COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1285

Submitted by the Special Committee on Senior Citizens on October 1, 2021
Re: House Resolution No. 2276
Recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1047
Sponsors: Representatives Rodolfo “Ompong” M. Ordanes and Rufus B. Rodriguez

Mr. Speaker:

The Special Committee on Senior Citizens to which was referred House Resolution No. 1047, introduced by Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT TO RELEASE THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS EVERY THREE MONTHS INSTEAD OF THE CURRENT SCHEDULE OF EVERY SIX MONTHS”

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Resolution No. 2276 entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT TO RELEASE ON A QUARTERLY BASIS THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS INSTEAD OF THE CURRENT SEMESTRAL SCHEDULE”


Respectfully submitted:

HON. RODOLFO “Ompong” M. ORDANES
Chairperson
Special Committee on Senior Citizens

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

RESOLUTION
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT TO RELEASE ON A QUARTERLY BASIS THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS INSTEAD OF THE CURRENT SEMESTRAL SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority show that around 7.4% of the total population of the Philippines or around 7.5 million Filipinos are senior citizens;

WHEREAS, the government has been striving to promote the welfare of our senior citizens through programs, policies and laws;

WHEREAS, last 31 January 2019, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) issued Memorandum Circular No.4 Series of 2019 (MC 4-2019), or the Omnibus Guidelines in the Implementation of the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens;

WHEREAS, under MC 4-2019, it is provided that “the release of the monthly social pension at Five Hundred Pesos (PhP500.00) per beneficiary will be done every six (6) months or Three Thousand Pesos (PhP3,000.00) per semester”;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected and disrupted the lives of all Filipinos since mid March of 2020 with the end still uncertain, as new and deadlier mutations of the virus have been noted by authorities;

WHEREAS, as a result of lockdowns and quarantines in many parts of the country due to COVID-19, a large segment of the working population lost their jobs, depriving, especially those from the poor sector gainful employment and financial security, affecting elderly family members who are dependent on them for financial support;

WHEREAS, the lack of income or financial assistance to the elderly will push them down into poverty, which, coupled with lack of access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, will lead to hunger and malnutrition;
WHEREAS, the deprivation or delayed administration of critical medicines to the citizenry, especially the elderly, has the potential to worsen existing medical conditions;

WHEREAS, now more than ever, indigent senior citizens need financial assistance, and an interval of six months within which to distribute the assistance maybe more harmful than responsible;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, To urge the DSWD to release on a quarterly basis the monthly social pension of senior citizens instead of the current semestral schedule;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That copies of this Resolution be furnished immediately to the DSWD, National Commission of Senior Citizens, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, League of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Vice Governors of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines, and Liga Ng Mga Barangay.

Adopted,