


6 MAR 23 19:20

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*Second Regular Session*

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S. No. 2234

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY B. VILLAR, JR.

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recent events will show that lawless elements have been able to commit crimes with impunity by pretending to be military, police or public safety personnel, or by using the prescribed uniforms of such personnel or any other attire designed to make it appear that they are persons in authority. The present provisions of the Revised Penal Code on usurpation of authority or official functions and on illegal use of uniforms or insignia no longer serve as a deterrent because of the relatively light penalties imposed for such offenses.

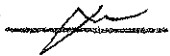
Thus, there is a need to increase the penalty for usurpation of authority of official functions and for illegal use of uniforms or insignia in order to discourage unscrupulous persons from trifling with the functions of military, police and public safety officers.

  
MANNY B. VILLAR, JR.

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**AN ACT  
AMENDING ARTICLES ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN  
AND ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE OF THE  
REVISED PENAL CODE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Article 177 of Act No. 3815 as amended, otherwise known as  
the Revised Penal Code, is hereby amended to read as follows:

ART. 177. *Usurpation of authority or official functions.*-Any  
person who shall knowingly and falsely represent himself to be an  
officer, agent or representative of any department or agency of the  
Philippine government or of any foreign government, or who, under  
pretense of official position, shall perform any act pertaining to any  
person in authority or public officer of the Philippine Government or  
of any foreign government, or any agency thereof, without being  
lawfully entitled to do so, shall suffer the penalty of prison  
correctional in its [minimum and medium periods] MAXMUM  
PERIOD."

SECTION 2.- Article 179 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as  
follows:

Art. 179. *Illegal use of uniforms or insignia.*- The penalty of  
[arresto mayor] PRISION CORRECTIONAL IN ITS MEDIUM  
PERIOD shall be imposed upon any person who shall publicly and  
improperly make use of insignia, uniforms or dress pertaining to an  
office not held by such person or to a class of persons of which he  
is not a member.

"THE USE OF UNIFROMS OR INSIGNIA IN THE  
COMMISSION OF A FELONY OR OFFENSE, OR THE USE OF  
ANY ATTIRE WHICH WOULD MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THE  
OFFENDER IS A PERSON IN AUTHORITY, SHALL IPSO FACTO  
BE CONSIDERED AN AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE UNDER  
ARTICLE 14 OF THIS ACT."

SECTION 3.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
circulation.

Approved.