


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



16 JUL 20 P 4:42

SENATE
S.B. No. 706

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10591, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
COMPREHENSIVE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION REGULATION ACT, AND
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recently, outbound passengers have been apprehended at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) and have fallen victim to the *tanim-bala* (planting bullets) scam.

A 65-year old woman on her way to Singapore to watch her nephew play soccer¹ a 56-year old domestic helper bound for Hong Kong to go back to work², and an 18-year old choir member on her way to South Korea for a competition³ were some of the victims of the scandal.

Activities that jeopardize the safety and security of the public are clearly unacceptable. We must build a secure, orderly, and just nation for our tourists, foreign and local investors, and, most importantly, our own citizens.

Clearly, a scam that is unsupportive of our efforts to raise government service standards for the Filipino people should be stopped immediately. As investigations have been ordered, it is also imperative to look at policy proposals and interventions that fully address the issue.

¹ Yap, OJ, Andrade, Jeanette, 2 November 2015. Philippine Daily Inquirer. "Ouster of Airport Execs in 'Tanim-Bala' Pressed. Accessed last 3 November 2015 via <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1736160/ouster-of-airport-execs-in-tanim-bala-pressed>.

² Dizon, Nikko. 1 November 2015. Philippine Daily Inquirer. "Aquino Orders Probe of 'TanimBala'Racket Amid Outcry. Accessed last 3 November 2015 via [http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1736010/aquino-orders-probe-of-tanim-bala-racket-amid-](http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1736010/aquino-orders-probe-of-tanim-bala-racket-amid-outcry#ixzz3qNtNBRVS)

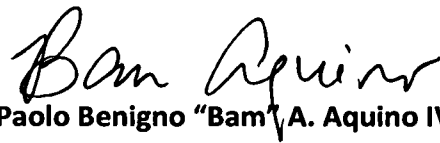
[outcry#ixzz3qNtNBRVS](http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1736010/aquino-orders-probe-of-tanim-bala-racket-amid-outcry#ixzz3qNtNBRVS)

³ CNN Philippines. 3 November 2015. "Choir Conductor Narrates 'Tanim Bala' Incident. Accessed last 3 November 2015 via <http://cnnphilippines.com/videos/2015/11/02/Choir-conductor-narrates-tanim-bala-incident.html>.

The Iwas Tanim Bala Bill aims to decriminalize acquisition, possession and carriage of three bullets or less in the country and shall not constitute as a criminal offense under this Act. The measure also aims to make security efforts more efficient and to enable security stakeholders to focus on real and grave threats.

Let us continue refining our policies into those that will truly serve our people, especially the common Filipino, and effectively continue the fight to eradicate lawlessness in the country.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bam Aquino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Bam" and "Aquino" being capitalized and prominent.

Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV



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PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF**

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

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Section 28 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 2 "SEC. 28. Unlawful Acquisition or Possession of Firearms and Ammunition. –
- 3 The unlawful acquisition, possession of firearms and ammunition shall be
- 4 penalized as follows:
- 5 a) The penalty of prision mayor in its medium period shall be imposed upon
- 6 any person who shall unlawfully acquire or possess a small arm;
- 7 b) The penalty of reclusion temporal to reclusion perpetua shall be imposed
- 8 if three (3) or more small arms or Class-A light weapons are unlawfully
- 9 acquired or possessed by any person;
- 10 c) The penalty of prision mayor in its maximum period shall be imposed
- 11 upon any person who shall unlawfully acquire or possess a Class-A light
- 12 weapon;
- 13 d) The penalty of reclusion perpetua shall be imposed upon any person who
- 14 shall unlawfully acquire or possess a Class-8 light weapon;
- 15 e) The penalty of one (1) degree higher than that provided in paragraphs (a)
- 16 to (c) in this section shall be imposed upon any person who shall
- 17 unlawfully possess any firearm under any or combination of the following
- 18 conditions:
- 19 1. Loaded with ammunition or inserted with a loaded magazine;
- 20 2. Fitted or mounted with laser or any gadget used to guide the
- 21 shooter to hit the target such as thermal weapon sight (TWS) and
- 22 the like;
- 23 3. Fitted or mounted with sniper scopes, firearm muffler or firearm
- 24 silencer;
- 25 4. Accompanied with an extra barrel; and

1 5. Converted to be capable offering full automatic bursts.

- 2 f) The penalty of prision mayor in its minimum period shall be
3 imposed upon any person who shall unlawfully acquire or
4 possess a major part of a small arm;
- 5 g) The penalty of prision mayor in its minimum period shall be
6 imposed upon any person who shall unlawfully acquire or
7 possess ammunition for a small arm or Class-A light weapon. If
8 the violation of this paragraph is committed by the same person
9 charged with the unlawful acquisition or possession of a small
10 arm, the former violation shall be absorbed by the latter,
11 **PROVIDED THAT, MERE POSSESSION OF NOT MORE THAN**
12 **THREE (3) BULLETS SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE AS A CRIMINAL**
13 **OFFENSE UNDER THIS ACT;**
- 14 h) The penalty of prision mayor in its medium period shall be
15 imposed upon any person who shall unlawfully acquire or
16 possess a major part of a Class-A light weapon;
- 17 i) The penalty of prision mayor in its medium period shall be
18 imposed upon any person who shall unlawfully acquire or
19 possess ammunition for a Class-A light weapon. If the violation
20 of this paragraph is committed by the same person charged
21 with the unlawful acquisition or possession of a Class-A light
22 weapon, the former violation shall be absorbed by the latter;
23 **PROVIDED THAT, MERE POSSESSION OF NOT MORE THAN**
24 **THREE (3) BULLETS SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE AS A CRIMINAL**
25 **OFFENSE UNDER THIS ACT;**
- 26 j) The penalty of prision mayor in its maximum period shall be
27 imposed upon any person who shall unlawfully acquire or
28 possess a major part of a Class-B light weapon; and
- 29 k) The penalty of prision mayor in its maximum period shall be
30 imposed upon any person shall unlawfully acquire or possess
31 ammunition for a Class-B light weapon. If the violation of this
32 paragraph is committed by the same person charged with the
33 unlawful acquisition or possession of a Class-B light weapon, the
34 former violation shall be absorbed by the latter; **PROVIDED**
35 **THAT, MERE POSSESSION OF NOT MORE THAN THREE (3)**
36 **BULLETS SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE AS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE**
37 **UNDER THIS ACT.**

38 **SEC. 2. Separability Clause.** - Should any provision herein be declared
39 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this
40 Act.

1 **SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or
2 other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
3 repealed or modified accordingly.

4 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in
6 the Philippines.

7 *Approved,*