://www.journal.com.ph/index.php/news/national/69549-enrol-more-elderly-in-pension-program>

³ DSWD. 2012 Annual Report.

http://www.dswd.gov.ph/download/Publication/Annual%20Report/DSWD_AR_%202012_INSIDE.pdf

⁴ Interaksyon.01/05/2014.Indigent elders to continue to get P500 monthly stipend in 2014-DSWD.

<http://www.interaksyon.com/article/78051/indigent-elders-to-continue-to-get-p500-monthly-stipend-in-2014---dswd>