

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5717

Introduced by HON. FRANCISCO G. DATOL, JR.,
Representative, Senior Citizens Party-List

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In passing the Centenarians Act its explanatory note asserted that **"a major indication of the level of nation's human development is life expectancy at birth. Human development is attainable when the human population lives healthy, and consequently, long and productive lives. Today, given the level of country's development, the average Filipino can expect to live to only 71 years. Living to be a centenarian, or three (3) decades past the life expectancy, is therefore an achievement and a distinction worthy of emulation and public recognition."**

Very few Filipinos live up to 100 years or more. Some of them do not fully appreciate and enjoy the value of money and accolade. Most likely, it is their children or grandchildren that take pleasure from the benefits provided by the Centenarians Act.

Living two (2) or three (3) decades after the life span of a typical Filipino is also a commendable feat that could be emulated by our younger people.

While nonagenarians (90 years) are nearing centenarians and who have also shared their wisdom and enviable experiences to our youth, they should likewise be **"paid proper respect and feel equally valued"**. While they are physically and comparatively stronger than centenarians, they could still fully appreciate the value of money and recognition.

The Constitution declares that it is the duty of the family **to take care of its elderly while the State may design programs of social security for them.** (Section 4, Article XV). This bill is in response to this policy of the State.

An indication of a compassionate and humane society is its responsiveness to the needs of its elderly members and approval of this bill is one of them.

This bill seeks to expand, extend or advance to nonagenarians the benefit given to centenarians by the Centenarians Act. This advanced monetary benefit would be most likely needed by nonagenarians for their maintenance medicines and healthy food to further prolong their lives even beyond a century.

Immediate consideration and approval of this bill is most earnestly sought.



HON. FRANCISCO G. DATOL, JR.
Representative
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AN ACT
TO AMEND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CENTENARIANS ACT OF 2016
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10868, otherwise known as Centenarians Act of 2016 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2. *Letter of Felicitation and Cash Gift* –All Filipinos who reach the age of one hundred (100) years old, whether residing in the Philippines or abroad, shall be honored with:

(a) A letter of Felicitation from the President of the Philippines congratulating the celebrant for his or her longevity; and

(b) A Centenarian Gift in the amount of one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) **to be distributed and given as follows: Upon reaching the age of ninety (90) years old P90,000.00 shall be advanced to him or her. The P10,000.00 balance shall be given when he or she will reach one hundred (100) years old together with the letter of felicitation mentioned above.**

SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, which shall not be later than seven (7) days after the approval thereof.

Approved,