

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3248

Introduced by:
HONORABLE AMADO S. BAGATSING

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The game of *Jueteng* is an illegal numbers game played in many parts of the country, the most affected areas of which are Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Northern Luzon, Metro Manila, Bicol Region, Cagayan Valley, and the Cordillera Autonomous Region.

Although illegal, *jueteng* is a grassroots-based gaming operation that crosses most, if not all social and economic boundaries, played by rich and poor alike, the lure of quick money being its strongest appeal.

It has become a lucrative source of livelihood for collectors or "*cobrades*" and headmen or "*cabos*" to whom the former report. *Jueteng* operators accept bets as small as 25 centavos and as high as P100.00 per combination, and there are no limits on minimum and maximum bets. In Luzon alone, collections of bets reportedly run to about P50 million daily.

Although *jueteng* operators are well known in their areas by the local people including politicians and government officials, the police, and community leaders, government has not been able to eradicate this form of unregulated gambling, precisely because of its popularity with the under-privileged and the middle class. Moreover, in the UNHOLY NATION, stories from a gambling republic published in 2003, writer Tiffany Tan narrates her interview with a policeman who "xxx regards the government's all-out effort against *jueteng* as merely one of the many tasks of a law enforcer-one he has to implement despite the knowledge that it is, he says, all "vaudeville" or "all for show", (page 59, The Vaudeville Show).

The same book details that cases against *jueteng* operators and workers number in the thousands but by one estimate, 60-70% of these cases end up archived. The collusion between the police and the *jueteng* operators and the utter disregard by those in power

who benefit from this illegal numbers game is one of the primary reasons why *jueteng* continues to exist.

This representation now seeks to address this problem by proposing to legalize *jueteng*. Through legalization, the government stands to earn revenues the proceeds of which would finance government programs and projects, provide *jueteng* workers a legitimate means to earn a living, and stamp out corruption.

Hence, early passage of this proposed measure is earnestly sought.



AMADO S. BAGATSING
Representative
5th District, Manila

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3243**

Introduced by
HONORABLE AMADO S. BAGATSING

AN ACT
LEGALIZING JUETENG

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Jueteng Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the term:

1. **Jueteng** - refers to a form of lottery or numbers game that usually involves the combination of 37 numbers against 37 numbers, marked in small wooden sizes and placed inside a container; and is played by drawing and recording one number which will become the first number of the winning combination and returning the same to the container for the drawing of the second number of the winning combination
2. **Illegal jueteng operator** - refers to the maintainer, conductor and banker of jueteng activities
3. **Employee** - refers to any individual who directly or indirectly takes part in jueteng activities for compensation
4. **PAGCOR** - refers to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation

SEC. 3. Establishment of Jueteng. - There shall be established a numbers game or jueteng, to be placed under the sole control and supervision of PAGCOR.

SEC. 4. Responsibilities of PAGCOR – PAGCOR shall have the following responsibilities:

- 1) To formulate rules and regulations relating to the conduct of the game;
- 2) To ensure that the determination of the winning numbers and/or combination thereof shall be made open to the public either through television or radio broadcast and/or in the presence of observers, randomly selected for every draw;
- 3) To take necessary steps for ensuring that proceeds are properly allocated and distributed as provided by existing laws, particularly the provisions of this Act;
- 4) To take steps for coordination of various operations nationwide, establishing for this purpose, provincial, city and municipal outlets to operate and supervise the game at the local level;
- 5) To coordinate with various law enforcement agencies and engage their services in the apprehension and consequent prosecution of those who are illegally operating the same;
- 6) To formulate the game's necessary mechanics and appropriate standards for its operation;
- 7) To adopt measures that safeguard the interest of the betting public;
- 8) To maintain liaison with different government agencies, and appropriate non-government agencies and ensure their maximum cooperation and coordination in all matters relating to jueteng operation; and
- 9) To adopt such other measures as it may deem necessary.

SEC. 5. Prohibition. – No individual or private entity shall be engaged directly or indirectly in the operation of jueteng and no franchise or license relating thereto shall likewise be issued by PAGCOR or any other government agency or instrumentality. Any violation thereof shall be punishable under this Act and under other appropriate existing laws.

SEC. 6. Allocation of Proceeds. – All revenues, proceeds and income generated from jueteng operation shall be allocated and distributed to pay for the services of authorized collectors, their supervisors and other personnel. Twenty (20%) thereof shall be utilized to pay for the winning tickets and the rest shall be placed under the Presidential Social Development Fund of PAGCOR and other related programs, subject to existing policies and procedures.

SEC. 7. Penalties. – The following penalties are hereby imposed:

- a. The penalty of reclusion perpetua in its minimum period and a fine ranging from five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) to one million pesos (P1,000,000.00) shall be imposed upon any illegal jueteng operator or any person who shall directly finance and/or maintain illegal jueteng operations.
- b. The penalty of reclusion temporal in its medium period and a fine ranging from three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) to five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person who shall knowingly permit illegal jueteng operations to be carried on in an inhabited or uninhabited place or any building, vessel or other means of transportation owned or controlled by him.
- c. The penalty of prision mayor in its minimum period and a fine ranging from ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) to fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) shall be imposed upon any individual who shall directly or indirectly take part as an employee in any illegal jueteng operations.
- d. The penalty of prision correccional in its minimum period and a fine ranging from ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) to fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) 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 an illegal jueteng place or where jueteng activities are being held.
- e. The penalty of reclusion perpetua in its maximum period with temporary absolute disqualification and a fine of five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) imposed if the offender is a government or public official, regardless of the extent of participation in illegal jueteng operations.

SEC. 8. Appropriations. – There is hereby authorized to be appropriated such sum as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

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

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

Approved,