

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4780



Introduced by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The power of mass media in this day and age is one that should be regarded as an influential one. It can make or destroy anything. It is therefore the vision of this bill to check this power when it comes to generalizing words that somehow affect related entities connected to the term being used.

The excessive use of "Lanao" to describe the areas of Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Iligan City in various media platforms should be prohibited. There should be a distinction in describing and naming the three different provinces and it is imperative to use their proper names in reporting news pertaining to the respective political entities. It should be the responsibility of the media outfit to ensure the distinction between the three places so as to not make a negative connotation in a sweeping generalization. Responsible media and journalism should be championed by our local media outlets. This bill seeks to penalize media practitioners in generalizing the word "Lanao" in describing the two distinct Provinces and Iligan City.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MOHAMAD KHALID Q. DIMAPORO
First District, Lanao del Norte

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3 **AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF THE WORD "LANAO" TO GENERALIZE**
4 **THE AREA IN THE PROVINCES OF LANA DEL NORTE, LANA DEL SUR AND**
5 **ILIGAN CITY IN MASS MEDIA AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR**
6

7 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*
8

9 **SECTION 1. *Prohibited Act.*** It is hereby declared unlawful for any person to use in mass
10 media the word "Lanao" to generally describe the areas of Lanao del Norte, Lanao del
11 Sur and Iligan City.
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13 The word Lanao del Norte shall be used to describe the Province of Lanao
14 del Norte;
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16 The word Lanao del Sur shall be used to describe the Province of Lanao del
17 Sur;
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19 Iligan City shall be used to describe the City of Iligan.
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21 **SECTION 2. *Penalties.*** The Penalty of arresto mayor or a fine ranging from Five
22 Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00), or both, at the discretion
23 of the courts, shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of violating Section 1 hereof.
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25 The editor-in-chief, in the case of print media, and the news editor in the
26 case of broadcast media and other forms of mass media, shall be imposed a fine not lower
27 than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00).
28

29 The juridical entity violating this Act shall be imposed a fine not lower than
30 Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) for every violation.

For the second and succeeding offenses, the penalties shall be doubled.

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2 **SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules.*** The Philippine Information Agency, in coordination
3 with the concerned sectors and entities, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to
4 implement this Act within three months after its effectivity.
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6 **SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations of parts
7 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or
8 amended accordingly.
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10 Approved,
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