

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 12 P1:47

SENATE

S. No. 1214

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to declare 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.

By penalizing the practice of using "Muslim" and/or "Christian" in association with suspected or convicted criminal would create a friendly atmosphere among Filipinos regardless of cultural or religious beliefs and ultimately help in the development of our country.

In view of the significance of this bill to the country's peace, development and progress, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANNY VILLAR

10 JUL 12 P1:47

SENATE
S. No. 1214

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**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 the House of Representatives 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,