

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 12 P3:29

SENATE
S.B. No. 1261

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In February, 2007, the Social Weather Station (SWS) found that some 3.4 million households had experienced involuntary hunger at least once over the previous three months, translating to a high 17 million hungry Filipinos. Malnutrition under age five (5) averaged about twenty eight percent (28 %) from 2000-2005. In 2006, there are approximately 3.41 Filipino children not enrolled in schools and not being given education. Unemployment and absence of opportunities remain as perennial barriers. The access of Filipinos to affordable drugs and medicine are still elusive. Rural areas in the Philippines had a poverty rate of 50.7.


Against these backdrop, the significance of revisiting the ideals of social justice, the hallmark of our fundamental law, is therefore primordial, as follows:

- a) "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living and an improved quality of life for all." (Art. 11, Sec.9)
- b) "The State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development." (Art. 11, Sec. 10)

These legislations accord premium to the plight of the common man as an imperative of justice. The greatness of government is reflected in the way it serves its people through programs that would best uplift their lives. It is time to honor the citizens with the best public services that should be provided and not simply give them an empty promise on attaining social justice.

Under this bill, twenty percent (20%) of the total collection from the motor vehicle registration is allotted to finance and support social justice programs. This is a deviation from the present policy in which the collections are all allotted to fund public works and hard infrastructure projects. The services of LGUs to be funded include educational assistance and scholarships; feeding for children and hunger mitigation programs; food, rice and subsistence allowance to poor Filipinos; livelihood and assistance to employment opportunities, re-training, and skills acquisition for competitiveness; health improvement and acquisition of medicine to be distributed for free to indigent patients or the establishment of "Botica sa Barangay"; and assistance to persons with disabilities and special sectors

Early recognition of this crisis is crucial, and



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AN ACT ALLOCATING TWENTY PERCENT (20%) OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE FEES REGISTRATION TO FUND SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

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

SECTION 1. Motor Vehicle Fees Registrations to Support Social Justice Programs of Local Government Units. Twenty percent (20 %) of the collection of motor vehicle fees registration shall be allocated to support the social justice program of local government units (LGUs).

The local government units must consult with registered or relevant nongovernmental organization or peoples' organization in the prioritization of social justice programs to be supported. The LGUs must endeavor to disseminate information on the availability of funds for social justice programs and must be transparent at all times in carrying out the implementation of this Act.

For the purpose of this Act, the social justice program of the local government units shall include but not limited to education and scholarships; feeding for children and hunger mitigation programs; food, rice and subsistence allowance to poor Filipinos; livelihood and assistance to employment opportunities, re-training, and skills acquisition for competitiveness; health improvement and acquisition of medicine to be distributed for free to indigent citizens or the establishment of "Botica sa Barangay" or barangay drugstores; assistance to persons with disabilities and special sectors, among others.

SECTION. 2. Remitting the Collection to LGUs. The collection agency tasked to collect registration fees of motor vehicles shall remit to the Provincial Treasurer the amount allocated to the LGUs concerned.

SECTION. 3. Keeping Separate Account. The Treasurers of the local government units shall maintain and keep a separate account for the amount remitted and intended for the purpose.

SECTION. 4. Rules and Regulations. The Departments of Interior and Local Government and Transportation and Communication shall be the lead agencies to implement the provisions of this Act. The Departments mentioned in consultation and coordination with the National Anti-Poverty Commission, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and other public and private organizations shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

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

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. - All laws, orders, rules or regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVITY -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,