

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3217



Introduced by Rep. HERMILANDO I. MANDANAS
Second District, Province of Batangas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to abolish the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), adopting the policy that the Philippine Government should not engage in gambling, it should not run casinos.

Historically the Government has long frowned upon gambling and betting; in fact, the Government still prohibits and penalizes certain forms thereof. An exception was made for gambling when PAGCOR was created under Presidential Decrees No. 1067-A, 1067-B, 1067-C, 1632, 1869 and 1993. Since the creation of PAGCOR, numerous patrons have dissipated enormous energies, time and money, gambling in its casinos. This has had repercussions on our society, as it tended to breed a culture that mistakenly extols a materialistic "get rich quick" mentality, laziness and idleness. Instead of working for a living and giving due importance to industry and labor, many citizens forego work, and any values that could otherwise assist in social and cultural advancement. And the most disgusting aspect of this situation is that the Republic of the Philippines is the operator of gambling. The Government is running crap tables, dealing cards, spinning roulette wheels, etc., and inviting all and sundry to bet and hope to get rich without working.

Further, the operation of gambling by the Republic of the Philippines through PAGCOR is patently discriminatory. While the wealthy are given the opportunity to gamble in Government operated casinos, the poor are strictly prohibited to bet in jueting, masiao, etc. Abolishing PAGCOR can do away with this pharisaical and discriminatory attitude. The Philippine Government should not be in gambling, whether for the rich or poor.

Nowhere in our Constitution is gambling recognized much less encouraged. The Constitution aims "to build a just and humane society and establish a Government that shall embody our ideals and aspirations, promote the common good, conserve and develop our patrimony, and secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings of independence and democracy under the rule of law and a regime of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality and peace".

The Constitution declares that the prime duty of government is to secure and protect the people, maintain peace and order and promote general welfare.

The State values the dignity of every human person, and shall protect and strengthen the family. It recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation building and promote and protect their physical, social, moral, spiritual, and intellectual being.

The abolition of PAGCOR is in consonance with the spirit of the Constitution. The Filipino people deserves a better government; a Government that is not a gambling operator. Gambling degrades the dignity of the Philippine Government.

In view of all the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



HERMILANDO I. MANDANAS
Representative
Second District, Batangas

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AN ACT
ABOLISHING THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND
GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR),
BY REPEALING PRESIDENTIAL DECREES NOS. 1067-A, 1067-B, 1067-C,
1632, 1869, 1993 AND ALL ITS AMENDMENTS, ADOPTING THE POLICY
THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT ENGAGE IN GAMBLING

WHEREAS, historically, the Government has long frowned upon gambling and betting, and prohibits and penalizes certain forms thereof. An exception was made for gambling through the agency of PAGCOR which was created under Presidential Decrees Nos. 1067-A, 1067-B, 1067-C, 1632, 1869 and 1993;

WHEREAS, since the creation of PAGCOR, numerous patrons have dissipated enormous energies, time and money, gambling in its casinos and the institution does not promote any values that could otherwise assist in social and cultural advancement;

WHEREAS, legalized gambling run by the Republic of the Philippines through PAGCOR is patently discriminatory where the wealthy are given the opportunity to gamble while the poor betting in jueting, masiao etc., are illegal, strictly prohibited and penalized;

WHEREAS, gambling is nowhere recognized and sanctioned in our Constitution;

WHEREAS, the Constitution instead, aims to build a just and humane society to promote the common good under the regime of truth, justice, freedom, love equality and peace;

WHEREAS, the Constitution declares that the prime duty of Government is to secure and protect the people, maintain peace and order and recognizes the values of dignity of every human person, and to strengthen the family;

WHEREAS, the Constitution recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation building and promote and protect their physical, social, moral, spiritual and intellectual human being;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned lofty ideals of the Constitution will be put into naught if the culture of gambling is sanctioned and countenanced.

WHEREAS, the abolition of PAGCOR and the adoption of the policy that the Government should not engage in gambling is in consonance with the spirit of the Constitution, the fundamental law of the land.

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

SECTION 1. This shall be known as the Act Abolishing PAGCOR and Adopting the policy that the Government should not engage in gambling.

SECTION 2. Presidential Decrees 1067-A, 1067-B, 1067-C, 1632, 1869, 1993 and all its amendments are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Disposal of assets, termination of personnel, liquidation of obligations, and all other related issues in the dissolution of PAGCOR shall be undertaken by the Board of Liquidators (BOL) in accordance with the existing laws and regulations.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.