


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

7 JUL -4 P3 100

SENATE
S.B. No. 1083

RECEIVED BY: _____



Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide a social security support to media practitioners by instituting a nationwide welfare program and establishing a nationwide welfare fund for them and amend for the purpose Executive Order 100 and augmenting the present function of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) as provided therein.

The media has proven itself to be a potent tool in nation building by providing and ensuring the flow of information among every Filipino across the nation. Mass media practitioners are vital gatherers and articulators of vital information pertinent to national interests and public welfare. Mass media practitioners are therefore important facilitators in shaping public opinion, building national consensus on issues and molding societal values and ideals.

The contribution of media practitioners cannot be over emphasized but they come at the expense of risks involved in the performance of their job. While there are big media companies who can afford to pay their employees high salaries, they employ only a fraction of the newsmen and women. Many media practitioners earn barely enough for their basic survival needs, much less save for social security such as emergency medical need, hazard pay, etc.

This measure intends to contribute in developing a support system for free-lance media practitioners to encourage them to perform their noble profession sans corruption and to practice their vital role in Philippine society with credibility, security and dignity.


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



LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

7 JUL -4 P 3:00

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY (PIA),
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 100 ALSO KNOWN
AS "CREATING THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY" BY PROVIDING
AN ADDITIONAL FUNCTION, ESTABLISHING A NATIONWIDE WELFARE
FUND AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 Executive Order No. 100 is hereby amended to read as
follows:

"Section. Functions

1. XXX
2. XXX
3. XXX
4. XXX
5. XXX
6. XXX
7. **PLAN AND IMPLEMENT A NATIONWIDE WELFARE PROGRAM
FOR MEDIA PRACTITIONERS;**
- [7] 8. Support the development and expansion of indigenous media and
information/ communication technology;
- [8] 9. Perform whatever tasks as may be assigned by the President.

SECTION 2. A new Section 8 is hereby inserted to read as follows, while the
subsequent portions of the same Executive Order are renumbered accordingly:

SECTION 8. WELFARE FUND.

THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED A NATIONWIDE WELFARE
FUND, HEREIN REFERRED TO AS THE FUND, TO BE ADMINISTERED
AND MANAGED BY THE PIA. THE AMOUNT OF TEN MILLION PESOS
(P10,000,000.00) IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED CHARGEABLE TO THE
CURRENT FUNDS AVAILABLE IN THE NATIONAL TREASURY.
THEREAFTER, SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT
THIS PURPOSE SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET OF THE PIA IN
THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT. THE SELECTION OF QUALIFIED

BENEFICIARIES SHALL BE DONE IN COOPERATION WITH DULY ORGANIZED MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS. THE PIA SHALL PROMULGATE OF THE FUNDWHICH SHALL INCLUDE ASSISTANCE IN FORMS OF, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MEDICAL ALLOWANCE, HAZARD PAY GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE, GROUP LIFE INSURANCE, DISCOUNT ON TUITION FEES, DISCOUNT ON PURCHASE OF REFERENCE MATERIALS, FREE LEGAL ASSITANCE, AND SEED MONEY FOR THE ESTABLISHMNET OF MEDIA COOPERATIVES.

SECTION 3. Separability Clause. If any of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue top be in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations that are contrary to the provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended and modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen(15) days after its publication in English and Filipino in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.