




S E N A T E

'19 AUG 20 A10 :30

SENATE BILL NO. 926

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **SENATOR RICHARD J. GORDON**

**AN ACT CLASSIFYING VOTE-BUYING AND VOTE-SELLING AS UNLAWFUL
ACTIVITY UNDER THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING ACT, AMENDING FOR THIS
PURPOSE RA 9160, AS AMENDED ALSO KNOWN AS "AN ACT DEFINING THE
CRIME OF MONEY LAUNDERING, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES"**

Explanatory Note

The foundation of a well-functioning democracy lies on the integrity of the ballots and the entire electoral processes. Innumerable measures had been devised in order to undermine the sanctity of our electoral system. In the 2019 midterm elections, nationwide allegations of vote-buying abound.

A news article pointed out that one bank in Albay runs out of small bills a few days before elections.¹ This phenomenon happens with certainty every election period that it has been customary for the bank to project the amount of small bills it will need every election period. For the May 13, 2019 elections, the bank allegedly released Php 100 million in small bills just before the elections. This amount was allegedly withdrawn by at least 20 clients. When asked what could be the reason for this sudden request for smaller bills, the employee of the same bank said: "Vote buying?"

The existence of vote-buying activities during elections is further perpetuated through the inherent difficulty of prosecuting the same. Links connecting unscrupulous candidates and their operators down to the voters selling their votes had been difficult to establish. By amending the Anti-Money Laundering Act and tapping the assistance of the Anti-Money Laundering Council, links essential to the successful prosecution of violation of Article XXII, Section 261 of BP 881 or the Omnibus Election Code on Vote-Buying and Vote-Selling can now be established. For this purpose, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RICHARD J. GORDON
Senator

¹ <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/inside-track/230340-albay-bank-runs-out-small-bills-elections>



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OTHER PURPOSES"**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Sec. 3(1) of RA 9160 as amended is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 "(i) 'Unlawful activity' refers to any act or omission or series or combination thereof
4 involving or having direct relation to the following:

5 XXX

6 (34) ARTICLE XXII, SECTION 261 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 881 ALSO
7 KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE ON VOTE-BUYING AND VOTE-
8 SELLING; AND

9 XXX"

10 **SECTION 3.** Provisions of RA No. 9160, as amended, are hereby renumbered
11 accordingly.

12 **SECTION. 4. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this act is subsequently
13 declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in
14 full force and effect.

15 **SECTION. 5. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules
16 and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this
17 act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18 **SECTION. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
19 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

20 Approved,