



PRESS RELEASE

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Bataan First District Representative Geraldine Roman pushes for Increased Benefits for WWII Veterans



Bataan First District Congresswoman Geraldine B. Roman speaks on the importance of HB 270, which she introduced to the Seventeenth Congress.

Bataan First District Representative Geraldine B. Roman is pushing for veterans' welfare through House Bill 270, which she introduced in the Lower House.

HB 270, also known as the 'Act Increasing the Monthly Pension of Senior Veterans Thereby Amending RA 6948, As Amended', aims to increase the old age pension for veterans of World War II, as well as the Vietnam and Korean Wars. The current base pension for veterans, which has remained unchanged for 21 years, amounts to around Php 5,000 per month. The proposed bill aims to quadruple this figure to around Php 20,000 per month, so that "the veterans may live decently and with dignity". Representative Roman stressed the importance of passing the bill as soon as possible, considering the rate at which veterans die. It is estimated that there are 7,000 remaining WWII veterans, 300 of whom pass away every month on average.

Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) administrator Undersecretary Ernesto G. Carolina also recently weighed in on the subject, expressing hopes that HB270 passes into law this year so that it can be included in the 2019 budget. HB 270 itself is being deliberated in the House Appropriations Committee as of press time.

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