

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3649

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by Representative **Carlo V. Lopez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution provides that the Philippines is a democratic and republican state and sovereignty resides in the people from whom all government authority emanates. (Sec. 1, Art. II).

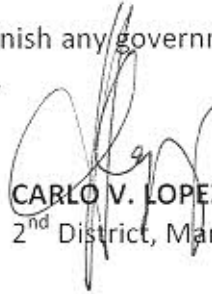
Inevitably, the people have to participate in the running of government affairs. They have to participate intelligently and productively. But to be able to do this, they must be provided with the necessary and current information which shall serve as the basis for whatever action they might want to take. They therefore have the right to know and be informed of the truth.

Correspondingly, the government has the responsibility to provide the people with accurate and relevant information on matters of public concern. Thus, Section 24 of Article II of the Constitution provides "The State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation building." Section 27 of the said Article provides that "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service xxx." Section 28 of the same Article states that "Subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the State adopts and implements a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest", And finally, Section 1 of Article XI states that "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, xxx."

Simply stated, the Constitution mandates all public servants whether elected or appointed, to serve the people with dedication and towards this end to observe honesty, openness and transparency in all their dealings with the people.

Nevertheless, a mere mandate is not enough. Without any law punishing the malefactors, the mandate will just be like an empty advice.

Hence, the need to enact a law that will punish any government official or employee who shall make any untruthful statement in public.


CARLO V. LOPEZ
2nd District, Manila

November 3, 2010

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House Bill No. 3649

Introduced by Representative **Carlo V. Lopez**

AN ACT

MAKING IT UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE TO MAKE ANY UNTRUTHFUL STATEMENT IN PUBLIC AND PENALIZING VIOLATIONS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. Statement of Policy – It is the policy of the government, in line with the principle that a public office is a public trust, to require public officers and employees to observe honesty, openness and transparency in their dealings with the people and to punish anyone of them who shall make untruthful statement in public.

SECTION 2. It shall be unlawful for any public officer or employee of any government office, agency, or instrumentality, including government owned or controlled corporation, who, by word of mouth or through the use of printed materials and other instrument or means of communications to willfully make any untruthful statement in public knowing the same to be false, concerning any matter of public concern.

SECTION 3. Any violations of the provisions of this Act shall be punished by an imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than five years plus a disqualification to hold a public office.

SECTION 4. All laws, decrees or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect immediately.

Approved.