



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1221

INTRODUCED BY HON. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to prohibit the use of the words "Muslim" and "Christian" in print and broadcast media to described any person suspected of or convicted of having committed criminal or unlawful acts, and provides for penalties for violation thereof. The words "Muslim" and "Christian" refer to a person's religious belief and do not in any way refer to a person's place of origin or propensity for criminal behavior.

It is time we give due justice to out Muslim brothers by not subconsciously propagating tribal or racial biases in our media.

Passage of this bill is thus recommended.


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1221

INTRODUCED BY HON. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF THE WORDS "MUSLIM" AND "CHRISTIAN" IN PRINT AND BROADCAST MEDIA TO DESCRIBE ANY PERSON SUSPECTED OF OR CONVICTED FOR HAVING COMMITTED CRIMINAL OR UNLAWFUL ACT AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. *Prohibiting Act.* – It is hereby declared unlawful for any person to use the words "Muslim" and "Christian" or nay other word that would denote religious, racial, cultural, regional or ethnic affiliation in print in print, television, radio or any broadcast media to describe any person suspected of or convicted for having committed criminal or unlawful acts.

SEC. 2. *Penalties.* – The penalty of *arresto menor* or a fine ranging from Two hundred pesos (P200.00) to Five hundred pesos (P500.00) or both, in the discretion of the court shall be imposed on any person found guilty of violating Section 1 hereof.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,