



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

20th CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10391**



Introduced by Representative SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FROM
LABELLING GANGS BY THEIR HOMETOWN, REGION, OR RELIGIOUS OR ETHNIC GROUPING

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies remain vigilant in pursuing criminal groups and organized crime syndicates. In the course of ongoing investigations, law enforcement agencies often use unique names to identify and differentiate one group from another.

For purposes of illustration, names such as "Waray waray gang" and "Ozamiz group" found their way into official records to uniquely tag these groups separate from each other even if their modus are the same. Presumably, "waray waray gang" was used to identify the gang members as waray-speaking or from waray-speaking provinces, while "Ozamiz group" was used to describe their members as all coming from Ozamiz.

This bill therefore seeks to prohibit the Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies from labelling gangs or criminal groups by their hometown, region, or religious or ethnic group except when claims to such names were made by the criminals themselves.

There is a debilitating effect on those affected when such labels are irresponsibly branded around the public consciousness, especially when religion or ethnicity are insensitively used.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

Representative

Lone District, Maguindanao del Norte with Cotabato City



**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**20th CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 10391

Introduced by Representative SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

AN ACT

PROHIBITING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FROM LABELLING GANGS BY THEIR HOMETOWN, REGION, OR RELIGIOUS OR ETHNIC GROUPING

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 the policy of the State to protect the residents of a community from the notoriety attached to the name of their place as a result of designating gangs by their hometown or region by prohibiting the use of the same.

SEC. 2. Prohibition on Designation of Gangs. – The Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies shall not designate It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Towards this end, the State shall provide public restrooms along national and provincial highways to promote hygiene education and awareness among visitors, tourists, local communities, and other stakeholders.

SEC. 3. Public restrooms shall be constructed every thirty (30) to fifty (50) kilometers apart along national and provincial highways throughout the country. These shall be constructed within a distance of at least three (3) meters from the shoulder of the highway, provisions of existing zoning ordinances to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 4. The maintenance and supervision of the public restrooms shall be vested in the council or any non-governmental organization (NGO) of the particular barangay where it is situated. A reasonable service fee shall be levied on individuals who use the public restroom, the rates to be determined by the council and/or NGO.

SEC. 5. All collections of money arising from payments made for the use of the public restrooms shall accrue to the official account of the barangay as a Trust Fund, and all income derived from its operations shall be used for development projects of the barangay, subject to and in compliance with existing government accounting and auditing rules.

SEC. 6. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with the Department of Tourism, the Department of Health (DOH), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act of the succeeding year following its enactment into law.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,