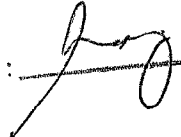


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION )

SECRETARY  
04 JUN 30 10:24

RECEIVED BY: 

**SENATE**  
**S.B. NO. 1186**

*Introduced by Senator Magsaysay, Jr.*

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

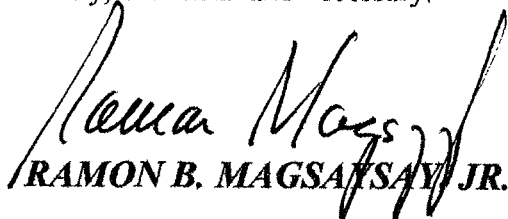
Press freedom does not entail publishing materials offensive to society's moral standards. If the time-honored principle enshrined in the Constitution is allowed to go wayward toward this unwanted end, we can only expect a society governed by the basest of human moods and dispositions. A benchmark of decency must therefore be maintained if the freedom of the press is to be fully entrusted to media's responsibility. This is already contained in court rulings. We cannot let go of any selfish acts designed to rake profits for the media and their owners but inimical to society's interest.

It is for this reason that this bill was filed. It seeks to prohibit the publication of lewd photographs and articles in newspapers- be they broadsheet or tabloid.

This measure was conceptualized in view of the proliferation of newspapers seemingly designed not to report about the news but rather to disseminate obscene materials without any social relevance in the guise of press freedom. Masked by amateurish efforts to give incisive and meaningful views, the only things that stand out if you take a peek at them are their sex motivated columns and the equally explicit and demeaning photos of women enticing the reader to sexually fantasize. Oftentimes, pictures of a man and a woman in the act of copulation are also featured. The rationale is obvious: sex sells and publishers do not mind if the publication is offensive as long as they a mass a fortune out of it.

If only to ensure press freedom, this proposal does not seek the total ban of such materials. There is always a right place for everything. What is being avoided is the evolution of our dailies into a smut-dominated medium of information. We should keep those materials away from the easy perusal and consumption of the young if only to ensure a sane and sexually and morally-sound citizenry in the future.

This legislative measure's approval is timely, beneficial and necessary.

  
**RAMON B. MAGSAYSAY JR.**

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3. Still photographs of movies whether domestic or foreign, having sexual contents, and previously or subsequently rated R or X by the MTRCB.

*Provided:* That such published photographs shall not have been captioned to promote any event of cultural, educational, entertainment or social significance.

- b. "Sex stories" as used in this Act shall include all columns, narrative and illustrated stories, and articles contained in newspapers graphically depicting any of the sexual acts enumerated in Sec. 2.a.2 of this Act.

**SEC. 3.** Violators of this Act shall suffer the following penalties:

- a. The publisher and editors of the newspaper shall be liable to a fine of not less than P50,000.00 nor more than 100,000.00 for the first offense.
- b. The publisher and editors of the newspaper shall be liable to a fine of not less than P100,000.00 nor more than P200,000.00 and prison sentence of prison mayor for the second offense. The court shall also order the immediate closure of the publication.

*Provided:* That when there are two or more publishers of the newspaper, they shall be held solidarily liable.

**SEC. 4.** All laws and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

**Approved,**