

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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04 JUN 30 P11:02

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 792

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to prohibit the use of the words "Muslim" and "Christian" in print and broadcast media to described any person suspected of or convicted of having committed criminal or unlawful acts, and provides for penalties for violation thereof. The words "Muslim" and "Christian" refer to a person's religious belief and do not in any way refer to a person's place of origin or propensity for criminal behavior.

It is time we give due justice to out Muslim brothers by not subconsciously propagating tribal or racial biases in our media. Passage of this bill is thus sought.


MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF THE WORDS "MUSLIM" AND "CHRISTIAN" IN PRINT AND BROADCAST MEDIA TO DESCRIBE ANY PERSON SUSPECTED OF OR CONVICTED FOR HAVING COMMITTED CRIMINAL OR UNLAWFUL ACT AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. *Prohibiting Act.* – It is hereby declared unlawful for any person to use the words “Muslim” and “Christian” in print, television, radio or any broadcast media to described any person suspected of or convicted for having committed criminal or unlawful acts.

SEC. 2. *Penalties.* – The penalty of *arresto menor* or a fine ranging from Two hundred pesos (P200.00) to Five hundred pesos (P500.00) or both, in the discretion of the court shall be imposed on any person found guilty of violating Section 1 hereof.

SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,