

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL No. 1774**



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Introduced by  
**ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,**  
**GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,**  
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL**

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## **THE OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION ACT (OCA)**

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Despite the very clear constitutional provision that requires the government to ensure that Filipino becomes the main language of official communication, no law has been passed to translate it to an actual policy. In fact, all branches of government still use English as the main language of official communication, with very little effort to use Filipino and other Philippine languages more.

As result, Filipinos, whose first language is *not* English, 99% of the population are technically disenfranchised by the government. Most of what they read, from documents to street signs, are in English. Under this dispensation, something often gets lost in translation—and most of the time, it's the Filipino himself or herself.

It is high time that we pass a law to implement the spirit and intent of the Constitution's language provisions to finally empower our people in all levels of government, beginning with day-to-day transactions and eventually, in the actual halls of power.

For the foregoing reasons, urgent approval of this bill is sought.



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**Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO**  
*ACT Teachers Party-List*



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**Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS**  
*GABRIELA Women's Party*



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**Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL**  
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**THE OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION ACT (OCA)**

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as “*The Official Communication Act (OCA).*”

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of State Policy.*** The policy of the State to uphold the importance of Filipino as the main medium of official communication – enshrined in Article XIV, Section 6 to 7 of the Constitution – is hereby recognized and implemented.

**SEC. 3. *Coverage.*** This Act shall cover all branches and levels of government.

**SEC. 4. *Use of Filipino in Official Communication.*** All official documents (including those posted in websites), discussions, deliberations, fora, conferences assemblies and the like should be written and/or conducted in Filipino by national agencies, the Supreme Court, the Office of the President, executive departments, Congress, and the Senate, with translations in English and other major Philippine languages, as needed.

**SEC. 5. *Use of Regional and other Philippine Languages in Official Communication.*** Local government units shall be encouraged to use the regional languages along with Filipino as medium of official communication.

**SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino, in consultation with representatives of teachers' organizations, and public sector unions

will draft and release the implementing rules and regulations of this Act, not later than three (3) months from its effectivity.

**SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provision hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect upon its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*