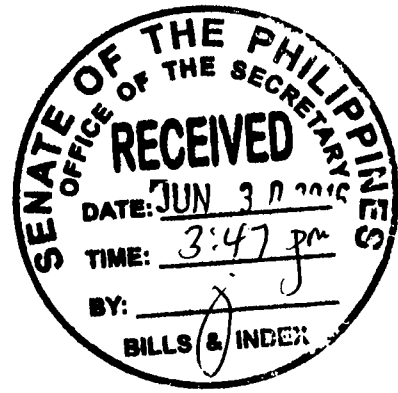


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



SENATE

§: No. 96

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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AN ACT  
INSTITUTIONALIZING AND FURTHER DEVELOPING "117" AS THE  
NATIONWIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

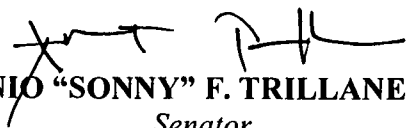
It is a fact that criminality and other public disturbance pose grave threat to peace and order that is why dedicated efforts both from government and private sectors are needed at all times. Base from the data for the Philippine National Police (PNP), the number of reported crimes has been rising while the ability of the police to solve crimes has decreased. Though this may be due to the underreporting by local police units in the previous years, the spike in statistics is still alarming. In 2015, the number of reported crimes soared by 46% in the first five (5) months compared to the same period the previous year. The same trend was observed in 2014. By the end of the first five (5) months of that year, crime incidents rose by 18% compared to 2013 numbers.<sup>1</sup>

Hence, it is still imperative not only upon the government but also upon the private sector to employ and make use of all available mechanisms to help curb criminality.

Originally launched a decade ago, Patrol 117 seeks to connect concerned government agencies for immediate response in emergency situations. Despite the numerous issuances of the government aiming the same end, Patrol 117 can be further improved and developed to contribute effectively in promoting crime prevention and community safety.

This bill aims to strengthen and reinforce Patrol 117 as an institution. It specifically seeks to address the problem posed by illegitimate or prank calls. Stiffer penalties in the form of a fine and or imprisonment shall be put in place under this bill in order to curb the rising number of illegitimate or prank calls.

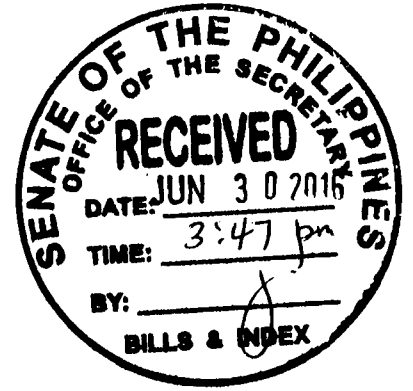
In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
Senator

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<sup>1</sup> Ranada, P., A look at the State of Crime, Drugs in the Philippines. January 5, 2016. Rappler News. Retrieved from <http://www.rappler.com/nation/118004-crime-drugs-philippines>

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Hotline '117' Act of  
2 2016."  
3

4           **SEC. 2. Institutionalization of "117" as the Nationwide Emergency Assistance**  
5 **Telephone Number.** –

6           (a) Telephone number "117" is hereby designated as the nationwide emergency  
7 assistance number both for landline and wireless telephone systems in the whole  
8 territory of the Philippines.  
9

10          (b) There shall be a Hotline "117" Public Safety Answering Center (Call Center) in  
11 every region, province, city, municipality and Barangay.  
12

13          (c) The major service responders of Hotline "117" are:

- 14           1. The Philippine National Police (PNP);
- 15           2. The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP);
- 16           3. The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP);
- 17           4. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA);
- 18           5. The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
- 19           6. The Emergency Assistance and Response Network (EARnet);
- 20           7. The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA);
- 21           8. Other agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways  
22 (DPWH), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Social Welfare  
23 and Development (DSWD), the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and the Boy  
24 Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines;
- 25           9. Volunteer non-government organizations (NGOs); and
- 26           10. Other affiliated civic sector groups and public safety volunteers.  
27

28          (c) The EARnet is a network of responders composed of government and private  
29 institutions, NGOs, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and Special Rescue Unit  
30 of the BFP, in coordination with the DPWH, the DSWD, the MMDA, the DOH  
31 and other government agencies and with the cooperation of private hospitals,

1 electric companies, water districts, civil rescue groups, the Boy Scouts and Girl  
2 Scouts of the Philippines and other affiliated civic sector groups and public safety  
3 volunteers.

4  
5 (d) The establishment of the Hotline "117" call center shall anchor on the mandatory  
6 participation of the existing private communication carriers operating in the  
7 locality.

8  
9 (e) In areas where an emergency telephone number does not yet exist, the National  
10 Telecommunications Commission (NTC) shall immediately direct the concerned  
11 telephone companies to designate "117" as the nationwide emergency telephone  
12 number within a reasonable period of time. Any emergency telephone hotline  
13 established by any local government or state agency using a number other than  
14 "117" shall be changed to "117".

15  
16 (g) All existing agreements in connection with the effective operation of Hotline  
17 "117" with the private sector and the NGO's prior to the enactment of this law  
18 shall continue to be enforced.

19  
20 **SEC. 3. Institutionalization of Hotline "117" Community-based Volunteer**  
21 **Network.** - A Hotline "117" community-based volunteer network is hereby institutionalized  
22 constituting the Volunteer Service Responders Network.

23 a) There shall be a Hotline "117" barangay-based Volunteer Service Responders  
24 Network to be organized from various components such as the studentry, the Boy  
25 Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines, the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) and the  
26 out-of-school youth;

27  
28 b) There shall be organized a group to Advocate, Train, Organize, Mobilize and Monitor  
29 (ATOMM) field level implementers of Hotline "117", headed by the Chief of Police  
30 of the city/municipality as team leader with the Department of the Interior and Local  
31 Government (DILG) C/M LGOO as co-team leader and members from various  
32 government organizations and NGOs, such as respective representatives from the  
33 office of the mayor, the municipal/liga president, the municipality SK chairman, the  
34 Department of Education (DepEd), the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines  
35 coordinators, the BFP, the BJMP and other affiliated public safety volunteers and civil  
36 sector groups.

37  
38 **SEC. 4. The Hotline "117" Commission.** - The present PATROL "117"  
39 Commission, as per Presidential Administrative Order No. 36 dated May 3, 2002, in  
40 conjunction with Presidential Administrative Order No. 124 dated June 2, 2003, shall  
41 continue to exist as the Hotline "117" Commission.

42  
43 The Commission shall be headed by the Secretary of the Interior and Local  
44 Government and the Chairman of the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM), as  
45 chairman, and the Chairman of the Foundation for Crime Prevention, as co-chairman.

46  
47 Its members are:

- 48 a) From the government sector:  
49 1. The Philippine National Police (PNP);  
50 2. The Department of Education (DepEd);

- 1 3. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- 2 4. The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC); and
- 3 5. The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA); and
- 4

5 b) From the private sector:

- 6 1. The leading telephone carrier;
- 7 2. The Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas (KBP);
- 8 3. The Bankers Association of the Philippines;
- 9 4. The Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and
- 10 5. Four other members will be selected by the chairman from the private sector.
- 11

12 **SEC. 5. Functions of Hotline "117" Commission. –**

13 (a) Prepare and recommend, for the approval of the President, policies on crime  
14 prevention and public safety operations of stakeholders and volunteers.

15  
16 (b) Prepare and recommend thrusts, proposals and measures that would effectively  
17 respond to the national security and development interests.

18  
19 (c) Perform such other duties and functions as the President may direct.  
20

21 **SEC. 6. The Hotline "117" Development Office. -** The existing DILG Hotline "117"  
22 Development Group, activated by the DILG under the PATROL "117" Commission, is  
23 hereby institutionalized as the Hotline "117" Development Office to implement the Hotline  
24 "117" Program which shall consist of existing uniformed personnel of the interior sector and  
25 the non-uniformed plantilla personnel of the PATROL "117" Commission. It shall serve as  
26 the secretariat of the Hotline "117" Commission. Furthermore:

- 27 a) The Streetwatch plantilla and the IACCAG plantilla of the DILG shall be transferred  
28 to the Hotline "117" Development Office to constitute the Hotline "117" plantilla,  
29 subject to revision;  
30
- 31 b) The said office shall be staffed with personnel, subject to existing civil service rules  
32 and regulations;  
33
- 34 c) The said office shall be headed by a director with an equivalent plantilla position of  
35 Director IV, to be appointed by the President, upon the recommendation by the  
36 Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, subject to civil service rules and  
37 regulations; and  
38
- 39 d) The said office shall have parallel organization in the regional level, to be headed by a  
40 regional officer, and in the field level to monitor provincial, city, municipal and  
41 barangay operations.  
42

43 **SEC. 7. Functions of the Hotline "117" Development Office. –**

44 (a) Plan and implement the Hotline "117" Program as a nationwide network.

45  
46 (b) Institutionalize the ATOMM Team Network in every city and  
47 municipality.  
48

1 (c) Institutionalize the barangay-based Volunteer Service Responders  
2 Network.  
3

4 (d) Conduct readiness test, monitor and evacuate the response capability of all  
5 systems in Hotline "117" operations.  
6

7 (e) Undertake such other duties as the Commission may direct.  
8

9 **SEC. 8. *Involvement of Other Agencies of the Government.*** - All government  
10 agencies are stakeholders in the promotion of peace and order and public safety.  
11

12 Hence, they shall provide the necessary support in the advocacy for and the  
13 implementation of this program with the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government as  
14 the lead coordinator.  
15

16 **SEC. 9. *Participation by the Private Sector.*** - The private sector and the NGOs are  
17 enjoined to actively participate in whatever capacity in advocating crime prevention and  
18 public safety by supporting Hotline "117".  
19

20 **SEC. 10. *Penalties for Illegitimate "117" Calls.*** - (a) Definition of an Illegitimate  
21 Caller - Whoever accesses Hotline "117" for the purpose of making a prank call, false alarm,  
22 deceitful complaint or giving untrue information which could result in the emergency  
23 response of any public safety agency or cause delay in answering legitimate calls is an  
24 illegitimate caller and shall therefore be punished as follows:  
25

- 26 1. For the first offense, a fine of Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) shall be imposed;
- 27 2. For the second offense by the same offender, a fine of Ten thousand pesos  
28 (P10,000.00) shall be imposed;
- 29 3. For the third offense by the same offender, a fine of Twenty thousand pesos  
30 (P20,000.00) and imprisonment for a period of fifteen (15) to thirty (30) days, at  
31 the discretion of the court, shall be imposed; and  
32
- 33 4. For succeeding offenses committed by the same offender, a fine of Fifty  
34 thousand pesos (P50,000.00) and imprisonment for a period of one month and  
35 one day to six months, at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed.  
36  
37

38 (b) A call made to Hotline" 117" constitutes an authorization or consent by the caller for  
39 his/her distress call to be automatically recorded. In case the call turns out to be  
40 illegitimate, the recording shall be used as evidence against the offender and the  
41 provisions of Republic Act No. 4200, otherwise known as the "Anti -Wiretapping Act",  
42 cannot be invoked by the offender.  
43

44 (c) A telecommunications company can be compelled, through a subpoena duces tecum  
45 issued by a duly authorized government agency, to disclose the name and address of the  
46 owner/subscriber of the telephone line from where an illegitimate call was established to  
47 have originated.  
48

1           **SEC. 12. *Funding.*** - The funding requirements needed to sustain the  
2 institutionalization of Hotline "117" shall be derived from:

3           a) The regular appropriations of the DILG;

4  
5           b) The imposition of a reasonable call fee to callers for the value-added service of  
6 Hotline "117" based on the generally accepted practice in other countries. Funds  
7 derived from this source shall strictly be used for the modernization and upgrading  
8 of the program. The amount and mechanics of the collection and use of the  
9 emergency call fee shall be contained in the implementing rules and regulations of  
10 this Act; and

11  
12           c) The proceeds from the different fines imposed and collected in the enforcement  
13 of this Act.  
14

15           **SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Secretary of the Interior and  
16 Local Government shall formulate and issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRRs)  
17 necessary for the efficient and effective implementation of the provisions of this Act within  
18 one month from its effectivity. Said IRR shall be reviewed every year thereafter and revised  
19 upon the recommendation by the Hotline "117" Commission for the purpose of updating its  
20 efficiency and effectiveness.  
21

22           **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and  
23 rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or  
24 modified accordingly.  
25

26           **SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.*** - Should any provision of this Act be found  
27 unconstitutional by a court of law, such provision shall be severed from the remainder of this  
28 Act, and such action shall not affect the enforceability of the remaining provisions of this  
29 Act.  
30

31           **SEC. 15. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
32 the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*