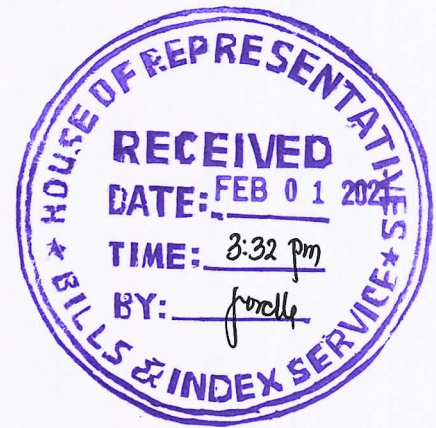


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8597



---

**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ALAN PETER “COMPAÑERO” S. CAYETANO, MARIA LAARNI L. CAYETANO, LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR., RANEO E. ABU, DAN S. FERNANDEZ, MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR, AND JOSE ANTONIO “KUYA” R. SY-ALVARADO**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The challenges brought by the year 2020 has undoubtedly left the Philippine economy in bad shape, and in turn, every Filipino in the country has felt their own share of suffering and hardship because of it.

As of January 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic has infected more than 500,000 Filipinos, and with more than 10,000 of said cases resulting in death. Due to the mandated lockdown to manage the spread of the virus, millions of Filipinos lost their jobs, bringing the country’s unemployment rate to as high as 17.7%, before eventually decreasing as the economy slowly opened back up.<sup>1</sup> The pandemic had both direct and indirect impact on poverty and inequality due to the the loss of livelihoods, disruption or closing of many businesses, increase in personal and business debt and even decrease in remittances from overseas Filipino workers, who has to be repatriated back home.<sup>2</sup>

The Philippine economy contracted more than economists expected in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, capping its worst year on record, as private consumption remained anemic even as more businesses reopened from lockdowns. For all of 2020, GDP plunged 9.5% as economists expected, the largest drop in government data going back to 1946.<sup>3</sup>

Further aggravating the challenges our country faces, prices of agricultural commodities in the Philippine market have also continued to climb in the month of January 2021. The Department of Agriculture’s (DA) price watch showed increases in vegetable and meat prices by as much as 66% from

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://psa.gov.ph/content/employment-situation-april-2020#:~:text=Unemployment%20rate%20rose%20to%2017.7,to%20the%20Philippine%20labor%20market>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/54138-001-sd-03.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-28/philippine-economy-shrinks-more-than-expected-in-fourth-quarter>

December 2020. Poverty incidence in the country remained high, even prior to the onset of the pandemic, with 9.1% of Filipinos or equivalent to 2.3 million families have experienced hunger.<sup>4</sup>

Despite the various crises our country is currently facing, the Philippines has one of the smallest amounts in terms of stimulus package among the key ASEAN countries. *Bayanihan* to Heal as One and *Bayanihan* to Recover as One have provided more than half a trillion pesos (\$10 billion). However, in the statistics provided by the Singapore Institute for International Affairs, this is still low as compared to those of Thailand (around \$75 billion), Malaysia (around \$60 billion), Singapore (around \$40 billion), Indonesia (around \$30 billion) and Vietnam (around \$20 billion).<sup>5</sup>

Although Filipinos are known for their grit and resilience, assistance to our countrymen is still needed to help them survive and get back on their feet amidst the pandemic while a viable vaccine program for all Filipinos is being rolled out by the Government. Extraordinary times require extraordinary measures to boost both the economy and the lives of the Filipino people. Given that it will take time for our country to complete all vaccinations, we must do what we can to prevent more families from going into hunger. This will drive household consumption up and in turn help our economy recover.

This bill ensures that each and every Filipino is given additional assistance, in recognition that we all have been affected by the pandemic, economic setbacks, and all the hardships brought about in the year 2020.

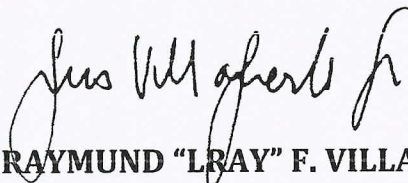
Foregoing considered, the immediate passage of this bill is sought.



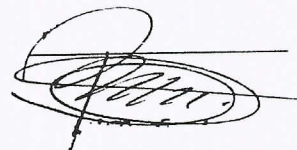
**ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO**  
*Representative*  
1<sup>st</sup> District of Taguig-Pateros



**MARIA LAARNI L. CAYETANO**  
*Representative*  
2<sup>nd</sup> District of Taguig



**LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**  
*Representative*  
2<sup>nd</sup> District of Camarines Sur



**RANEO E. ABU**  
*Representative*  
2<sup>nd</sup> District of Batangas

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1084121#:~:text=MANILA%20%2D%2D%20The%20number%20of,Social%20Weather%20Stations%20\(SWS\)](https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1084121#:~:text=MANILA%20%2D%2D%20The%20number%20of,Social%20Weather%20Stations%20(SWS))  
<sup>5</sup> <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/12/24/phl-and-its-asean-neighbors-economic-performance-amid-the-pandemic/>



**DAN S. FERNANDEZ**

*Representative*

1<sup>st</sup> District of Laguna



**MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR**

*Representative*

ANAKALUSUGAN Partylist



**JOSE ANTONIO "KUYA" R. SY-ALVARADO**

*Representative*

1<sup>st</sup> District of Bulacan

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8597

---

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ALAN PETER “COMPAÑERO” S. CAYETANO, MARIA LAARNI L. CAYETANO, LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR., RANEO E. ABU, DAN S. FERNANDEZ, MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR, AND JOSE ANTONIO “KUYA” R. SY-ALVARADO

---

AN ACT  
PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR  
FILIPINOS TO AID IN MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF THE CURRENT  
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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

1           **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Bangon*  
2 *Pamilyang Pilipino (BPP) Assistance Program Act of 2021*”

3  
4           **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the declared policy of the State to free  
5 the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services,  
6 a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

7  
8           The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the country, stunt its  
9 economy, and disrupt jobs and livelihoods – especially for the most vulnerable.  
10 Extraordinary times require extraordinary measures to uplift both the  
11 economy and the lives of the Filipino people. In line with this, the State shall  
12 endeavor to help all Filipinos and the economy get the much needed financial  
13 boost in the wake of inflation, increased prices of basic commodities, and other  
14 causes of financial strains and hardships brought about by the pandemic, most  
15 especially during the interim that a viable vaccine program is being rolled out  
16 by the Government to protect all Filipinos against COVID-19.

17

1 Towards this end, it is hereby the policy of the State to prevent more  
2 families from going into hunger by providing an immediate financial boost  
3 through an additional assistance program while the roll out of the National  
4 Vaccine Program is still pending or ongoing.

5  
6 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** As used in this Act:

- 7 a) Family – a group of persons usually living together and composed  
8 of the head and other persons related to the head by blood,  
9 marriage, or adoption. It includes both the nuclear and extended  
10 family.  
11 b) Nuclear Family – composed of a father and mother with  
12 unmarried children or a parent with children.  
13 c) Extended Family – refers to the household composed of a nuclear  
14 family as defined above together with relatives like son-in-law,  
15 daughter-in-law, grandson, granddaughter, father, mother, and  
16 other relatives.

17  
18 **Sec. 4. BPP Assistance Program.** – Over and above and separate and  
19 distinct from any financial assistance or social amelioration measure of the  
20 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the BPP Assistance  
21 Program is hereby created under the DSWD that will hereby provide cash  
22 assistance through the most expeditious, transparent, and simple process to all  
23 Filipino families and individuals affected by the pandemic, as enumerated in  
24 Section 6 herein.

25  
26 **Sec. 5. Amount of BPP Cash Assistance.** – Each Filipino family shall  
27 receive a one-time cash assistance of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000) or One  
28 Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500) per Family member, whichever is  
29 higher.

30  
31 **Sec. 6. Priority List of Beneficiaries.** – The following shall be given  
32 priority in the distribution of the BPP Cash Assistance:

- 33 a) Poorest of the poor;  
34 b) Senior Citizens;  
35 c) Persons with Disabilities;  
36 d) Solo parents;  
37 e) Displaced, retrenched or separated workers, or otherwise severely  
38 affected or have lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic, which  
39 include, but are not limited to, the following:  
40 1. Freelancers such as entertainers, tour guides, workers in the  
41 events industry, therapists, etc.;

2. Drivers of public transportation such as pedicab, tricycle, PUJs, PUVs, taxi, bus, etc.;
  3. Owners and workers in microenterprises such as sari-sari stores, market stalls, food carts, etc.;
  4. Farmers;
  5. Homeworkers including family drivers and househelpers; and
  6. Sub-minimum wage earners.
- f) Medical frontliners including Barangay Health Workers;
  - g) Families of Overseas Filipino Workers;
  - h) Those who were not able to receive assistance through any of the Social Amelioration Programs of the national government;
  - i) Filipino Citizens holding a Philippine National ID; and
  - j) Other members of the vulnerable sectors.

**Sec. 7. Enrollment to the Philippine Identification System.** – Pursuant to the policy set out in Republic Act (RA) No. 11055 or the Philippine Identification System Act which aims to promote seamless delivery of service and to improve the efficiency, transparency, and targeted delivery of public and social services, all Filipinos who seek to benefit from the BPP Cash Assistance Program are enjoined and highly encouraged to enroll in the Philippine Identification System (PIS). Enrollment in the system would merit prioritization of the enrollee in the list of beneficiaries of this Act as stated in Sec. 6.

**Sec. 8. BPP Assistance Program Hotline, Website, and Mobile Application.** – The DSWD shall establish, maintain and operate a telephone hotline, website, and a mobile application in order to effectively and efficiently facilitate the roll-out of the BPP Assistance Program, answer inquiries and receive complaints and grievances from the public, and help disseminate information. A separate hotline shall also be dedicated for those with special needs such as but not limited to: Senior Citizens, Persons with Disabilities, and the like.

**Sec. 9. Sources of Funding.** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be sourced from the unprogrammed funds and savings from R.A. No. 11465 or the 2020 General Appropriations Act (GAA) and R.A. No. 11518 or the 2021 GAA. The National Government may also enter into favorable loan agreement(s) to finance the programs and projects to implement this Act.

1           **Sec. 10. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any portion or provision  
2 of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions  
3 not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

4  
5           **Sec. 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, proclamations,  
6 rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent  
7 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

8  
9           **Sec. 12. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
10 publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.  
11 The effectivity of this Act shall cease upon the lifting of the State of Public Health  
12 Emergency throughout the Philippines as stated in Presidential Proclamation  
13 No. 922, s. 2020.

14  
15           *Approved,*