


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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
20 JUL -6 AM 11:15

SENATE  
S. No. 300

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The misdeeds done by the previous administrations have put everyone in the government in a bad light. It seems that the public is quick to point an accusing finger at public officers whenever something bad goes wrong. Some do these false accusations intentionally.

Public officials and employees are kept in check by the public's freedom to report abuses and illegal acts made by those in the government. However, accusations hurled at our public servants based on unfounded data besmirch the name, honor, and reputation of that person.

This bill seeks to criminalize the intentional filing of false complaints against public officers as well as to provide penalties for the commission of such act. It is hoped that thru the passage of this Act, we will be able to preserve the integrity and honor of those in the public service from false complaints that may be filed against them.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly recommended.

  
**ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV**  
Senator

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**AN ACT  
AMENDING ARTICLE 359 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
REVISED PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED**

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

1           **SECTION 1.** Article 359 of Act No. 3815, as amended, is further amended  
2 to read as follows:

3           "Art. 359. Slander by deed. - The penalty of [arresto mayor in its  
4 maximum] PRISION MAYOR IN ITS MINIMUM period to [prison  
5 correccional in its minimum] ITS MAXIMUM period or a fine [ranging  
6 from 200 to 1,000 pesos] OF 100,000 PESOS, OR BOTH, shall be  
7 imposed upon any person who shall perform any act not included and  
8 punished in this title, which shall cast dishonor, discredit, or contempt upon  
9 another person, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE  
10 INTENTIONAL FILING OF A FALSE COMPLAINT IN COURT OR IN  
11 ANY OTHER AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT EXERCISING  
12 QUASIJUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS. If said act is not of  
13 a serious nature, the penalty shall be [arresto menor] PRISION MAYOR IN

1 ITS MINIMUM TO ITS MEDIUM PERIOD or a fine [not exceeding 200  
2 pesos] OF 50,000 PESOS.

3  
4 IF DURING THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATION OR TRIAL IT  
5 IS PROVEN THAT THE ABOVE FALSE COMPLAINT HAS BEEN OR  
6 IS BEING USED BY THE COMPLAINANT AS A LEVERAGE  
7 AGAINST ANY PERSON IN ORDER TO GAIN ADVANTAGE OR TO  
8 RECEIVE A FAVORABLE DECISION, ACTION OR RESOLUTION  
9 ON ANY MATTER, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY PROVIDED HEREIN  
10 SHALL BE IMPOSED."

11  
12 **SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid by a  
13 competent court, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected by such  
14 declaration of invalidity shall remain in force and effect.

15  
16 **SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
17 other executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof are hereby repealed  
18 amended or modified accordingly.

19  
20 **SEC 4. *Effectivity.*** - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
21 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,