

'19 JUL 15 A9:55

SENATE

S. No. 448

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Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT

PROHIBITING THE USE OF WORDS THAT WOULD DENOTE RELIGIOUS, REGIONAL OR ETHNIC AFFILIATION IN PRINT, RADIO, TELEVISION INCLUDING CABLE TELEVISION AND OTHER FORMS OF BROADCAST MEDIA TO REFER TO OR DESCRIBE ANY PERSON SUSPECTED OR CONVICTED OF A CRIME OR UNLAWFUL ACT AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The use of the words such as "Muslim" and "Islamic" in association with suspected or convicted criminals and unlawful acts are offensively biased against Muslims. This practice is highly prejudicial and extremely injurious to the Islamic religious culture, Muslim individuals and their collective image, and the Muslim's social well-being as respectable citizens of the country.

Unfortunately, some members of the local and national media continue to callously lambaste the Muslim religious culture by describing criminals and suspects with terms such as "Muslim Criminals", "Muslim Terrorists", "Muslim Drug Pushers", "Muslim Sea Pirates", "Muslim Bandits" or "Muslim Hold-uppers". This happens not only to our Muslim brothers and sisters, but also to our ethnic fellow Filipinos. Media outfits use adjectives such as "Mangyan pickpockets" or "Tausūg pirates."

Outlawing this religiously and culturally-biased practice would definitely contribute and result in increased positive social space and understanding between

and among us, Filipinos. This will help drive the path towards a just, culturally sensitive, fair, and lasting peace and development in the country.

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


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

1 Section 1. *Prohibited Act.* – It is hereby declared unlawful for any person to use
2 the words that would denote religious, regional or ethnic affiliation in print, radio,
3 television, including cable television and/or any form of broadcast media to refer to or
4 describe any person suspected of or convicted of a crime or any unlawful act.

5
6 Sec. 2. *Penalties.* – The penalty of *arresto mayor* or a fine ranging from One
7 thousand pesos (Php 1,000.00) to Ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00) or both, at the
8 discretion of the court, shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of violating
9 Section 1 hereof.

10
11 Sec. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason any section or provision of this
12 Act is declared unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby
13 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

1 Sec. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, rules and regulations or parts
2 thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

3
4 Sec. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

6
7 Approved,