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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1239

Introduced by **Rep. EDUARDO K. VELOSO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has long faced the problem of graft and corruption within the government. Subsequent administrations have all attempted to deal with this in various ways, however while some progress has been made much remains to be accomplished.

The general perception of civil society is that corruption remains rampant. Resultantly this delegitimizes the government and gives strength to insurgents. Further, this has serious consequences upon our international image that definitely reduce the amount of investment we receive.

Of even greater concern is the wastage that such graft and corrupt practices result in. The rising government deficit is in part due to the accumulated wrong doings of public officials that occur every year. Such inflicts the greatest harm not only in terms of what has been lost to the public, but in the reduction of our future opportunities for national development.

As part of the expanding legislation aimed at improving transparency and accountability in government, it is necessary to further the principle that a public office is a public trust by expressly obligating public officers to report on any acts of graft and corruption committed by other officials in the same office or elsewhere.

In this manner, the values of vigilance and honesty will be strengthened as part of our continued effort to build up a meritocracy.


Rep. EDUARDO K. VELOSO
Third District of Leyte

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AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC NUMBERED ACT 3019, AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act Numbered 3019, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC.3. *Corrupt Practices of Public Officers.*—In addition to acts or omissions of public officers already penalized by existing law, the following shall constitute corrupt practices of any public officer and are hereby declared to be unlawful: XXX

L. FAILING OR REFUSING TO REPORT TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY ANY ACT OR OMISSION COMMITTED BY ANY OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIAL PUNISHABLE UNDER THIS ACT OR PENALIZED BY EXISTING LAWS OF WHICH HE HAD WITNESSED OR HAD PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF WITHIN 72 HOURS OF HAVING WITNESSED OR ACQUIRED SUCH KNOWLEDGE.

The person giving the gift, present share; percentage or benefit referred to in subparagraphs b and c; XXX

THE PUBLIC OFFICER OBLIGATED TO REPORT UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH L. SHALL BE ALLOWED TO AVAIL OF THE BENEFITS OF REPUBLIC ACT 6981 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE WITNESS PROTECTION, SECURITY AND BENEFIT PROGRAM PROVIDED THAT HIS TESTIMONY CAN BE SUBSTANTIALLY CORROBORATED IN ITS MATERIAL POINTS, AND UPON APPROVAL BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.”



SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the law, or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – Any provision of Republic Act 3019, as amended, and all other laws inconsistent herewith is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

A handwritten mark, possibly a signature or initials, located in the lower right quadrant of the page. It consists of a stylized, cursive letter 'G' followed by a checkmark-like stroke.