



# 2018

## NATIONAL NUTRITION AWARDING CEREMONY

Philippine International Convention Center  
31 July 2018









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# BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLAR PROGRAM

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## Background

The Barangay Nutrition Scholar (BNS) Program is a human resource development strategy of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition, which involves the training, deployment and supervision of volunteer workers or barangay nutrition scholars (BNS). Presidential Decree No. 1569 mandated the deployment of one BNS in every barangay in the country to monitor the nutritional status of children and/or link communities with nutrition and related service providers. PD 1569 also mandated the NNC to administer the program in cooperation with local government units.

## Qualifications of a BNS

A BNS is a trained community worker who links the community with service providers, with the following qualifications:

1. Bonafide resident of the barangay for at least four years and can speak the dialect well;
2. Possess leadership potentials as evidenced by membership and leadership in community organizations;
3. Willing to serve the barangay, part-time or full-time for at least one year;
4. At least elementary graduate but preferably has reached high school level;
5. Physically and mentally fit; and
6. More than 18 years old, but younger than 60 years old.

## Basic Tasks

### • *Caring for the malnourished . . .*

The BNS identifies, locates underweight children through a community survey. This survey involves weighing all preschoolers and interviewing mothers to determine how the child is cared for, and the resources available in the family for their participation in nutrition and related interventions.

Based on the results of the annual weighing, the BNS weighs monthly all underweight preschoolers. The BNS also weighs all 0-23 month-old children to monitor their growth which is most critical at this stage. The BNS also does a quarterly follow-up weighing of children, 24-59 months old, to the extent possible.

The regular weighing provides the basis for corrective actions which may include referral to the appropriate service or implementation of nutrition projects, together with the community.

### • *Mobilizing the community . . .*

The BNS also moves the community to organize into networks of 20-25 households, or into community-based organizations working for the improvement of their nutrition situation.

### • *Linkage-building . . .*

In the presence of other barangay-based development workers, the BNS may not necessarily deliver direct nutrition services to the community but serve as linkage-builder, to ensure that members of the community, especially those with underweight children, avail of nutrition and related services. The BNS must be aware of the services available and of those who need these services, and establish a system through which those needing certain services are referred to the appropriate service provider.



# BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLAR PROGRAM

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## • *Other forms of assistance . . .*

The BNS assists in delivering nutrition and related services which include:

- a. Organizing mothers' class or community nutrition education
- b. Providing nutrition counseling services, especially on exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding, through home visits
- c. Managing community-based feeding programs under the supervision of a nutritionist-dietitian;
- d. Distributing seeds, seedlings, and small animals from the local agriculture office and other government organizations and nongovernment organizations to promote home or community food gardens; and
- e. Informing the community on scheduled immunization and other health activities but always together with the local midwife, agriculture officer, social welfare officer, and other workers.

## • *Keeping records . . .*

To help other barangay workers and the local officials, the BNS keeps a record of the results of the regular weighings as well a record on the nutrition and health profile of families in the barangay. The BNS also formulates a BNS Action Plan as guide in managing the different tasks assigned to him/her. The BNS also prepares a record of monthly accomplishments to monitor his or her performance in relation to the action plan. The record helps identify adjustments in the plan of action to meet targets set. The BNS also keeps track of his or her daily activities through a diary. The diary should list not only the BNS's activities but also observations and insights as may be appropriate.

## Training

The BNS undergoes a ten-day didactic training. The training facilitates the acquisition of knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed for effective performance of the tasks of identifying the malnourished, monitoring the malnourished, and referring them to appropriate service providers.

After the didactic phase, the BNS undergoes a twenty-day practicum to learn how to weigh preschoolers properly and interview mothers on matters which may relate to their child-rearing practices. During this phase, the BNS collects and analyzes data on the barangay nutrition situation using the family and barangay profile forms. He or she also formulates his or her action plan.

In some instances, and due to resource constraints, the 30-day training is reduced to 3-4 days and the practicum phase becomes part of the BNS's service period.

The BNS trainer-supervisor or the district/city nutrition program coordinator (D/CNPC) organizes, conducts, and supervises the training. In the absence of the D/CNPC, the nutrition action officer (NAO) assumes these responsibilities. To reinforce skills during the formal training, BNSs also attend monthly meetings.

During these meetings, the D/CNPC or NAO provides more information on proper weighing and record keeping, good nutrition, breastfeeding or other information to update their knowledge and skills. The D/CNPC or NAO visits the BNS regularly observing and encouraging the BNS to do things correctly.



# BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLAR PROGRAM

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## Benefits

The best reward of the BNS is the knowledge that they have served their community by helping prevent unnecessary child death. In addition, the BNS receives some incentives too. After completing two consecutive years of satisfactory service, the BNS can avail of a first level civil service eligibility by filing the proper application with the regional office of the Civil Service Commission. This gives the BNS a chance to become a full-pledged civil servant should the BNS qualify for a vacant position in the local government. Detailed requirements appear in the Civil Service Commission website.

A BNS receives a modest monthly traveling allowance from the NNC in Manila, the provincial, city, municipal or barangay governments. The amount of the allowance varies depending on the financial capability of the LGUs. In addition, BNSs from LGUs that submit a request to the NNC Manila are covered by a GSIS accident insurance.

Newly trained BNSs also receive (from NNC Manila) a bag, a T-shirt and a set of nutrition information materials to be shared with the other members of the community. BNSs also receive various material incentives like uniform, jacket, etc, from the LGU.

When the BNS does his/her work well, he/she could be chosen as an outstanding BNS in the municipality, city, province or region; and may even be a national outstanding BNS.

## NNC List of Requirements for Issuance of Authenticated List of BNS

(For Application of Civil Service Eligibility)

1. Original endorsement letter from NNC regional office.
2. Original endorsement letter from local chief executive.
3. Photocopy of designation/ appointment paper signed by Barangay Captain/ Nutrition Action Officer.
4. Photocopy of BNS master list with name and details of BNS, per year of service.
5. Photocopy of BNS ID card or government issued ID card.
6. At least one (1) certificate of attendance/participation from relevant training.



# NATIONAL OUTSTANDING BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLAR (NOBNS)

The Barangay Nutrition Scholar (BNS) Program is a strategy of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition that involves recruitment, deployment, training, and supervision of community volunteer workers on nutrition called Barangay Nutrition Scholars.

By virtue of Presidential Decree No. 1569, every barangay in the country is mandated to deploy one Barangay Nutrition Scholar to be responsible for monitoring the nutritional status of children and assist in the for delivery of nutrition services and other related activities in the barangay.

NNC gives due recognition to the BNS with the most outstanding performance in the country selected among the best performing BNS in each region. Each Regional Outstanding BNS receives a cash prize of P15,000 and a certificate of recognition

Chosen from among the current crop of 42,400 BNSs, the National Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholar for 2017 will receive a cash prize of P 150,000 and a BNS trophy.

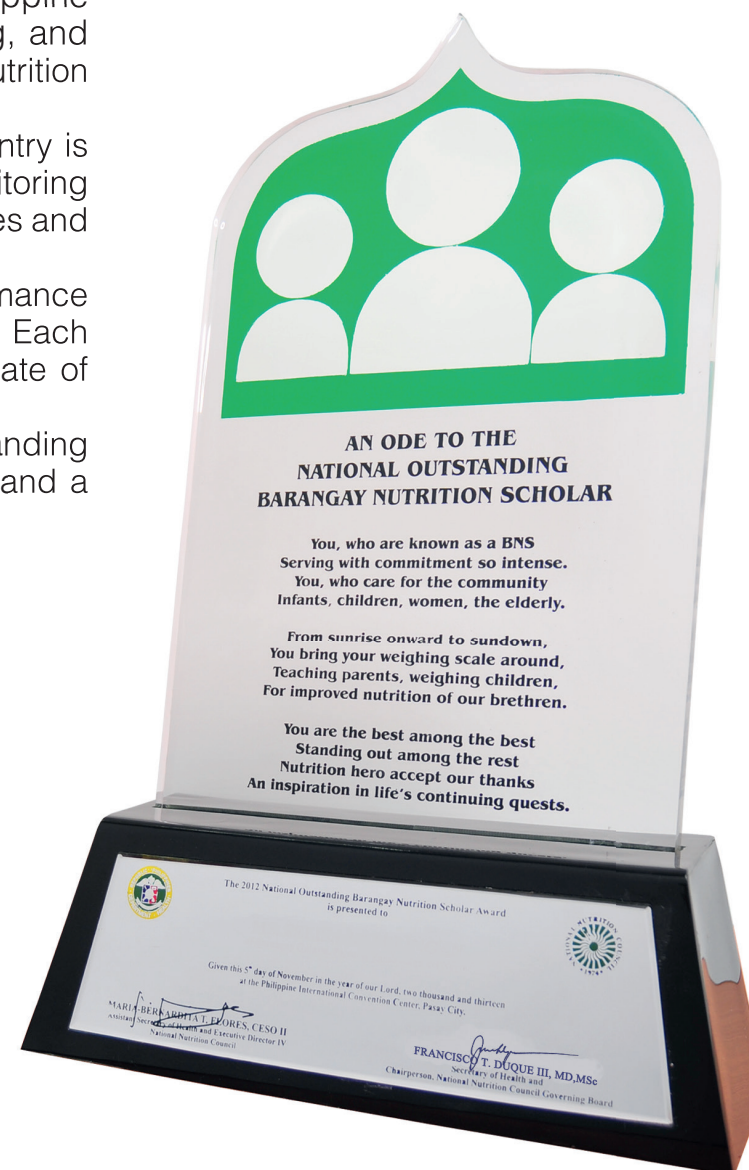
## AN ODE TO THE NATIONAL OUTSTANDING BNS

You, who are known as a BNS,  
Serving with a commitment so intense.

You, who care for the community,  
Infants, children, women, and the elderly.

From sunrise to sundown  
You bring a weighing scale around.  
Teaching parents, weighing children,  
For improved nutrition of our brethren.

You are the best among the best,  
Standing out among the rest.  
Nutrition hero accept our thanks,  
An inspiration in life's continuing quest.





# National Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholar (NOBNS) FINALISTS, 2017



**Aurelia O. Aguilar**

60 years old  
13 years in service  
Barangay Oaqui 3, Luna, La Union  
Region I



**Elvira T. Quirona**

58 years old  
32 years in service  
Barangay Pinagkaisahan  
Makati City  
National Capital Region



**Filfranie Grace P. Alabag**

40 years old  
2.5 years in service  
Barangay San Pedro, Maddela  
Quirino  
Region II



**Sarah V. Villacarillo**

47 years old  
10 years in service  
Barangay Pulong Sta. Cruz  
Santa Rosa City, Laguna  
CALABARZON Region



**Thelma S. Esteban**

44 years old  
8 years in service  
Barangay Bugtong na Buli  
Talavera, Nueva Ecija  
Region III



**Angelita L. Aquino**

32 years old  
10 years in service  
Barangay Mapaang, Maco  
Compostela Valley  
Region XI



**Miraflor A. Calacat**

48 years old  
8 years in service  
Barangay Mahayahay, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte  
CARAGA Region



# NOBNS EVALUATION IN ACTION



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# 2017 National Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholar (NOBNS)

## ANGELITA L. AQUINO

*Barangay Mapaang, Maco, Compostella Valley*





Barangay Mapaang is one of the interior barangays of Maco, Compostela Valley, traversing more than 10 kilometers of hilly, mixed rough terrain and cemented roads to get to the barangay's centro. Once referred to as no-man's land because of mass evacuation due to skirmishes between the local insurgents and the military, with no access to basic services, the barangay can only be accessed by foot or on horse. Currently, the barangay is accessible by habal-habal and four-wheel drive vehicles, which has improved the community's access to basic services as well as markets to their agricultural produce.

Home to the Mansaka tribe of Compostela Valley, the barangay is blessed with rich soil to support the agriculture activity of the barangay which is their main source of income. Mansaka, meaning "the first people to ascend the mountain or go upstream" is doubly blessed because it has for produced the 2017 National Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholar, in the person of Angelita L. Aquino or Gie.

BNS Gie is a Mansaka, 32 years old, married and a mother of 3 boys. She has been a BNS for 10 and half years. BNS Gie used her being a member of the Mansaka to maximum advantage to integrate her learnings in nutrition and health into the Mansaka culture. A high school graduate, her first orientation of the functions of a BNS is to weigh children to find out their nutritional status. In her own account, the first time she was asked to do a problem tree of malnutrition, she drew a malnourished horse. But after attending the training for new BNSs, she now knows how to do a problem tree and correctly identifies factors that cause malnutrition in her community. She also realized that to be a BNS, her work entails much more than weighing children. Her educational attainment was not a deterrent in her delivery of services as BNS with the assistance of the municipal nutrition coordinator.

BNS Gie continues the implementation of the Egg Project, which she started in 2015, providing an egg a day to identified malnourished preschool children and children with borderline weights for 120 days to improve their nutritional status. The project also includes the provision of 5 kilos of rice every month from the city government. Monitoring is done through surprise visits to check if the egg was consumed by the intended recipients. If other members of the family consumed the egg, the family is required to pay its equivalent amount to purchase eggs to replace what were consumed.

She also initiated what can be referred to as "Men in uniform for nutrition" strategy to mobilize enlisted men from the Philippine Army deployed in the barangay to provide labor (fetching firewood and water for cooking supplementary food for children); donations in kind (vegetables from the camp garden) or cash for various nutrition and nutrition-related activities of the barangay.

BNS Gie also organized and maintained the Breastfeeding Support Group, assists in weekly monitoring of low birth weight infants and shared with the parents how to do kangaroo-mother care. She is also involved in pregnancy tracking and monitoring of compliance to micronutrient supplementation, specifically for iron syrup for underweight children who failed the hemoglobin determination and iron with folic acid supplements for pregnant and lactating women.



In her 10 years, BNS Gie encountered difficulties in doing her tasks which include people's indifference during her home visits to refusal of some recipients to accept assistance. Instead of being discouraged, she persisted and is now regarded as an important and valuable member of her community.

She initiated *Donasyon Nimo, Kalipay Namo* to raise funds to purchase commodities to feed pregnant women and older persons. She also participates as an officer or active member in various community-based organizations such as Mapaang Women's Vegetable Producers Association; Mapaang Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Cacao Farmers' Association; Mapaang Parent-Teachers' Association; CARD-MRI and KALAHCI-CIDSS. She also volunteers for the supervised neighborhood play sessions along with other parent volunteers.

BNS Gie focused her efforts to rehabilitate 15 underweight pre-school children in 2008 when she started as BNS. In 2017, her strategy of a mix of curative and preventive interventions effectively rehabilitated five (5) underweight preschool children, and by addressing the causes of malnutrition of the 11 identified children at-risk to underweight, which proved effective as no additional children have become underweight.

BNS Gie Aquino proved that despite limited formal education, a very challenging environment and limited resources, one can rise beyond and be true and proud to her heritage as a Mansaka.

Mabuhay ka BNS Gie, the country's 2017 National Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholar!



**Runner Up: National Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholar**  
**ELVIRA T. QUIRONA**  
*Barangay Pinagkaisahan, Makati City*





Barangay Pinagkaisahan, once covered with forest trees and cogon, is relatively small in size and population but as progressive as its city. Bounded by EDSA, a stone's throw away from Bonifacio Global City and Makati Central Business District, the interior of the barangay is still mostly residential. Surviving the ravages of the Japanese occupation, the barrio folks were united (pinag-isa) to re-build and thrive to its present state. Thus, the barangay's name of Pinagkaisahan.

It is in this barangay where Elvira T. Quirano, a 58-year old, single mother of one and grandmother of two, resides and has served as Barangay Nutrition Scholar (BNS) for 32 years. Public service is inherent in BNS Elvie since a number of her relatives served Barangay Pinagkaisahan as barangay officials. An undergraduate of B. S. Elementary education, BNS Elvie started her public service career as BNS in 1986, succeeding her cousin who went abroad. Thirty-two (32) years later, she is still a BNS but is now a regular employee of the Makati City government.

Over the years, she has systematized her work, particularly for the conduct of the Operation *Timbang Plus*. She developed an OPT Plus Plan containing the weekly schedule per street to be covered and the people assigned per area. In coordination with barangay officials who provide logistics support during the activity, BNS Elvie can cover even those living in apartment complexes in the barangay.

In recognition of the limited space in urban barangays, BNS Elvie proposed urban food gardening in front of Barangay Pinagkaisahan Hall to benefit 4Ps families and families with malnourished children. Intended recipients who want to harvest from the garden need the permission of barangay officials. Some residents also planted vegetables in recycled PET bottles. Even the 2nd floor of the barangay hall showcases *kalamansi* trees planted in pots with fruits ready for harvest and other leafy green vegetables.

As organizer of the barangay's Breastfeeding Support Group, BNS Elvie conducts counselling sessions to pregnant women during the latter's pre-natal visits to the health center. She participates in the advocacy campaign for lactation in the workplace. In 2017, BNS Elvie and the nutritionist assigned to Barangay Pinagkaisahan visited Brownies, a concessionaire of SM and Tambunting to convince the two establishments to set up lactation rooms for their employees and clients.

As a member of the Barangay Pinagkaisahan Task Force Bantay ASIN, she conducts salt testing in *sari-sari* stores and selected



households to demonstrate what iodized salt looks like and to test the presence of iodine. She also assists the Barangay Health Station staff in dispensing vitamin A capsule to identified recipients, and distribution of micronutrient powder to all pre-school children.

In addition to her role as BNS, BNS Elvie also participates in the *Tapat Ko, Linis Ko* campaign of the barangay by volunteering as a street cleaner on weekends while the regular street cleaners are on their day-off. She also serves as the barker or caller during the *Ugnayan Pangkalusugan*, the counterpart of the General Assembly, where the community members are informed of health, nutrition and nutrition-related activities. During the conduct of the *Barangay Lingkod Bayan* Caravan, she assists during the assessment of patients and referral to appropriate health professional in the caravan.

Despite the challenge of a fluid and relatively large population, BNS Elvie was able to maintain the number of underweight and wasted preschool children to less than 10 since 2015. This was realized with the support of the Pinagkaisahan Barangay Nutrition Committee led by *Punong Barangay* Fernando Bolo.

In her 32 years of service, BNS Elvie has been recognized twice for her outstanding performance. None compares however, to being declared this year as the 2017 National Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholar Runner-Up!



# NATIONAL OUTSTANDING BNS CYs 1996-2016

Year	Award	Name	Area
1996	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Jacqueline P. Miras Ms. Celsa A. Autentico Ms. Esperanza J. Guevarra	Brgy. Ginatilan, Kidapawan City (Region XII) Brgy. Poblacion, Don Carlos, Bukidnon (Region X) Brgy. Don Galo, Parañaque, MM(NCR)
1997	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Eden E. Barbara Ms. Amorlita B. Bayot Ms. Lolita M. Padilla	Brgy. Pacol, Naga City (Region V) Brgy. Maitim II West, Tagaytay City (Region IV) Brgy. Aguada, Ozamiz City (Region X)
1998	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Federica N. Labrador Ms. Lilia S. Enaldo Ms. Josefina Canuto	Brgy. Amas, Kidapawan City (Region XII) Brgy. Bonuan Boquig, Dagupan City (Region I) Brgy. Upper Dagsian, Baguio City (CAR)
1999	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Generosa B. Sarigumba Ms. Cecilia S. Barbadillo Ms. Rosavilla D. Marcial	Brgy. Junction, Kidapawan City (Region XII) Brgy. Laturan, Libona, Bukidnon (Region X) Brgy. Poblacion, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur (CARAGA)
2000	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Norma Monforte Ms. Mercedes DC. Cara Ms. Filomena P. Arances Ms. Ma. Fe A. Magdoza	Brgy. Pinamanculan, Butuan City(CARAGA) Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Benito Soliven, Isabela(Region II) Brgy. Macebolig, Kidapawan City(Region XI) Brgy. Abucayan Sur, Calape, Bohol (Region VII)



# NATIONAL OUTSTANDING BNS CYs 1996-2016

Year	Award	Name	Area
2001	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Irene B. Ordinario Ms. Carmelita V. Parantar Ms. Teresa T. Tanguilan Ms. Milagros R. Manansala	Brgy. Quinapon-an, Antequera, Bohol (Region VII) Brgy. Tacunan, Davao City (Region XI) Brgy. Cagumitan, Tuao, Cagayan (Region II) Brgy. Pulanglupa I, Las Piñas City (NCR)
2002	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Marilou B. Barnuevo Ms. Virginia C. Akhtar Ms. Ophelia P. Labiano	Brgy. Zone III, Koronadal City (Region XII) Brgy. Taliptip, Bulacan, Bulacan (Region III) Brgy. 12 Tandang Sora, Butuan City (CARAGA)
2003	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Metchel P. Malapad Ms. Judith C. Mañacap Ms. Susan H. Inson	Brgy. Kalasungay, Malaybalay City (Region X) Brgy. Manongol, Kidapawan City (Region XII) Brgy. New Daus, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley (Region XI)
2004	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Jo Ann B. Alvez Ms. Medarda A. Isabida Ms. Maria Riza Joy A. Cortez	Brgy. Salud Mitra, Baguio City (CAR) Brgy. Kalasuyan, Kidapawan City (Region XII) Brgy. Poblacion 2, Malaybalay City (Region X)
2005	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Mary Grace Abad Roblon Ms. Ann DM. Mirasol Ms. Nery T. Libuna	Brgy. Sangay Diot, Ozamiz City (Region X) Brgy. San Antonio, Sta. Cruz, Marinduque (MIMAROPA) Brgy. San Ignacio, San Pablo City (CALABARZON)



# NATIONAL OUTSTANDING BNS CYs 1996-2016

Year	Award	Name	Area
2006	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Adelina C. Indapan Ms. Edna R. Agora Ms. Rebecca U. Aguilar	Brgy. Casisang, Malaybalay City (Region X) Brgy. Bagong Silang, Sta. Cruz, Marinduque (MIMAROPA) Brgy. Gayola, Kidapawan City (Region XII)
2007	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Edna R. Agora Ms. Ma. Enone G. Dela Cueva Ms. Christy L. Madayag	Brgy. Bagong Silang, Sta. Cruz, Marinduque (MIMAROPA) Brgy. A.O. Floirendo, Panabo City (Region XI) Brgy. 3, Malaybalay City (Region X)
2008	NOBNS NOBNS NOBNS 1st Runner-up	Ms. Aurora G. Gancayco Ms. Numerita C. Ducos Ms. Ma. Enone G. Dela Cueva Mr. Eddie L. Ancheta	Brgy. Cabezas, Trece Martirez City (CALABARZON) Brgy. Mibantang, Quezon, Bukidnon (Region X) Brgy. A.O. Floirendo, Panabo City (Region XI) Brgy. Villa Fuerte, San Mateo, Isabela (Region II)
2009	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Mr. Angelito A. Conde Ms. Karen C. dela Peña Ms. Alfonsa P. Hingpit	Brgy. Busaon, Tagum City, Davao del Norte (Region XI) Brgy. Asisan, Tagaytay City (CALABARZON) Brgy. St. Peter, Malaybalay City (Region X)
2010	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Marilou P. Cañete Ms. Lina C. Guerrero Ms. Marites G. Padilla	Brgy. Concepcion Grande, Naga City (Region V) Brgy. Concepcion, Kabalasan, Zamboanga Sibugay (Region IX) Brgy. Buenavista, Maddela, Quirino (Region II)



# NATIONAL OUTSTANDING BNS CYs 1996-2016

Year	Award	Name	Area
2011	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Lina C. Guerrero Ms. Monica N. Sicat Ms. Ma. Digna D. Tayong	Brgy. Concepcion, Kabalasan, Zamboanga Sibugay (Region IX) Brgy. City Camp Proper, Baguio City (CAR) Brgy. Mainit, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley (Region XI)
2012	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Felisa J. Guilingan Ms. Dorothy P. Felipe Mr. Sherwin C. Abellaniza Ms. Josephine R. Balingit	Brgy. Guinles, Polanco, Zamboanga del Norte (Region IX) Brgy. North Poblacion, Maramag, Bukidnon (Region X) Brgy. Magugpo East, Tagum City (Region XI) Brgy. Devilla, Sta. Cruz, Marinduque (MIMAROPA)
2013	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Ms. Efigenia G. Javier Ms. Ronely S. Marania Ms. Aurora H. Sedorifa	Brgy. Maharlika East, Tagaytay City (CALABARZON) Brgy. Canan, Cabatuan, Isabela (Isabela) Brgy. Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City (NCR)
2014	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Mary Grace P. Tamayo Etchelle L. Matiga Regina T. Celso	Brgy. Pag-asa, Mandaluyong City (NCR) Brgy. Alegria, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur (CARAGA) Brgy. Pansol, Calamba City, Laguna (CALABARZON)
2015	NOBNS	Danilo N. Posion	Brgy. Iruhin Central, Tagaytay City (CALABARZON)
2016	NOBNS 1st Runner-up 2nd Runner-up	Irene B. Neulid Concepcion Vanessa A. Cabugao Medy T. Repollo	Brgy. Maitim 2nd East, Tagaytay City (CALABARZON) Brgy. Radiwan, Ivana, Batanes (Region II) Brgy. Sudapin, Kidapawan City (Region XII)





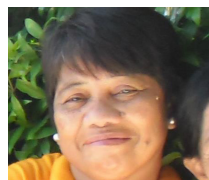
# LUZVIMIN FEDERATION OF BNS, INC.



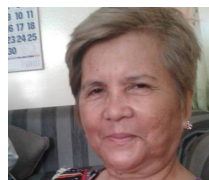
**Jocelyn A. Lumaad**  
Davao City,  
Region XI  
President



**Nory E. Estoesta**  
Tubao, La Union  
Region I  
Vice-President for  
Luzon



**Lydia C. Nuñez**  
Calbiga, Western Samar  
Region VIII  
Vice-President for  
Visayas



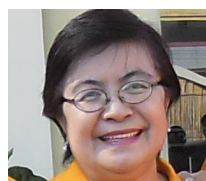
**Flordeliza S. Gonzales**  
Iligan City,  
Region X  
Vice-President for  
Mindanao



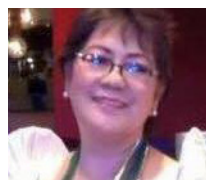
**Monica Sicat**  
City Camp, Baguio City  
Cordillera Administrative  
Region  
Member



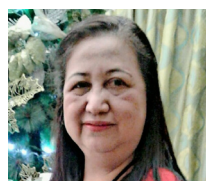
**Hilda B. Arellano**  
Ballesteros, Cagayan  
Region II  
Member



**Filipina A. delos Reyes**  
San Rafael, Bulacan  
Region III  
Member



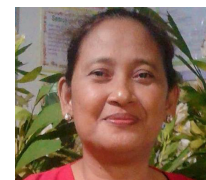
**Mary Grace P. Tamayo**  
Mandaluyong City  
National Capital Region  
Auditor



**Milagros V. Valera**  
Pangil, Laguna  
CALABARZON  
Treasurer



**Ramona G. Fortuna**  
San Jose, Occidental  
Mindoro  
MIMAROPA  
Member



**Eden A. Cordova**  
Daet, Camarines Norte  
Region V  
Member



**Jemma A. Bacongallo**  
San Jose de Buenavista,  
Antique  
Region VI  
Member



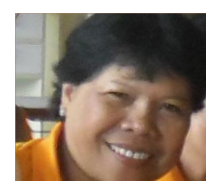
**Evangeline M. Villarta**  
Toledo City, Cebu  
Region VII  
Member



**Purisima B. Nabi**  
Basilan  
Region IX  
Member



**Creamhield C. Bation**  
Kidapawan City  
Region XII  
Member



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# GUIDELINES FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL AND SURVIVORSHIP ASSISTANCE TO BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLAR (BNS)

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**NNC MEMORANDUM NO. 2017-011 SERIES OF 2017**  
**29 August 2017**

## **Background and rationale**

The Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) Program is a human resource development strategy of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition, which involves the recruitment, training, deployment and supervision of volunteer workers for nutrition or barangay nutrition scholars (BNS). Presidential Decree No. 1569 (1978) mandated the deployment of one BNS in every barangay in the country to monitor the nutritional status of children and link communities with nutrition and related service providers. Presidential Decree No. 1569 also mandated the NNC to administer the program in cooperation with local government units.

In many instances, BNSs perform more than their prescribed tasks by actually delivering or facilitating the delivery of services, mobilizing the community for nutrition action, linking with various sectors, and keeping records.

The NNC used to include in its support to active BNSs a Php 5,000 GSIS accident insurance coverage. In mid-2014, the provision of financial assistance for medical purposes or in connection with the death of a BNS started as a substitute for the GSIS accident insurance coverage in the past. In-house financial assistance was preferred over the GSIS accident insurance coverage because of the high cost of premium paid by NNC per year compared to the number of BNSs availing the insurance.

Aside from a modest monthly traveling allowance from the NNC in Manila, and from the provincial, city, municipal or barangay governments, a BNS may avail of assistance for sickness and hospitalization or the survivorship assistance for their family in case of a BNS's death.

Since 2014, the NNC has provided two types of assistance in this context: medical assistance and survivorship assistance. Medical assistance started in the amount of Php5,000 in 2014 and was increased to Php10,000 in 2015. Likewise, survivorship assistance started in the amount of Php10,000 and was increased to Php20,000.

This set of guidelines was developed to further define the assistance being provided to BNSs in line with the existing mandate of hospital institutions, specifically of government hospitals, coverage of PhilHealth insurance and maximizing the DOH medical assistance both along in-patient and out-patient care.

## **Objective of the guidelines**

To prescribe standard requirements and procedures for extending medical and survivorship assistance for BNSs for more efficient use of available resources.

## **Who may avail**

All BNSs on active status of duty regardless of the fund source of allowance/honorarium, i.e. barangay, municipal, city or provincial funding can avail of medical and survivorship assistance from NNC.



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In addition, the assistance could be extended to BNSs who have been separated from duty provided the request is filed within six (6) months from the last day of effectivity of his/her contract of service as BNS. However, medical assistance shall be provided only if the reason of separation from service of a BNS was due to illness or medical condition.

For medical assistance, confinement and care should be in a government health facility except for cases 1) wherein the therapy/services are only available in private clinic/hospital; 2) BNS is in a life-threatening situation where the nearest care provider is a private one; and 3) as endorsed or referred to by the municipal health officer (MHO) or city health officer (CHO).

## Assistance provided

- Survivorship assistance in the amount of Php 20,000 for any cause of death.
- A one-time per year medical assistance amounting to Php5,000 as additional assistance for confinement in a hospital and related post-confinement cost.

## Notification and filing of claims

- The BNS, an immediate member of the family, nutrition action officer (NAO), or the district/city nutrition program officer may notify their respective LGU of the condition of the BNS who may need assistance along with pertinent document attached.

## Application Requirements

### A. General requirements

- Endorsement letter of the local chief executive addressed to the NNC Executive Director through the NNC Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator (NPC)
- Endorsement of the NNC Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator addressed to the NNC Executive Director
- A certified copy of BNS masterlist for the active BNS of current year or a copy of the BNS masterlist indicating the name of the BNS within the immediate six-month period prior to separation/confinement, as attested by the municipal nutrition action officer (MNAO)
- Photocopy of one (1) valid ID card issued by the government, certified true copy by the barangay secretary or MNAO

### B. For medical assistance

- Letter request of BNS applicant addressed to the head of National Nutrition Council (NNC)
- Original medical certificate issued by the C/MHO or attending physician indicating among others, medical condition, dates of hospital confinement, and hospital of confinement. If applicable, the medical certificate should also explain why hospitalization was in a private clinic.
- Acceptable reasons are if the needed therapy/services are available only in a private clinic/hospital and if the BNS is in a life-threatening situation where the nearest facility is a private one.



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## C. For survivorship assistance

- Letter request addressed to the head of NNC from the next-of-kin of the deceased BNS as identified beneficiary in the BNS master list. If for some reason another beneficiary will be named, the letter request should indicate why the originally-named beneficiary has been changed and should be certified by the barangay captain or C/MNAO.
- Certified true copy of death certificate
- All claims should be filed within six months from the occurrence of the hospitalization or death.

## D. Review and approval process

- Upon receipt at the regional office, requests or claims should be stamped as received and recorded in the official logbook.
- The document is referred to the staff in charge of reviewing such claims.
  1. Staff-in-charge reviews documents submitted to determine validity of the claim and the completeness of the requirements.
  2. The BNS or the family member of the BNS seeking medical assistance or the beneficiary requesting for the survivorship assistance should be informed of any deficiency preferably in writing or via email message.
  3. Staff-in-charge should follow up and ensure “closure” of claims the soonest time possible.

- If the claim is in order, staff-in-charge drafts and finalizes the endorsement of the NPC.
- NPC does final validation, and if in order, signs the regional office endorsement.
- The regional office then sends the endorsement with all the supporting documents to the central office via mail or courier services.
- Upon receipt and recording of the endorsement from the regional office at the Administrative Division, the documents are forwarded to the Nutrition Policy and Planning Division (NPPD) for validation.
- NPPD staff-in-charge reviews submission, validates against the masterlist of BNS and advises the regional office via email of any deficiency. Should there be any deficiency, the claims will be on hold until the deficiency has been submitted by the regional office.
- If the requirements are complete, a checklist is attached to the request, signed by the NPPD Chief, and routed to Financial and Management Division (FMD) for processing of the request. A tracking slip will also be attached to the request.



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## Processing and release of financial assistance

- Upon receipt of the claims request, the FMD prepares the documents to be processed, i.e. Obligation Request Slip (ORS) and the Disbursement Voucher (DV) for the claim, payable to the BNS for medical assistance and the designated beneficiary for survivorship assistance.
- The claim will be processed based on existing procedures with a signed cheque as the end point.
- The signed cheque is then forwarded to the Administrative Division for the preparation of the transmittal letter and acknowledgment receipt for the assistance provided.
- The transmittal letter is signed by the Executive Director.
- The Administrative Division (AD) then mails or delivers the check with the transmittal letter and acknowledgement receipt to the regional office concerned.

## Acknowledgement of assistance received

- The NNC Regional Office is responsible for releasing the cheque to the appropriate beneficiary. It should ensure that the transmittal slip is signed by the recipient.
- The NNC Regional Office shall forward the transmittal slip duly signed by the beneficiary to the NNC Central Office.
- At the NNC Central Office, the signed transmittal slip is forwarded to the NPPD for notation and entry into the monitoring form. The NPPD then releases the signed transmittal slip to AD, also for notation, filing.

- The NNC Regional Office also prepares a letter addressed to the city/municipal mayor in his capacity and chairperson of the local nutrition committee, indicating that the medical or survivorship assistance has been given to the recipient. A copy of the signed transmittal slip is also attached to the letter to the city/municipal mayor.

## Funding support

The NNC Central Office will fund the medical and survivorship assistance for BNSs.

## Effectivity

These guidelines will take effect immediately and will be in force unless modified in part or full.