

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House Bill No. 4319

Introduced by: Hon. Pedro B. Acharon Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

No less than the 1987 Constitution guarantees the right of every Filipino on matters of public concern as enshrined in Section 7 , Bill of Rights which states: *"The right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. Access to official records, and to documents, and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decision, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development shall be afforded the citizen, subject to limitations as may be provided by law."*

A steady flow of information guarantees transparency in the dealings of the government. Under this scheme, the people will have the chance to be informed of the activities being undertaken by the public officials in the performance of their functions. The latter, acting under the imprimatur of the state to act in behalf of the majority, should be subjected to the scrutiny of the public to ensure that the welfare of the many is upheld at all times. With the right to information, the people will have the opportunity to determine whether such mandate was followed or not.

In a democratic form of government, like the Philippines, the participation of the people is of the essence. The tradition is that the stakeholders are given the opportunity to partake in the decision making. However, not everyone is given the chance to be heard. In order for an average Filipino to participate in this meaningful exercise, is through informing oneself with the dealings of the government which the latter should guaranty as a matter of policy. Transparency therefore encourages an

informed constituency which on a larger perspective keeps the ideals of democracy effective and operational.

This bill therefore envisions a more transparent local government in negotiating and securing grants from both local and foreign assistance agencies. As discussed above, public accountability bears weight in effective governance. By publishing the approved document in a newspaper of general circulation, the constituency will have a chance to ponder on the intrinsic worth of the assistance given. On the other hand, the local government by keeping a transparent policy ensures the public that their interest is their utmost priority.

In view of the foregoing, the prompt approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


HON. PEDRO B. ACHARON JR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House Bill No. 1219

Introduced by: Hon. Pedro B. Acharon Jr.

AN ACT

REQUIRING ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO PUBLISH ANY GRANT, AGREEMENT OR DEED OF DONATIONS UPON SIGNING THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OR THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991" AS AMENDED.

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

SECTION 1. Section 23 of Republic Act 7160, as amended, is hereby amended as follows:

"Sec. 23 Authority to Negotiate and Secure Grants- Local chief executives may, upon authority of the sanggunian, negotiate and secure financial grants or donations in kind, in support of the basic services or facilities enumerated under Section 17 hereof, from local and foreign assistance agencies without necessity of securing clearance or approval therefor from any department, agency or office of the national government or from any higher local government unit: Provided, that projects financed by such grants or assistance with national security implications shall be approved by the national agency concerned; Provided, further, that when such national agency fails to act on the request for approval within thirty (30) days from receipt thereof, the same shall be deemed approved.

The local chief executive shall, within thirty (30) days upon signing of such grant, agreement, or deed of donation, report the nature, amount, terms of such assistance to [both Houses of Congress] the President **AND PUBLISH THE SAME IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION."**

SECTION 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, .