

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6503



Introduced by **Representative Manuel Luis T. Lopez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Resorts World-Manila Tragedy that claimed the life of 38 individuals including the suspect, last June 2, 2017, was declared by authorities as not an act of terror but one committed by an estranged person who is hooked to gambling. According to official reports, the gunman, identified as Jessie Carlos, was heavily indebted due to his being addicted to gambling. According to CNN news, he had an outstanding debt of Four Million Pesos and other non-bank related debt.

Prior to this incident, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued an Executive Order on February 2, 2017 strengthening the fight against illegal gambling. This was in light of the cases involving Jack Lam and his casino operations in Clark. High ranking officials from the Bureau of Immigration were also dragged into the incident. Allegations of bribery and corruption have been brought to the fore, however, no sanctions have been meted out or even individuals made to face stiff penalties.

Thus, this bill seeks to address this problem by increasing the penalties for government officials who participate or fail to prohibit the proliferation of illegal gambling activities in their respective jurisdictions.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. MANUEL LUIS T. LOPEZ
Representative
1st District, City of Manila

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AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9287 ENTITLED "AN ACT
INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL NUMBERS GAMES, AMENDING CERTAIN
PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1602, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
AND STRENGTHENING THE FINES AND PUNISHMENTS FOR VIOLATIONS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act 9287 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. It is likewise the policy of the State that the promotion of social justice shall include the commitment to create economic opportunities based on freedom of initiative and self-reliance.

Hence, the State hereby condemns the existence of illegal gambling activities such as illegal numbers games as this has become an influential factor in an individual's disregard for the value of dignified work, perseverance and thrift since instant monetary gains from it are being equated to success, thereby becoming a widespread social menace and a source of corruption.

1 Towards this end, the State shall therefore adopt more
2 stringent measures to stop and eradicate the existence of
3 illegal **GAMBLING ACTIVITIES** in any part of the country.”
4

5
6 **SEC. 2.** Section 3 of Republic Act 9287 is hereby amended to read as follows:
7

8 *Sec. 3. Punishable Acts. - Any person who participates in*
9 *any illegal **GAMBLING ACTIVITY** shall suffer the following*
10 *penalties:*
11

- 12
- 13 a) *The penalty of imprisonment from thirty (30) days to*
14 *ninety (90) days, if such person acts as a bettor;*
 - 15
 - 16 b) *The penalty of imprisonment from six (6) years and one*
17 *(1) day to eight (8) years, if such person acts as a*
18 *personnel or staff of an illegal numbers game operation;*
19
 - 20 c) *The same penalty shall likewise be imposed to any person*
21 *who allows his vehicle, house, building or land to be used*
22 *in the operation of the illegal numbers games.*
23
 - 24 d) *The penalty of imprisonment from eight (8) years and*
25 *one (1) day to ten (10) years, if such person acts as a*
26 *collector or agent;*
27
 - 28 e) *The penalty of imprisonment from ten (10) years and*
29 *one (1) day to twelve (12) years, if such person acts as a*
30 *coordinator, controller or supervisor;*
31
 - 32 f) *The penalty of imprisonment from twelve (12) years and*
33 *one (1) day to fourteen (14) years, if such person acts as*
34 *a maintainer, manager or operator; and*
35
 - 36 g) *The penalty of imprisonment from fourteen (14) years*
37 *and one (1) day to sixteen (16) years, if such person acts*
38 *as a financier or capitalist;*
39
 - 40 h) *The penalty of imprisonment from sixteen (16) years and*
41 *one (1) day to twenty (20) years, if such person acts as*
42 *protector or coddler;*
43

44
45 **SEC. 3.** Section 5 of Republic Act 9287 is hereby amended to read as follows:
46

47 *Sec. 5. Liability of Government Employees and/or Public*
48 *Officials. - a) If the collector, agent, coordinator,*
49 *controller, supervisor, maintainer, manager, operator,*

1 financier or capitalist of any illegal **GAMBLING**
2 **ACTIVITY** is a government employee and/or public
3 official, whether elected or appointed shall **SUFFER**
4 **THE PENALTY OF SIXTEEN (16) YEARS AND ONE (1)**
5 **DAY TO TWENTY (20) YEARS AND A FINE RANGING**
6 **FROM TEN MILLION PESOS (P10,000,000.00) TO**
7 **TWENTY MILLION PESOS (P20,000,000.00)** and
8 perpetual absolute disqualification from public office.

9
10 **ANY LOCAL GOVERNMENT/ BARANGAY OFFICIAL**
11 **WHO, FAILS TO ABATE, RESTRICT, OR WHO**
12 **TOLERATES THE OPERATION OF ANY ILLEGAL**
13 **GAMBLING ACTIVITY IN HIS/HER JURISDICTION**
14 **WITH OR WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE, SHALL BE**
15 **IMPOSED WITH AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY OF A**
16 **FINE RANGING FROM TWENTY MILLION PESOS**
17 **(P20,000,000.00) TO FIFTY MILLION PESOS**
18 **(P50,000,000.00) AND IMPRISONMENT OF TWENTY**
19 **(20) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY TO FORTY (40) YEARS.**

20
21 *b) In the case of failure to apprehend perpetrators of*
22 *any illegal numbers game, any law enforcer shall suffer*
23 *an administrative penalty of suspension or dismissal, as*
24 *the case may be, to be imposed by the appropriate*
25 *authority.*

26
27 **SEC. 4.** Section 5 of Republic Act 9287 is hereby amended to read as follows:
28

29 *Sec. 6. Liability of Parents/Guardians. - The penalty of*
30 *imprisonment from **SIX (6) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY***
31 ***TO TWELVE (12) YEARS AND A FINE RANGING FROM***
32 ***TEN MILLION PESOS (P10,000,000.00) TO TWENTY***
33 ***MILLION PESOS (P20,000,000.00)** shall be imposed*
34 *upon any parent, guardian or person exercising moral*
35 *authority or ascendancy over a minor, ward or*
36 *incapacitated person, and not otherwise falling under*
37 *any of the foregoing subsections, who induces or causes*
38 *such minor, ward or incapacitated person to commit*
39 *any of the offenses punishable in this Act. Upon*
40 *conviction, the parent, guardian or person exercising*
41 *moral authority or ascendancy over the minor, ward or*
42 *incapacitated person shall be deprived of his/her*
43 *authority over such person in addition to the penalty*
44 *imposed.*

45
46 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, ordinances, executive orders, administrative
47 orders, rules, regulations, decrees, and other issuances or parts thereof, which are
48 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby revoked, repealed, or modified
49 accordingly.

1
2 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional
3 or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue in operation and
4 remain in full force and effect.

5
6 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
7 publication in a newspaper of general circulation or the Official Gazette.

8
9 Approved,