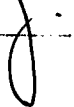


'16 JUL 18 P6 21

SENATE

S. B. NO. 403

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN OFFICIAL FILIPINO VERSION OF THE PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION AND ITS TRANSLATION INTO MAJOR REGIONAL LANGUAGES, ARABIC, AND SPANISH, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 8 of the 1987 Constitution states that the Constitution shall be promulgated in Filipino and English and shall be translated into major regional languages, Arabic, and Spanish. The foregoing constitutional mandate is in furtherance of the constitutional declaration under Section 7 of Article XIV that the official languages of the Philippines are Filipino and, until otherwise provided by law, English for purposes of communication and instruction.

The Constitution, being the highest law of the Philippines where the fundamental rights of the people and the form and structure of government are basically contained, must be understood by the ordinary people in his own language and dialect. However, it has been observed that the Constitution is written in one official language only, English. Although it is known that some translations in regional languages were written in the fundamental law, these were never discussed in the 1986 Constitutional Convention. Moreover, although there was an ad hoc Filipino version, this was apparently appended to the English version much later than the ratification of the Constitution in its English form. In other words, twenty-seven (27) years have passed since the ratification of the Constitution, there is still no official version of the Constitution in Filipino or in other languages specified therein.

This bill, therefore, seeks to provide for an official Filipino version of the Philippine Constitution and its translation into major regional languages, Arabic, and Spanish. Under the proposed measure, the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) is designated as overseer and coordinator in the implementation. The KWF shall undertake the writing, publication, and dissemination of the official Filipino version of the Philippine Constitution and its translation into major regional languages, Arabic, and Spanish and shall exercise such other functions as may be

necessary or incidental to the attainment of the purposes of the proposed bill.

It is believed that the new official version of the 1987 Constitution in Filipino will not only equip the people with clear understanding of their fundamental rights and government but will also enable the national language, as a matter of policy, to truly modernize and develop with the participation of the various native Philippine languages.

For these reasons, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



LOREN LEGARDA

Senator

'16 JUL 18 P 6:21

SENATE

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

1 **SECTION 1.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to educate the
2 people about the fundamental law of the land and its translation into major
3 regional languages, Arabic, and Spanish. Towards the end, there is a need
4 to provide for an official Filipino version of the Philippine Constitution and
5 the translation into major regional languages, Arabic, and Spanish so that
6 the people may easily understand its contents.

7
8 **SEC. 2.** It is hereby mandated that the Philippine Constitution shall have an
9 official version written in Filipino language and its translation into major
10 regional languages, Arabic, and Spanish.

11
12 **SEC. 3.** The Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) is hereby designated as
13 overseer and coordinator in the effective implementation of this Act.

14
15 In addition to its mandated functions as sole government language agency
16 engaged in research and publication and other programs towards the
17 development of the Filipino language, the KWF shall undertake the writing,
18 publication, and dissemination of the official Filipino version of the
19 Philippine Constitution and its translation into major regional languages,
20 Arabic, and Spanish and shall exercise such other functions as may be
21 necessary or incidental to the attainment of the purposes of this Act.

22
23 **SEC. 4.** The KWF, in coordination with the Department of Education and
24 other concerned government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules
25 and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

26
27 **SEC. 5.** To implement the provisions of this Act, the initial amount of two
28 million pesos (Php 2,000,000.00) shall be appropriated to be charged
29 against the savings of the Office of the President (OP) in its fiscal year
30 budget. Such other amount as may be subsequently necessary for its

1 implementation shall be included under the budget of the Office of the
2 President in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

3
4 **SEC. 6.** If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be declared
5 unconstitutional or invalid, the other part, section or provision not
6 otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

7
8 **SEC. 7.** All laws, rules and regulations, inconsistent with the provisions of
9 this Act, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

10
11 **SEC. 8.** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
12 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

13
14 Approved,