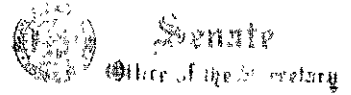


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'13 JUL -9 11:39

SENATE

S.B. No. **687**

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide a social security support to media practitioners by instituting a nationwide welfare program and establishing a welfare fund, amending for this purpose Executive Order No. 100, and augmenting the present function of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA).

The media is a potent tool in nation building by providing and ensuring the flow of information across the nation. Mass media practitioners are vital gatherers and articulators of vital information pertinent to national interests and public welfare. They are important facilitators in shaping public opinion, building national consensus on issues, and molding societal values and ideals.

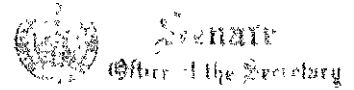
The contribution of media practitioners cannot be over emphasized, but they come at the expense of risks involved in the performance of their job. While there are big media companies who can afford to pay their employees high salaries, they employ only a fraction of the newsmen and women. Many media practitioners earn barely enough for their basic survival needs, much less save for social security such as emergency medical need, hazard pay, and the like.

This measure intends to contribute in the development of a support system for free-lance media practitioners to encourage them to perform their noble profession sans corruption and to practice their vital role in Philippine society with credibility, security and dignity.

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


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

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



13 JUL -9 19:39

SENATE
S.B. No. 687

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY, AMENDING
FOR THIS PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 100 ALSO KNOWN AS
"CREATING THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY" BY PROVIDING
AN ADDITIONAL FUNCTION, ESTABLISHING A NATIONWIDE WELFARE
FUND AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 3 of Executive Order No. 100 is hereby amended to read
2 as follows:

3
4 "Section. Functions

- 5 1. xxx
6 2. xxx
7 3. xxx
8 4. xxx
9 5. xxx
10 6. xxx

11 7. PLAN AND IMPLEMENT A NATIONWIDE WELFARE
12 PROGRAM FOR MEDIA PRACTITIONERS;

13 [7] 8. Support the development and expansion of indigenous media
14 and information/communication technology;

15 [8] 9. Perform whatever tasks as may be assigned by the President.

16
17 SEC. 2. A new Section 8 is hereby inserted to read as follows with the
18 subsequent sections of Executive Order No. 100 renumbered accordingly:

19
20 SECTION 8. WELFARE FUND.

1 THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED A NATIONWIDE
2 WELFARE FUND, HEREIN REFERRED TO AS THE FUND, TO BE
3 ADMINISTERED AND MANAGED BY THE PIA. THE AMOUNT
4 OF TEN MILLION PESOS (P10,000,000.00) IS HEREBY
5 APPROPRIATED CHARGEABLE TO THE CURRENT FUNDS
6 AVAILABLE IN THE NATIONAL TREASURY. THEREAFTER,
7 SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS
8 PURPOSE SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET OF THE PIA
9 IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT. THE SELECTION OF
10 QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES SHALL BE DONE IN
11 COOPERATION WITH DULY ORGANIZED MEDIA
12 ORGANIZATIONS. THE PIA SHALL PROMULGATE SUCH
13 RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF THE FUND, WHICH
14 SHALL INCLUDE ASSISTANCE IN FORMS OF, BUT NOT
15 LIMITED TO, MEDICAL ALLOWANCE, HAZARD PAY GROUP
16 HEALTH INSURANCE, GROUP LIFE INSURANCE, DISCOUNT
17 ON TUITION FEES, DISCOUNT ON PURCHASE OF REFERENCE
18 MATERIALS, FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE, AND SEED MONEY
19 FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDIA COOPERATIVES.
20

21 **SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act is declared
22 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue
23 to have the force and effect of law.
24

25 **SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential
26 issuances, rules and regulations or part thereof contrary to or inconsistent with any
27 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
28

29 **SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
30 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
31

32 Approved,