

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11312, April 17, 2019 ]**

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE MAGNA CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, RESEARCHERS AND OTHER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439**

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

SECTION 1. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 8439 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 7. *Other Benefits.* - Notwithstanding laws and issuances on Compensation and Position Classification System, and Salary Standardization in the Government, science and technology personnel defined under Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8439 shall receive the following:

"(a) *Honorarium.* - S & T personnel who rendered services beyond the established regular workload of scientists, technologists, researchers and technicians whose broad and superior knowledge, expertise or professional standing in a specific field contributes to productivity and innovativeness shall be entitled to receive honorarium subject to rules to be set by the Department.

"The government shall not impose a limit on the amount of additional honoraria sourced from externally funded grants that may be received by S & T personnel.

"x x x."

SEC. 2. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8439 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 8. *Non-DOST S & T Personnel.* - S & T personnel not employed by the Department, who are involved in STA may avail of the benefits under this Act upon certification of the Head of their agency that they are involved in research and development or other scientific and technological activities: *Provided*, That the Heads of agencies shall abide by the guidelines promulgated by DOST for the certification of non-DOST personnel involved with research and development or scientific and technological activities and their entitlement to benefits provided in this Act."

SEC. 3. Section 16 of Republic Act No. 8439 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 16. *Hiring of Retired Scientists and Technical Personnel.* - An employee retired under any existing law, who, in the judgment of the governing board or head of a research agency, possesses technical qualifications and the capability to undertake specific scientific research activities, may be rehired on contractual basis without refunding the unexpired portion of the gratuity and accumulated leave benefits