



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
109
HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by 4Ps Partylist Representative
JC M. ABALOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

While every species has developed ways to communicate with their kind, humans are distinct in their use of language – spoken, written, or signed – as a means to communicate with each other. With language, we can express our thoughts, feelings, and desires. Allowing us to share our experiences and enabling us to connect on a deeper level through shared values and beliefs, exchange of ideas, shifting behaviors, and discovered commonalities. Language is the very frame from which we view ourselves and everything else around us.

Our language is linked to our shared history, culture, beliefs, and values that bind us. As it reflects people's thoughts and beliefs, language has the power to shape culture, distinct from others, and to form and preserve the identity of a nation. It influences thoughts, perceptions, behaviors, and, ultimately, decisions. And there lies the power of language.

The importance of language in our daily life cannot be emphasized enough in the one thing that we know by heart and take pride in – *Lupang Hinirang*, the Philippine National Anthem. Most of us have been taught to memorize and sing *Lupang Hinirang* since our formative years, the very first year we started school. We have gotten so used to the words we sing that we have hardly thought about them. Yet, as written in the Republic Act No. 8491, otherwise known as Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines, two regularly occurring words in the national hymn do not follow the proper contraction rule of the Filipino written language: "Di" and "Pag".

Though it may seem insignificant to some, the song from which the improperly structured words are used carries with it the weight of the identity of a nation and people reflected in the Filipino National Language. This bill seeks to remedy this oversight by amending R.A. No. 8491 to show the two words in their proper contracted form using *kudlit* where letters have been omitted: "Hindi to 'Di" and "Kapag to 'Pag".

The amendment hopes to strengthen the importance of both the Filipino Language and the Philippine National Anthem, and to instill and evoke patriotic sentiments among the Filipino citizens, especially our youth. Moreover, the bill endeavors to fortify the values we place in the history and traditions of our nation and people.

In view of the above, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



JC M. ABALOS
Representative
4Ps Partylist



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 109

Introduced by 4Ps Partylist Representative
JC M. ABALOS

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 36 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8491, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE "FLAG AND HERALDIC CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES"

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

SECTION 1. Section 36 of Republic Act No. 8491 is hereby amended as follows:

"SECTION 36. The National Anthem shall always be sung in the national language within or without the country. The following shall be the lyrics of the National Anthem.

"Bayang magiliw,
Perlas ng Silanganan
Alab ng puso,
Sa Dibdib mo'y buhay.
Lupang Hinirang,
Duyan ka ng magiting,
Sa manlulupig,
[Di] 'DI ka pasisiil.
Sa dagat at bundok,
Sa simoy at sa langit mong bughaw,

May dilag ang tula,
At awit sa paglayang minamahal.
Ang kislap ng watawat mo'y
Tagumpay na nagniningning,
Ang bituin at araw niya,
Kailan pa ma'y [di] 'DI magdidilim,
Lupa ng araw ng luwalhati't pagsinta,
Buhay ay langit sa piling mo,
Aming ligaya na [pag] 'PAG may mang-aapi,
Ang mamatay ng dahil sa iyo."

SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason, any provision of these Act is declared unconstitutional or contrary to law, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,