

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL No. 3838**



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**Introduced by: HONORABLE HENRY S. OAMINAL**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to increase the authorized campaign expenditures of candidates and political parties to a more realistic level in order to make more accurate, truthful and appropriate the statement of contributions and expenditures (SOCE) that they will submit to the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

Republic Act No. 7166 explicitly provides limitations upon the expenses of candidates and of political parties as follows:

**For President and Vice-President** - Ten pesos (P10.00); **for other candidates**, Three pesos (P3.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency where he filed his candidacy; and for a candidate without any political party and without support from any political party - Five pesos (P5.00) for every such voter; and

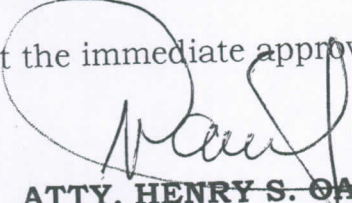
**For political parties** - Five pesos (P5.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates.

It is worthy to consider that the purchasing power of the Philippine peso has continuously diminished from the time Republic Act No. 7166 took effect twenty five (25) years ago or in 1991 to be exact up to the present time due to numerous economic factors.

Based on a recent computation by an economist as reported in the national dailies, the value of one (1) Philippine peso in 1991 was equivalent to P3.41 in 2013 or our one (1) Philippine peso in 2013 was equivalent to P0.29 in 1991 based on Consumer Price Index. There is a need therefore, considering the time and economic factors, to increase the authorized campaign expenditures for the positions of President and Vice-President from P10.00 to P50.00, for other candidates from P3.00 to P20.00 and for political parties from P5.00 to P25.00.

The loud and growing clamour to adjust the poll spending cap did not only come from the candidates, political parties and COMELEC but even from international election observers. In fact, Pro-democracy non-government organization (NGO), Carter Center, which was one of international observers during the recently 2016 National and Local Elections noted the "unrealistically low" spending limits for candidates and political parties in the country. The Center, in its report, viewed that "All mission interlocutors agree that the spending limits imposed on election campaigns are unrealistically low, and that candidates are in effect forced to file false declarations of expenses as a result."

The foregoing reasons warrant the immediate approval of this bill.



**ATTY. HENRY S. OAMINAL**  
Representative  
Second District, Misamis Occidental



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**AN ACT**  
**INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENSES OF**  
**CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES, AMENDING FOR THE**  
**PURPOSE SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED, "AN**  
**ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL**  
**ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, APPROPRIATING**  
**THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7166 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**"Sec. 13. Authorized Expenses of Candidates and Political Parties.** – The aggregate amount that a candidate or registered political party may spend for election campaign shall be as follows:

For candidates. – [Ten] **FIFTY** pesos [(P10.00)] **(P50.00)** for President and Vice-President; and for other candidates, [Three] **TWENTY** pesos [(P3.00)] **(P20.00)** for every voter currently registered in the constituency where he filed his candidacy; Provided, That a candidate without any political party and without support from any political party may be allowed to spend **TWENTY** Five pesos [(P5.00)] **(P25.00)** for every such voter; and

For political parties. – **TWENTY** Five pesos [(P5.00)] **(P25.00)** for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where it has official candidates.

Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding any contribution in cash or in kind to any candidate or political party or coalition of parties for campaign purposes, duly reported to the Commission shall not be subject to the payment of any gift tax."

**SEC. 2.** The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

**SEC. 3.** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*