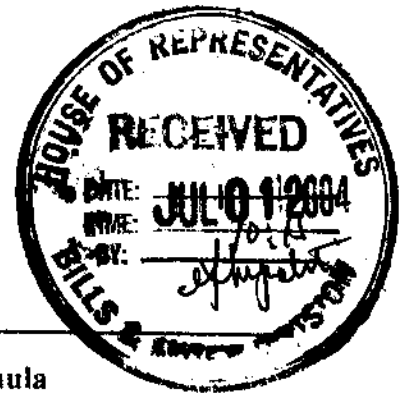


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 164



Introduced by Honorable Constantino G. Jaraula

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill was filed with the 11th Congress as House Bill No. 7804 and the 12th Congress as House Bill No. 1194, with the following Explanatory Note:

"This Bill seeks to free the Filipino from the burdens of onerous, unreasonable, or unconscionable debts or obligations, which have devastatingly derailed the economy of the country, painfully sapped the patience of the Filipino, and unnecessarily compromised his faith in government, such as but not limited to the ACCOUNT of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

"The Bill does not intend to revive bitter political debates, or scratch partisan wounds, arising from or occasioned by those debts or obligations.

"The Filipino has suffered for long, and suffered bitterly from the burdens of those debts or obligations which have eaten up as much as thirty to forty percent of the annual national budget, made conveniently and contemptibly by the automatic appropriation provision in Presidential Decree No. 1177, specifically Section 31 (b) thereof, and similar laws, decrees, executive and administrative orders, or circulars.

"The billions of pesos from taxes paid by an impoverished populace, devoted to servicing onerous, unreasonable, or unconscionable debts or obligations in the last fifteen years, would have readily propelled the Republic into becoming an industrialized country.

"Those billions of pesos would have provided houses to the teeming millions of homeless Filipinos, would have saved the millions who have to work abroad, risking their lives and the solidarity of their families, from leaving their native land, and would have saved thousands of Filipinos from prostitution and other degrading "livelihood", to mention only a few.

"This Bill seeks to restore the respectability of the Filipino without necessarily compromising the country's international image.

"It has been done in other countries, like Poland, Brazil, and Mexico. The Philippines must do nothing less, and deserves nothing less."

Where the 11th and 12th Congress failed, it is imperative the 13th Congress succeed in approving this Bill.

CONSTANTINO G. JARULA

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

Thirteenth Congress

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 164

Introduced by Honorable Constantino G. Jaraula

AN ACT

DECLARING AS NATIONAL POLICY THE FREEDOM OF THE FILIPINO FROM ONEROUS, UNREASONABLE, AND UNCONSCIONABLE DEBT OR OBLIGATION, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 31 (b) OF PD 1177 AND SIMILAR LAWS, DECREES, EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS, AND CIRCULARS.

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

SECTION. 1 Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared to be National Policy that the Filipino be freed from the burdens of onerous, unreasonable, and unconscionable debts or obligations.

SECTION. 2 Section 31 (b) of Presidential Decree No. 1177 and similar laws, decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, or circulars, are hereby repealed.

SECTION. 3. Provisions in the annual budget for debt servicing shall be limited to loans or obligations which are not onerous, unreasonable, or unconscionable.

SECTION 4. An Ad Hoc Committee shall immediately be organized with the Secretary of Finance, Trade and Industry, NEDA, two Senators to be designated by the Senate President and two Representatives to be designated by the Speaker, is hereby created to evaluate and identify those debts or obligations which are onerous, unreasonable, or unconscionable and therefore not entitled to debt servicing or automatic appropriation.

SECTION 5. The Ad Hoc Committee shall immediately be organized with the Secretary of Finance as Chairman who shall convene the same within fifteen (15) days from the approval hereof, and shall make monthly reports to both Houses of Congress and to the President. It shall undertake massive and sustained campaign for the condonation or writing off of the aforementioned debts or obligations. It shall wind up its tasks within one year from its organization.

SECTION 6. The amount of FIVE MILLION PESOS (P5,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the expenses of the AD Hoc Committee.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,