

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. 7514

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Crime remains a major problem in our country. There have been numerous incidents of robbery committed by groups or gangs. Under our Constitution, it is the prime duty of the government is to serve and protect the people. However, in its pursuit of curbing crimes, it has been the practice of the Philippine National Police to designate gangs or criminal groups after their hometown, region, or religious or ethnic community. The examples of these gangs are the notorious *Waray Waray* and *Ozamiz* robbery gangs.

This practice of designating gangs after the hometown or region where the suspected members belong is very discriminatory and cast a bad reputation on the place or region as well as to the whole population there who are not members of the gangs. The place becomes notorious to the detriment and prejudice of its residents who are innocent.

This bill seeks to prohibit the Philippine National Police or any person from designating gangs by their hometown, region, or religious or ethnic community.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this proposed legislation is earnestly sought.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

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AN ACT

PROHIBITING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE OR ANY PERSON FROM
DESIGNATING GANGS BY THEIR HOMETOWN, REGION OR RELIGIOUS OR ETHNIC
COMMUNITY

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared policy of the State to protect the residents of community from the notoriety being cast to their place as a result of designating gangs by their hometown or region by prohibiting the same.

Section 2. Prohibition on Designation of Gangs. The Philippine National Police or any person shall not designate gangs by their hometown, region, or religious or ethnic community or anything which would stain the reputation or otherwise would cause prejudice or result to the detriment of the innocent members of place, region or ethnic or religious community.

Section 3. Any person who would violate this Act shall suffer the penalty of *prision correccional*.

Section 4. Separability Clause. – Should any provision of this Act or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, so far as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,