

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3276



Introduced by **HONORABLE SUHARTO T. MANGUDADATU**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 3 (2) of the Constitution provides that:

“ They (all educational institutions) shall inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of our country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values...”
(underscoring supplied)

Likewise, by virtue of Executive Order No. 163, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) was created to ensure the protection and promotion of respect for human rights through continuous human rights education, prosecution of human rights violators, and compliance of the government with the Universal Declaration and other International human rights covenants and agreements. Further, Executive Order No. 27 was also issued on July 24, 1986 which provides, among others, for the utilization of the system of formal and informal education to gain greater respect for and deter violation of human rights.

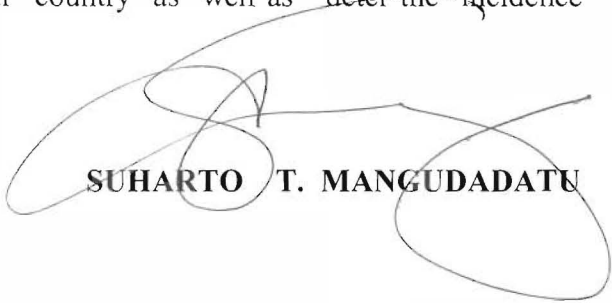
Despite our gains in transforming and institutionalizing human rights into legal and enforceable right, human rights violations continue in the Philippines today. One has only to go through the daily newspapers to know that a large number of cases of harassment, physical and mental torture, abduction and extrajudicial executions continue to occur in our country. These atrocities are not only perpetrated by members of our law enforcement agencies but also by civilian employees and officers of government agencies.

Although law enforcers, still top the list of human rights violators, the CHR ranks government officials and employees as number five among the perpetrators of human rights abuses. Among these human rights violations committed by government officials and employees are harassment, torture, disappearance, arrest and detention, and other gross disrespect for human rights and non-observance of due process.

For workers in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government to understand, appreciate and respect the rights of others, human rights education is a must.

This bill, therefore, aims to ensure that officers and employees of all government agencies be given at least a working knowledge of the due process of law and human rights, to include its protection and promotion.

It is the hope of this bill that with the protection and promotion of human rights enshrined in our laws, the continuing education of our civil servants on human rights will contribute to the efficient delivery of services, respect for the rights of others and the rule of law in our country as well as ~~deter the~~ incidence of human rights violations.



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY TRAINING ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR
ALL OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE
AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT INCLUDING
GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND /OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of policy. The State values the dignity of every human persons and guarantees full respect for human rights. This declaration of state policy in the constitution is stated in Article XIV, Section 3 (2) which provides that all educational institutions shall inculcate respect for human rights.

SECTION 2. Inclusion of Human Rights Courses in Government Training Programs. All branches of government, including government-owned and/or controlled corporations (GOCCs) and local government units (LGUs), shall include the study of human rights as an integral part of the education and training of all their officers and employees, giving priority to those units involved in the administration of justice, intelligence work and maintenance of peace and order.

All government-owned or financed training institutions shall include in their curricula a regular course on human rights.

SECTION 3. Coordination of Training Programs. The Civil Service Commission (CSC) shall initiate, formulate and design the course on human rights in collaboration with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and human rights non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and people's organization (Pos) which shall be implemented by the agency concerned. The CHR and Human Rights NGOs and POs shall provide resource persons, materials, and other necessary assistance to the different agencies concerned in the implementation of this Act.

Approved.