

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
3rd Regular Session

House Bill No. 9961



Introduced by Representative PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The responsibility to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of national territory and to maintain peace and order in our communities is primarily undertaken by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), respectively. As the protector of the State and of the Filipino people, both have consistently bolstered their efforts to effectively address insurgency and criminality in the country.

With the perils associated with their work, our military and police force ought to have free and competent legal counsel to ensure that they are also protected. Thus, this measure seeks to provide free legal assistance on any office or enlisted personnel of the AFP and the PNP on any charge before the prosecutor's office, court or any competent body arising from an incident related to the performance of official duty.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "PAOLO Z. DUTERTE".

PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
3rd Regular Session

House Bill No. 9961

Introduced by Representative PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

AN ACT

PROVIDING FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO ANY OFFICER OR ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ON ANY CHARGE BEFORE THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, COURT, OR ANY COMPETENT BODY ARISING FROM AN INCIDENT RELATED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTY

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Free Legal Assistance Act for Enlisted Personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police."

SEC. 2. Any officer or enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), who is facing before the prosecutor's office, court, administrative or any competent body, any charge arising from an incident or incidents in relation to the performance of their official duty shall be entitled to free legal assistance.

SEC. 3. Within twenty four (24) hours from the official receipt of the information that the officer or enlisted personnel is charged, the Chief of Staff of the AFP, the Chairperson of the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) or the Chief of the PNP shall authorize the legal office of their respective agencies, with the assistance of the Public Attorney's Office, to provide free legal assistance to any officer or enlisted personnel of the AFP and the PNP for the purpose of the immediately preceding section.

SEC. 4. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the Legal Defense Fund funded through the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Public Attorney's Office, in coordination with the AFP, NAPOLCOM, and the PNP, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,