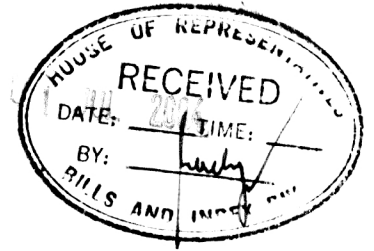


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 924

Introduced by REP. BENJAMIN DC. ABALOS, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The spate of bank robberies continues to rock the banking sector and the public, while the culprits are getting bolder every time they execute a financial sabotage. The wave of bank robberies does not only result to loss of huge sum of money but in most cases---endangers lives of bank employees, clients and depositors, and bystanders who are caught in the crossfire between armed robbers and policemen.

In 2003, for the record, armed robbers have made off with at least P63 million from 26 Filipino and foreign banks in less than nine months. Fourteen of the 26 bank robberies took place in Metro Manila. According to reports, in the first two weeks of September alone, three banks were robbed with a total of more than P2 million: Union Bank of the Philippines-Parañaque, BPI Family Bank-Bacoor, Cavite and Planters Development Bank in Valenzuela City.

Considered as one of the boldest attacks was the robbery at the Citibank head office in Makati City on August 25, 2003. The robbers took some P10 million from an armored truck delivering money to the head office, which was done after regular banking hours and only took 5 minutes. While, the biggest bank robbery in Metro Manila happened in Valenzuela in June of 2003 where Allied Banking Corporation lost P15 million to armed robbers.

During a series of security inspections conducted by the Philippine National Police (PNP) on commercial banks, result shows that some banks have poor and unreliable security systems, and were advised to upgrade their security systems in order to pre-empt robberies. According to police sources, deficiencies were found in surveillance cameras.

This proposed measure seeks to require all commercial and quasi-public banks to install effective monitoring devices (e.g. surveillance camera, video, etc.) inside and outside of the bank's premises to monitor movement of persons and to facilitate a quick response from the police. The PNP shall formulate and implement standard requirements for the effective installation and operation of monitoring devices.

In view of the foregoing, immediate consideration and passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


BENJAMIN DC. ABALOS, JR.

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AN ACT
PRESCRIBING THE MANDATORY INSTALLATION OF MONITORING DEVICES
INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PREMISES OF ALL COMMERCIAL AND QUASI-
PUBLIC BANKS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Sec. 1. Short Title - This Act shall be known as "Anti-Bank Robbery Act."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is declared as the policy of the State that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy.

Sec. 3. Mandatory Installation of Monitoring Devices on all Banks and Quasi-Public Banks. - All banks and quasi-public banks are hereby required to install monitoring devices such as but not limited to surveillance camera, monitor, video, and the like inside and outside of the bank's premises that will ensure the capture of the people coming in and out of the bank's premises. Such monitoring devices shall have a continuing recording capacity of at least 72 hours.

The monitoring device shall be installed inside the bank to monitor the bank clients/depositors in the course of transacting business. It shall be also installed at the bank's main entrance to monitor the movement of persons entering the bank's premises and the movement of bystanders, passerby and vehicles within 20 meters from the bank's main entrance.

Sec. 4. Implementation and Inspection. - The Philippine National Police (PNP) shall formulate and implement standard requirements for the effective installation and operation of monitoring devices.

Sec. 5. Report of Unusual Activities and PNP Hotline. - Any unusual activity within the bank's premises, the bank manager shall immediately report to and coordinate with the Philippine National Police (PNP) for possible police action.

The PNP shall maintain an effective communication line to receive urgent calls from the concerned banks.

Sec. 6. Quick Reaction Force (QRF). – The PNP shall maintain a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to respond to cases of bank robberies.

The QRF shall be composed of trained police personnel equipped with the necessary armaments and vehicle purposely to counter bank aggression. Proper QRF training shall be required for all members of the Force, to include a study and analysis on the modus operandi and operation style of bank robbery syndicates.

Sec. 7. Repealing Clause. - All acts, decrees, orders, executive orders, instructions, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 8. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation. The publication shall not be later than seven (7) days after approval hereof.

Approved,