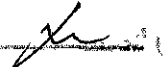


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session

8 AUG -4 P 3:09

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 2507

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Some members of the print and broadcast media have often used the words "Muslim" and "Christian" in describing any person suspected of or convicted of unlawful or criminal acts. Apparently, the association of these words to *Muslims and Christians alike are offensively biased, prejudicial and injurious* to both their religious cultures, individual and collective image and social well being.

Although the Philippines is predominantly a Christian state, such bias could put more injury to the already marred relationship between the Muslim and Christian communities. However, notwithstanding all these aversions, there is still a common territory that can shape new and better relationship.

Thus, condemning these cultural and religious biases would contribute and result in increased understanding between Muslims and Christians and build a path towards a just, culturally-sensitive, fair and lasting peace and development in our country.

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

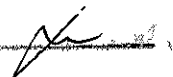


MANNY VILLAR

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session

8 AUG -4 P3:09

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 2507

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

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

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

SECTION 1. *Prohibited Act.* – It is hereby declared unlawful for any person to use in mass media, the words "Muslim" and/or "Christian" or any other word that would denote religious, regional or ethnic affiliation to describe any person suspected of or convicted for having committed criminal or unlawful acts.

SEC. 2. *Penalties.* – The penalty of *arresto mayor* or a fine ranging from One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of violating Section 1 hereof.

The editor-in-chief, in the case of print media, and the news editor, in the case of broadcast media and other forms of mass media, shall be imposed a fine not lower than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00).

The juridical entity violating this Act shall be imposed a fine not lower than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) for every violation.

For the second and succeeding offenses, the penalties shall be doubled.

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules.* – The Philippine Information Agency, in coordination with the concerned sectors and entities, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act within three (3) months after its effectivity.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions thereof not affected thereby shall remain valid and effective.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,