

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. No. 88

Introduced by Hon. Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Some members of the local and national media continue to callously lambast the Muslim religious culture of describing criminals and suspects with terms such as "Muslim Criminals", "Muslim Terrorists", "Muslim Drug Pushers", Muslim Sea Pirates", "Muslim Bandits" or "Muslim Holduppers"

The use of words "Muslim" and "Islamic" in association with suspected or convicted criminals and unlawful acts are offensively biased against Muslims. This practice is highly prejudicial and extremely injurious to the Islamic religious culture, Muslim individuals and their collective image, and the Muslim's social well being as respectable citizens of the country.

Outlawing this culturally and religiously biased practice would definitely contribute and result in increased positive social space and understanding between and among Muslims and Non-Muslims, and help drive the path towards a just, culturally-sensitive, fair, and lasting peace and development in our country.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan Edgardo M. Angara".

JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 88

Introduced by Rep. Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE USE OF THE WORD "MUSLIM" OR "ISLAMIC" IN
PRINT, RADIO, TELEVISION AND OTHER FORMS OF BROADCAST
MEDIA TO REFER TO OR DESCRIBE ANY PERSON CONVICTED OF
ANY CRIME, OR SUSPECTED OF COMMITTING ANY UNLAWFUL ACT,
AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Prohibited Act. – It shall be unlawful for any person to use the word "Muslim" or "Islamic" in print, television and other forms of broadcast media to refer to or describe any person convicted of a crime or suspected of committing any unlawful act.

SEC. 2. Penalties. – The penalty of *arresto mayor* or a fine ranging from One thousand pesos (Php 1,000.00) to Ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of violating Section 1 hereof.

The publisher, in the case of print media, and the president of the juridical entity, in the case of radio, television and other forms of broadcast media, shall be imposed a fine not lower than Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00).

The juridical entity violating this Act shall be imposed a fine not lower than Fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00) for every violation, or

cancellation of its license or franchise, or both, at the discretion of the court.

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

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any party of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions thereof not affected thereby shall remain valid and effective.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,