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

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3634**



Introduced by HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is a widespread practice among elected and appointed public officials to claim credit for every imaginable government project such as roads, basketball courts, waiting sheds, environmental reforestation and the like which were funded or facilitated through their office. The said system is unnecessary, highly unscrupulous and deceiving since it is actually taxpayers' money that supports the said projects.

Affixing the name of the public officials on any government project, including public works projects, contradicts what the Constitution states in Art. 19, Sec. 1: "Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives."

Moreover, accrediting a public works project to a particular personality is blatant public misinformation and establishes a flawed perception that a particular public official and not the government, is the one responsible for the implementation, construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of a project. Therefore, said system encourages a culture of political patronage and corruption.

This eventually gives rise to the question of what happens after a certain government official has finished his term, a situation that deceives the public into thinking that they have to continue supporting a particular official, if only to continue receiving public services, which in the first place, is actually not a privilege but their right to receive.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this Bill is earnestly sought and recommended.


ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS

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**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF SIGNAGES BEARING
THE NAME/S OF ANY PUBLIC OFFICIAL/S, IN CONNECTION WITH ANY
PROJECT WHOSE FUNDS, WHOLLY OR PARTLY, COMES FROM THE
GOVERNMENT**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Anti-Signage of Government Projects Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the State’s policy for public officers to serve with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, and to maintain honesty and integrity in public service.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

(a) “Government” includes the national government, local governments, government-owned and government-controlled corporations, and all other instrumentalities or agencies of the Republic of the Philippines and their branches.

(b) “Public Officer” includes elective and appointive officials and employees, permanent or temporary, whether in the classified or unclassified or exempt service receiving compensation, even nominal, from the government as defined in the preceding subparagraph.

(c) “Government Projects” include (1) public works such as but not limited to vertical and horizontal infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, buildings, parks, sheds, pedestrian overpasses/underpasses lighting projects; and (2) any project, activity or undertaking which are funded, wholly or partly through public funds released by the government.

(d) “Signage” includes any form of written announcement, installed, posted, hanged, painted or otherwise displayed in a public place.

SECTION 4. *Prohibited Acts.* – The following constitute a violation of this Act:

- (a) Affixing, or causing to be affixed, the name, image of any individual public official to a signage announcing a proposed or on-going government project;
- (b) Installing, or causing to be installed, signage announcing the maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction of public works crediting individual public officer/s, or bearing his/ her image, for the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of such public works.

SECTION 5. *Allowed Practices.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed to exclude agencies, departments, and local government units from:

- (a) Affixing, or causing to be affixed, their official name, or logo to a signage announcing a proposed or on-going government project;
- (b) Installing, or causing to be installed, signage announcing the construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of public works crediting the agency, department, or local government unit, or bearing their logo, for the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of such public works.

SECTION 6. *Removal of Existing Signage.* – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is hereby ordered to remove all existing signage announcing a proposed or on-going government project, and all existing signage announcing the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of a public works project bearing the name or image of an individual public officer, within three (3) months after the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Prescription of Offenses.* – All offenses punishable under this Act shall be prescribed in ten (10) years.

SECTION 8. *Penalties for Violations.* – Any public officer committing any of the prohibited acts in Section 4 shall be punished with imprisonment for not less than six (6) months nor more than one (1) year, and perpetual disqualification from public office.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, such declarations shall not invalidate the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with any provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.