

# Philippine Aging and Health Policies

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# Republic Act 9994: Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010

- entitles senior citizens to a 20% discount on the purchase of medicines, food, and other expenditure items
- “The Department of Health (DOH), shall institute a national health program and shall provide an integrated health service for senior citizens...”

“ Throughout the country, there shall be established a senior citizens’ ward in every government hospital”

# 2015 DOH Administrative Order

NATIONAL POLICY ON THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS  
PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS (HWPSC)

Renamed

HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE AGING (2018)

# Objectives:

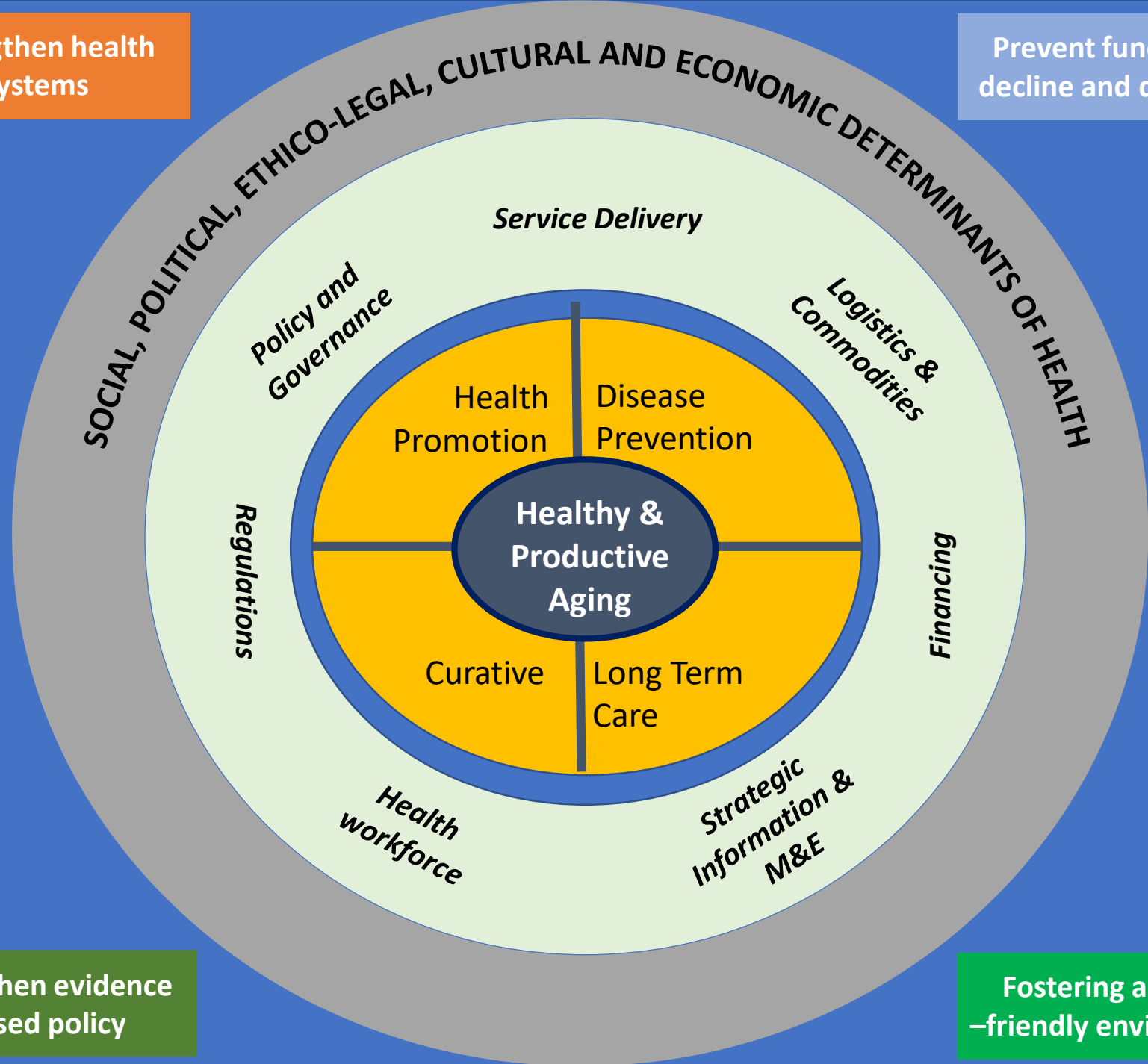
## Health and Wellness Program for Senior Citizens (HWPSC)

- focused service delivery packages and integrated continuum of quality care
- patient-centered and environment standard to ensure safety and accessibility for senior citizens
- equitable health financing
- capacitated health providers in the implementation of health programs for senior citizens
- data base management
- strengthened coordination and collaboration with other stakeholders involved in the implementation of programs for senior citizens

# Healthy and Productive Aging Strategic Framework

Strengthen health systems

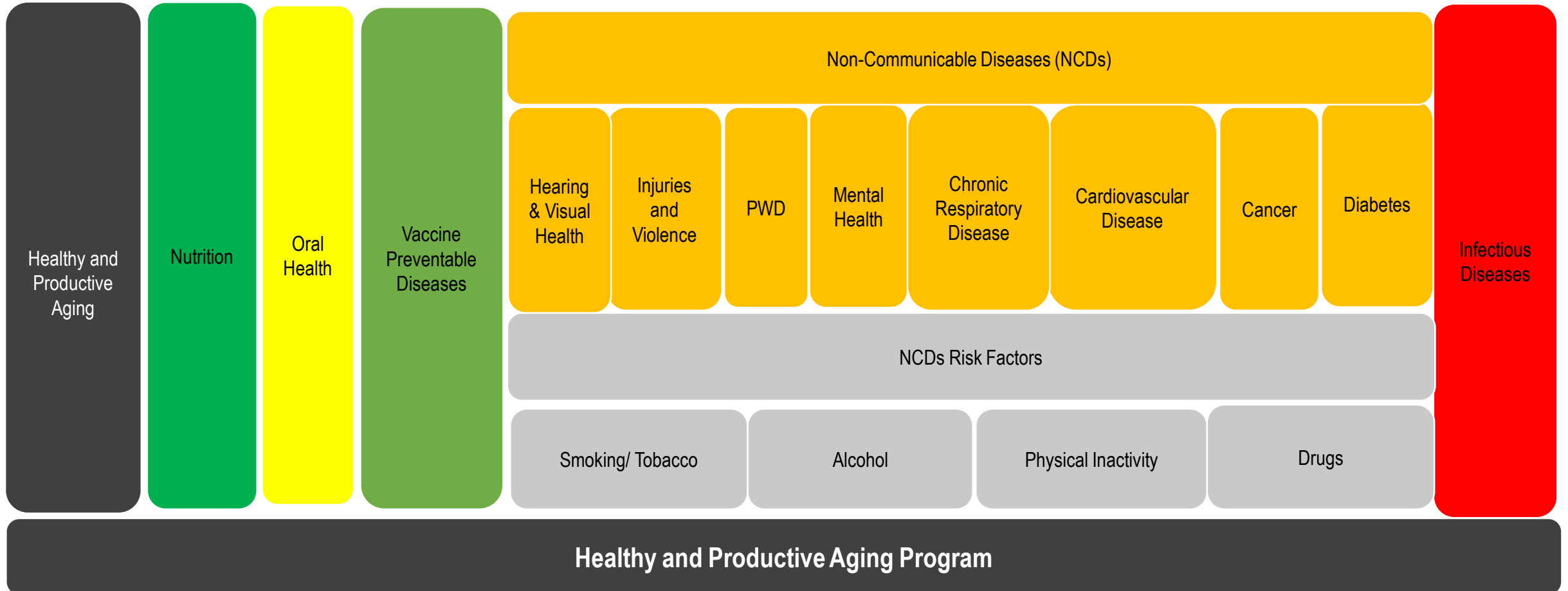
Prevent functional decline and diseases



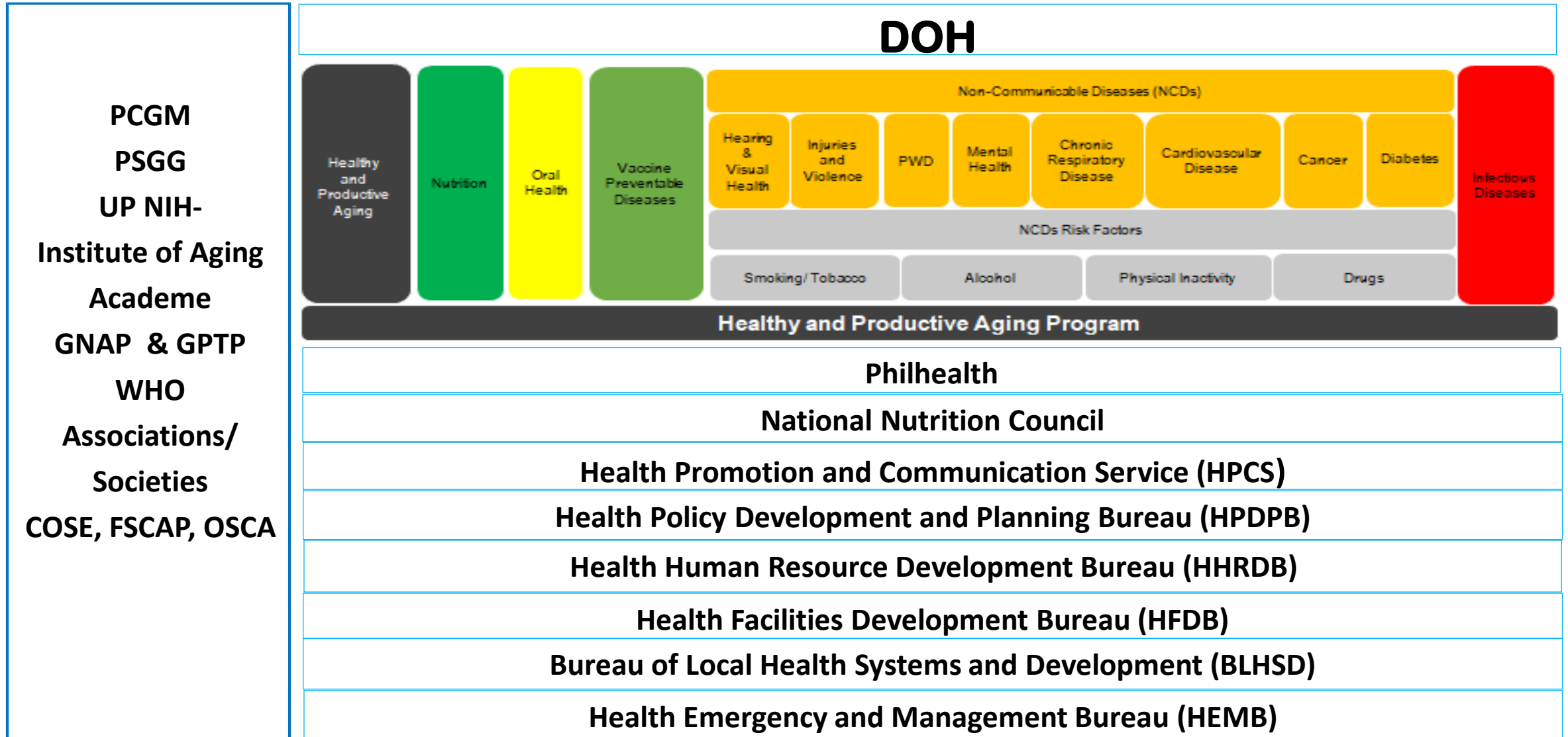
Strengthen evidence-based policy

Fostering an aged-friendly environment

# HWPSC collaboration with other DOH programs



# Collaboration with DOH offices and advisory groups





# Other Policies on Aging and Health

- All senior citizens are mandatorily covered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation by virtue of Republic Act No. 10642 “An act granting mandatory national health insurance program of PhilHealth for all senior citizens”.

# Other Policies on Aging and Health

- Republic Act 11223: Universal Health Care Law of 2019
  - guarantees equitable access to quality and affordable health care services for all Filipinos, including older persons
- National Health Insurance Program

# Other Policies on Aging and Health

- Tax Reform for Acceleration & Inclusion (TRAIN) Law
  - Beginning January 2019, RA 10963 extends VAT exemptions to medications for diabetes, high cholesterol, and hypertension—the 3 most common maladies of older persons.

# Other Policies on Aging and Health

- Republic Act 11350: National Commission of Senior Citizens
  - Ensure the full implementation of laws, policies, and programs of the government pertaining to senior citizens
  - responsible for the promotion and protection of the rights and well-being of senior citizens, among others

# Other initiatives related to Aging and Health

## **Plan of Action for Senior Citizens (2017-2022)**

- ensure proper efforts to address challenges brought about by population aging
- led by the Department of Social Welfare and Development

## **Commission on Human Rights**

- Protect the rights and well-being of older Filipinos by participating in the United Nations (UN) Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing

# Other Programs to curb Old-Age Poverty

- **Social Pension Program for Indigent Senior Citizens**
- **Republic Act 11164**  
An Act Increasing the Monthly Old-age Pension of Senior Veterans  
PhP 20,000 per month (about US\$400)
- **Republic Act 10868**  
Centenarians Act of 2016  
Cash gift of at least PhP100,000 (about US\$2,000)

# Other Initiatives for Older Filipinos (in the pipeline)

## **Universal Social Pension**

Institutionalization of senior citizen funds

## **Anti-Elder Abuse Act**

Thank you.