

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1535



Introduced by **HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS**

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISPLAY OR ADVERTISEMENT OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' NAMES AND PHOTOS IN ALL GOVERNMENT PROJECTS, SERVICES AND VEHICLES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The practice of politicians of posting their names and/or photos in public works, government establishments, vehicles, service programs and campaigns is quite prevalent. Crediting individuals instead of the government on any public work, project, assistance or program is unethical and a manifestation of the nation's deeply troubling political patronage. This system of political advertising also promotes corruption among our officials, sending a wrong sense of accomplishment among the citizens.

The Anti-Epal Act of 2022 seeks to address this issue by prohibiting and penalizing government officials who habitually post their names and faces on government projects funded with taxpayers' money.

Prohibited acts include affixing, or causing to be affixed the name, initials, logo or image of any public official to a signage announcing a proposed, on-going or completed public works; and affixing or causing to be affixed the name, initials, logo or image of any public official to a signage—crediting an individual officer, or bearing his or her image of any and all public service projects and motor vehicles. This measure however allows signs that bear the name, image or logo of the local or national government agency handling the project.

Civil servants should give their total dedicated service to the people, and the services they give should not serve their own personal interest.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is highly sought.

HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS
2nd District, Surigao del Norte

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1535

Introduced by **HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS**

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISPLAY OR ADVERTISEMENT OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' NAMES AND PHOTOS IN ALL GOVERNMENT

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Anti-Epal Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State for all elected and appointed public officers and employees to serve with utmost honesty and integrity and take proactive and effective measures against graft and corruption.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For of the purpose of this Act, the term:

- (a) “Government” means the national government, the local governments, the government-owned and government-controlled corporations, and all other instrumentalities or agencies and branches of the Republic of the Philippines;
- (b) “Public officer” means elective and appointive officials and employees, permanent or temporary;
- (c) “Public works” includes, but is not limited to the following: streets, bridges, sidewalks, public buildings, public parks, sewage facilities, basketball courts, waiting sheds, lampposts, and all public work projects which are funded, wholly or partly, through public funds released by the Government;
- (d) “Public services” includes, but is not limited to medical and dental missions, job caravans, sports and social events, mobile services, and other public services which uses government funds;
- (e) “Motor vehicles” includes but not limited to all government-owned or leased motor vehicles, police cars, ambulance, fire trucks, multi-cabs, barangay vehicles; other motor vehicles being used for official function; and any and all private vehicles being used for or in behalf of the government;
- (f) “Signage” includes any form of written announcement, installed, posted, hanged, painted or otherwise displayed in a public place.

SEC. 4. Prohibited Acts. - The following constitutes a violation of this Act:

- (a) Affixing, or causing to be affixed the name, initials, logo or image of any public official to a signage announcing a proposed, on-going or completed public works;

- (b) Affixing or causing to be affixed the name, initials, logo or image of any public official to a signage—crediting an individual officer, or bearing his or her image, on any and all kinds of public service projects and motor vehicles.

SEC. 5. *Allowed Practices.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed to exclude agencies, departments, and local government units from affixing, or causing to be affixed, their official name or logo to a signage announcing a proposed or on-going, or completed public works project; and/or on any and all kinds of public service projects and motor vehicles.

SEC. 6. *Removal of Existing Signage.* – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), is hereby ordered to remove all existing signage announcing a proposed, on-going, or completed public works project, within three (3) months after the effectivity of this Act.

Likewise, all concerned public officers shall be duty bound to remove existing signages in any and all public service projects and motor vehicles within thirty (30) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Penalties for Violations.* – Any public officer committing any of the prohibited acts in Section 4 shall be penalized of not less than six (6) months and shall be fined One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P 100,000.00) to One Million Pesos (1,000,000.00).

- Include administrative liability, grave misconduct
- Graduated offenses

In addition to the above imprisonment and fine, the public officer shall be perpetually disqualified from holding public office.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid, such declaration shall not affect the other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. *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.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,