

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8473



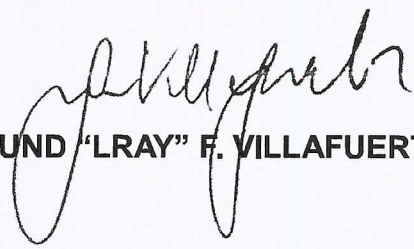
Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

AN ACT
AMENDING BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, SECTION 97, ON
CONDUCTING FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES

The Constitution, Article II, Section 27, mandates the State to maintain honesty and integrity in the public service. This is designed to prevent government officers and employees from using their office for personal aggrandizement.

Government offices and premises, as long as their establishment and maintenance are paid out of public funds, should be devoted entirely to the performance of public service. Hence, the use thereof, during the election period up to the election day, in order to solicit any contribution or to raise funds for political purposes, should be prohibited.

This bill seeks to declare it unlawful for any person seeking public office to use government offices and premises in any manner that will promote his/ her election.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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

SECTION 1. Section 97 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 97. Prohibited raising of funds:

(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to hold dances, lotteries, cockfights, boxing bouts, bingo, beauty contests, entertainment, or cinematographic, theatrical or other performances for the purpose of raising funds for an election campaign or for the support of any candidate from the commencement of the election period up to and including election day; or for any person or organization whether civic or religious, directly or indirectly, to solicit and/ or accept from any candidate for public office, or from his campaign manager, agent or representative, or any person acting in their behalf, any gift, food, transportation, contribution, or donation in cash or in kind from the commencement of the election period up to and including election day; Provided, That normal and customary religious stipends, tithes, or collections on Sundays and/ or other designated collection days are excluded from this prohibition; and

(B) It shall be unlawful for any person seeking public office whether local, regional or national to solicit or receive any contribution, monetary and/ or in kind, OR CONDUCT ANY FUND RAISING ACTIVITY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES, in any government office or premises, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, any military or police camp, installation or office AND

THE LIKE, AS LONG AS THE MAINTENANCE OF SAID OFFICES OR PREMISES ARE PAID OUT OF PUBLIC FUNDS. THIS PROHIBITION SHALL APPLY BEFORE AND DURING ELECTION PERIOD UP TO ELECTION DAY ITSELF.”

SECTION 2. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the laws or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 3. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 4. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general publication.

Approved,