

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH (17th) CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 8216



Introduced by: **Representative Jose L. Atienza, Jr.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

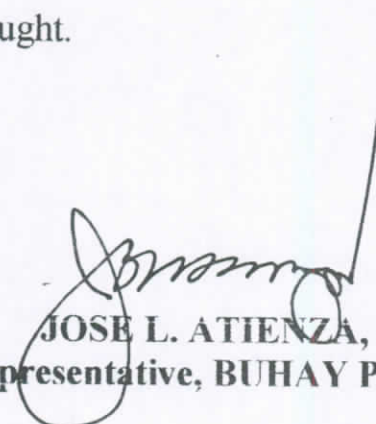
Pigeon racing is a hobby turned into sport by Filipinos and enjoyed by old and young generations. The mechanics of the sport is simple: Racing pigeons are set to be released from a particular location while pigeon owners await their return to their respective lofts or homes. The fastest bird to return shall be declared the winner. Speed is the basis to determine the winner with a computation of distance divided by time travelled.

Pigeon racing has long been a popular sport and recreational activity among Filipino youth and enthusiasts. This engaging sport is a good way to keep the youth away from drugs and other illegal activities.

However, most breeders are discouraged and lose millions in investments due to the presence of "lambateros". Lambateros are those who set up "lambats" or nets which catch the pigeons during the race proper. Photos of these pigeons are then posted on social media where the birdnappers or catchers ask for ransom from their owners.

The proliferation of these lambateros poses hazards not only to the pigeon racers but also to other endangered wildlife species.

As such, passage of this bill is urgently sought.


JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Representative, BUHAY Party-list

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AN ACT

AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 9147, Otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act."

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines assembled.

Section 1. Section 5 of the law shall be amended to read:

"Section 5. Definition of Terms. - As used in the Act, the term:

- (a) "Lambateros" means those who set up nets or lambats for the purpose of capturing wildlife species including economically important species such as pigeons and the like.

Section 2. Section 27 shall be amended to read as follows:

"Section 27. Illegal Acts. - Unless otherwise allowed in accordance with this Act, it shall be unlawful for any person to willfully and knowingly exploit wildlife resources and their habitats, or undertake the following acts;

... (j) setting up fishnets (lambat) or similar materials to gather, capture or otherwise take control or possession of the any of the species described herein, including race pigeons and other species."

Section 3. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 4. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, any part or provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.