Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1280



Introduced by Hon. Roilo Golez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill, which shall be known as the Anti-Jueteng Act of 2004, aims to eradicate jueteng in recognition of the bane it poses to the local economy of small towns. It imposes heavier penalties upon jueteng operators and their protectors. The passage of this bill shall minimize if not eliminate corruption of law enforcers and local government officials.

Jueteng should be crushed, not legalized. Legalizing jueteng is tantamount to encouraging and condoning a menace that is already inflicting untold economic hardship on poor families. Jueteng is prevalent in small towns where the incomes of residents are whittled away to this vice instead of being used for family needs and other productive endeavors like small enterprises. Jueteng encourages gamblers to earn quick money as a substitute for productivity to improve their economic condition. Consequently, it discourages the growth of local enterprises and as a result deprives local governments of legitimate revenues. The resources of small towns which could have been honed to provide for local industries are not harnessed due to this scourge.

Considering that the relevance and timeliness of this bill is of utmost importance, I earnestly urge the early approval of its passage.

ROILO GOLEZ

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill 1280

Introduced by Hon. Roilo Golez

AN ACT
AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED SIXTEEN HUNDRED TWO, PRESCRIBING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR JUETENG, AND OTHER PURPOSES

Sec. 1. *Title of the Act.* – This Act shall be known as the "Anti-Jueteng Act of 2004."

Sec.2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to eradicate jueteng. Likewise, it is the policy of the State to promote local revenues through honest, legitimate, lawful and ethical means, and as such curtail and impose heavier sanctions and penalties on local administrators, law enforcers who provide protection to jueteng operators and syndicates. It is also a State policy to fortify anti-gambling government efforts in response to the increased activities of such gambling syndicates.

Sec.3. The following provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1602, prescribing stiffer penalties in illegal gambling, are hereby amended as follows:

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Section1. Violations and Penalties.- The penalty of *prision mayor* in its medium period and a fine ranging from one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000) to five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000) and in case of recidivism the penalty of *reclusion temporal* in its medium period and a fine ranging from five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000) to one million pesos (P1,000,000) shall be imposed upon:

(a) Any person other than those referred in the succeeding subsection who in any manner, shall directly or indirectly take part in any game of jueteng.

(b) Any person who shall knowingly permit any form of gambling referred to in the preceding subparagraph to be carried on in an inhabited or

uninhabited place or in any building, vessel or other means of transportation owned or controlled by him. If the place where gambling is carried on has the reputation of a gambling place or that prohibited gambling is frequently carried on therein, or the place is a public or government building or barangay hall, the malefactor shall be punished by *prision mayor* in its maximum period and a fine of one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000).

The penalty of p*rision mayor* in its maximum period and a fine of one hundred thousand pesos shall be imposed upon the maintainer or conductor of jueteng.

(c) The penalty of *reclusion temporal* in its medium period with temporary absolute disqualification and a fine of one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000) shall be imposed if the maintainer, conductor or banker of jueteng is a government official, or where such government official is the player or promoter of jueteng.

(d) The penalty of *prision mayor* in its medium period and a fine of one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000) shall be imposed upon any person who shall, knowingly and without lawful purpose in any hour of any day, possess any lottery list, paper or other matter containing letters, figures, signs or symbols pertaining to jueteng;

(e) The penalty of *prision correccional* in its minimum period and temporary absolute disqualification shall be imposed upon any local executive who, with knowledge of the existence of a gambling house or place in his jurisdiction fails to abate the same or take action in connection therewith.

(f) The penalty of *prision mayor* in its maximum period and a fine ranging from one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000) to three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000) shall be imposed upon any security officer, security guard, watchman, private or house detective of hotels, villages, buildings, enclosures and the like which have the reputation of a gambling place or where gambling activities are being held.

Sec. 2. Informer's Reward.- Any person who shall disclose information that will lead to the arrest and final conviction of the malefactor shall be rewarded thirty percent (30%) of the cash money or articles of value confiscated or forfeited in favor of the government.

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Sec. 4. *Immunity to Informers.* The State shall provide immunity from criminal prosecution to informers otherwise liable under this Act.

Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations, city and municipal ordinances which are inconsistent with this Decree are hereby repealed.

Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication at least once in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,