



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3967**

Introduced by Honorable Erico B. Aumentado

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to impose a stiffer penalty for the illegal use of uniforms and insignia of the police and military personnel.

Article 179 of Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code, as amended, already imposes a penalty of *arresto mayor* upon any person who shall publicly and improperly make use of insignia, uniforms, or dress pertaining to any office not held by such person or to a class of persons of which he is not a member. Article 179 covers, for example, an act of an individual who is not a doctor or a soldier in wearing publicly the uniform of a doctor or a soldier. The most abused uniforms are those that belong to the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

In many instances, persons who are not in the military or police service are publicly wearing the insignia and uniform of the AFP and PNP which oftentimes facilitates the commission of crimes such as robbery, kidnapping, terrorism and extortion. Such false representation of the members of the AFP and PNP tarnishes the image and reputation of our uniformed personnel.

Hence, this bill seeks to provide a stiffer penalty for the wearing of uniforms of the AFP and PNP by persons who are not in the military or police service as an effective deterrent in the commission of any criminal activity associated with this unlawful act.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is urgently recommended.


ERICO B. AUMENTADO



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AN ACT
IMPOSING A STIFFER PENALTY FOR THE ILLEGAL USE OF
UNIFORMS OR INSIGNIA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
ARTICLE 179 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
REVISED PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. Article 179 of Act No. 3815, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding a second paragraph to read as follows:

*“ART. 179. Illegal Use of Uniforms or Insignia. – The penalty of *arresto mayor* shall be imposed upon any person who shall publicly and improperly make use of insignia, uniforms or dress pertaining to an office not held by such person or to a class of persons of which he is not a member.*

THE PENALTY OF *PRISION CORRECCIONAL*
SHALL BE IMPOSED UPON ANY PERSON WHO SHALL

PUBLICLY AND IMPROPERLY MAKE USE OF THE INSIGNIA, UNIFORMS, OR DRESS PERTAINING TO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) AND PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP): *PROVIDED, HOWEVER*, THAT WHEN THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE AFP OR PNP UNIFORM FACILITATED THE COMMISSION OF ANOTHER CRIME, THE PENALTY FOR THE CRIME COMMITTED IN ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD SHALL BE IMPOSED UPON THE OFFENDER.”

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,