

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **4929**



Introduced by **Kabataan Party-list Representative Terry L. Ridon**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, traditional politicians have a long-established cottage industry of self-perpetuation – a system of insidious advertising of the politician's so-called achievements through the plastering of their faces on finished public works and projects. Instead of emphasizing that such civil works are products of the people's hard work, these politicians make it look like their constituents owe him or her debt of gratitude for the project. This system of political advertising has even evolved and reached new lows – with many government officials now not only content with putting up large billboards announcing their new road projects or buildings, but worse, even set up pesky greetings for the most commonplace of events.

In truth, this system of political advertising is a manifestation of our nation's deeply troubling patronage politics and the proliferation of political dynasties in the country. Playing with the concepts of mass communications, these traditional politicians take advantage of the power and funds under their discretion to boost name recall and face recognition, two key factors important during the elections.

This bill seeks to stop this moribund system by declaring unlawful the naming or identification of any government project after any government official or other persons whose identity may in any manner be associated with said government official, except those as may be determined by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) in accordance with law or its duly issued guidelines or regulations.

It is the view of this humble representation that passing such legislation will have twin effects – one, it will prohibit officials from abusing projects for personal benefits; and second, it will pave the way for the people's renewed appreciation of public works, a new view wherein they will be able to appreciate new roads, bridges, and other projects as the fruits of the nation's collective effort, and not a boon granted by a self-serving politician.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill – which was first filed by former Kabataan Partylist Rep. Raymond Palatino in the 15th Congress – is earnestly sought.



Hon. Terry L. Ridon
Representative, Kabataan Party-list

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AN ACT
DECLARING AS UNLAWFUL ANY GOVERNMENT PROJECT TO BE NAMED
OR IDENTIFIED AFTER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHER PERSONS
WHOSE NAME OR IDENTITY MAY IN ANY MANNER BE ASSOCIATED WITH
SAID OFFICIALS

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Prohibited Acts.*** – It shall be unlawful for any government project
2 to be named or identified after any government official or other persons whose identity
3 may in any manner be associated with said government official, except those as may
4 be determined by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) in
5 accordance with law or its duly issued guidelines or regulations.

6 **SECTION 2. *Penalty.*** – The penalty of one (1) year imprisonment and a fine of
7 Php100,000.00 to Php1,000,000.00 shall be imposed upon any person who violates
8 the provisions of this Act. The determination of the amount of fine imposed herein shall
9 be dependent on the amount of the government project concerned.

10 A second violation, however, shall in addition to the above penalty of imprisonment
11 and fine, subject the offender to suffer absolute perpetual disqualification to hold office.

12 **SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from
13 the effectivity of this Act, the Government Procurement Policy Board in coordination

1 with the NHCP shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively
2 carry out the provision of this Act.

3 **SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid
4 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected
5 shall remain valid and subsisting.

6 **SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
7 orders, proclamations and/or administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the
8 provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, superseded or repealed
9 accordingly.

10 **SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from
11 its publication in the Official Gazette or at least three (3) newspapers of national
12 circulation.

Approved,