

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)**

7 JUL -3 12:01

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. Bill No. 751

Introduced by Senator Antonio F. Trillanes IV

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution expressly declares that: "*The Armed Forces (AFP) is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory¹*".

The 1987 Constitution further provides that: "*Professionalism in the armed forces and adequate remuneration and benefits of its members shall be a prime concern of the State²*".

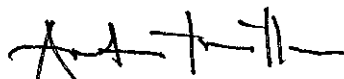
Despite of these lofty constitutional precepts, our soldiers receive measly salaries, inadequate allowances and insufficient benefits and are among the lowest paid in the Government.

A case in point is the Combat Duty Pay they receive: The officers and enlisted personnel of the AFP receive Combat Duty Pay of P240.00 per month, a paltry sum by today standards. Indeed, said amount can hardly serve as an incentive for soldiers who are subjected to numerous risks and perils when they put their lives on the line to protect our people, our institutions and our democratic way of life.

The last increase of the Combat Duty Pay was effected some twenty-two (22) years ago through Executive Order No. 1017 dated 22 March 1985, thus, highlighting the need to upgrade said allowance.

It is high time that we recognize and honor the very vital role played by officers and members of the AFP by looking after their welfare and providing them with decent and adequate compensation as well as reasonable and substantial benefits.

Hence, the immediate passage and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



ANTONIO F. TRILLANES IV

¹ Section 3, Article II [Declaration of Principles and State Policies], 1987 Constitution.

² Section 5 (3), Article XVI [General Provisions], 1987 Constitution.

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AN ACT
INCREASING THE COMBAT DUTY PAY OF ALL OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) FROM TWO HUNDRED FORTY PESOS (P240.00) PER MONTH TO TWENTY-FIVE PER CENTUM (25%) OF THEIR BASE PAY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. Increase in Combat Duty Pay. - In line with the declared policy of the State to promote professionalism in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and make adequate remuneration and benefits of its members as the prime concern of the State, the Combat Duty Pay of all officers and enlisted personnel of the AFP is hereby increased from two hundred forty pesos (P240.00) per month to twenty-five per centum (25%) of their base pay.

SEC. 2. Appropriation/Budget Required. - Such amount as may be necessary to implement this Act for the current year shall be charged against the savings of the Department of National Defense (DND). Thereafter, the National Government shall appropriate annually and include in the General Appropriations Act the amount corresponding to the total annual cost of the increase in Combat Duty Pay.

SEC. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DND in coordination with the AFP shall promulgate and immediately issue the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 4. Repealing Clause. - All provisions of any other laws, orders, acts, decrees as well as rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. Seperability Clause. - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect on 01 January 2008 or within fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever is earlier.

Approved,