

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)




Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1296

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Honor, integrity and credibility are difficult to establish, prove, and maintain. People even put their very lives at stake just to ensure that these hard-earned attributes are respected.

While the Revised Penal Code provides for penalties for the crime of slander by deed, these penalties are not anymore sufficient deterrent to address the crime; hence, this bill. Further, this proposed legislation expands the acts and intents covered by slander by deed.

This bill was submitted by the Committees on Justice and Human Rights, and Civil Service and Government Reorganization during the Fifteenth Congress. However, it was overtaken by events and it was not enacted into law.

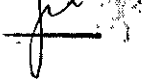
In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
AMENDING ARTICLE 359 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Article 359 of Act No. 3815, as amended, is further amended to
2 read as follows”
3

4 “Art. 359. *Slander by Deed.* – The penalty of [*arresto mayor* in its
5 maximum] *PRISION MAYOR* IN ITS MEDIUM period to [*prision*
6 *correccional* in its minimum] ITS MAXIMUM period or a fine
7 [ranging from 200 to 1,000 pesos] OF 100,000 PESOS, OR BOTH,
8 shall be imposed upon any person who shall perform any act not
9 included and punished in this title, which shall cast dishonor,
10 discredit, or contempt upon another person [.] , SUCH AS, BUT
11 NOT LIMITED TO, THE INTENTIONAL FILING OF A FALSE
12 COMPLAINT IN COURT OR IN ANY OTHER AGENCIES OF
13 GOVERNMENT EXERCISING QUASI-JUDICIAL OR
14 ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS. If said act is not of a serious nature,
15 the penalty shall be [*arresto mayor*] *PRISION MAYOR* IN ITS
16 MINIMUM PERIOD or a fine [not exceeding 200 pesos] OF 50,000
17 PESOS.
18

19 “IF DURING THE COURSE OF ANY FORMAL INVESTIGATION
20 OR TRIAL OF THE CASE IT IS PROVEN THAT THE ABOVE
21 FALSE COMPLAINT HAS BEEN OR IS BEING USED BY THE
22 COMPLAINANT AS A LEVERAGE AGAINST ANY PERSON IN
23 ORDER TO GAIN ADVANTAGE OR TO RECEIVE A FAVORABLE
24 DECISION, ACTION OR RESOLUTION ON ANY MATTER, THE
25 MAXIMUM PENALTY PROVIDED HEREIN SHALL BE IMPOSED.”
26
27

28 **SEC. 2.** *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid by a
29 competent court, the remainder of this Act or any provision not otherwise affected
30 by such declaration of invalidity shall remain in force and effect.
31
32

1 **SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
2 other executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are
3 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
4 modified or amended accordingly.

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7 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
9 circulation.

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15 *Approved,*