

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



'22 AUG 31 A9:48

SENATE

S. No. 1240

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7104,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'COMMISSION ON THE FILIPINO LANGUAGE
ACT' AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 9 Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution states, "The Congress shall establish a national language commission composed of representatives of various regions and disciplines which shall undertake, coordinate, and promote research for the development, propagation, and preservation of Filipino and other languages."

Committed to making the Filipino language an effective instrument of national development, Congress enacted Republic Act No. 7104, creating the Commission on the Filipino Language, known today as the "Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF)."

This measure aims to amend certain provisions of RA 7104, otherwise known as "An Act Creating the Commission on the Filipino Language, Prescribing its Powers, Duties and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor and For Other Purposes," to intensify appreciation of the Filipino language, uphold and safeguard it as the country's national language, as well as intensify the work of the KWF.

Languages are a vital part of our heritage and national identity. As a sign of respect for our history and culture, the Constitutional policy for Filipino as the official

language and language of instruction should be implemented and promulgated. The KWF should carry out measures to further enrich the Filipino language.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



LOREN LEGARDA

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**AN ACT
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OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'COMMISSION ON THE FILIPINO LANGUAGE
ACT' AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This Act shall be known as the "Komisyon sa Wikang
2 Filipino (Commission on the Filipino Language) Act."

3 Sec. 2. Section 2 of the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (Commission on the
4 Filipino Language) Act is amended to read as follows:

5 Section 2. Declaration of Policy

6 Pursuant to the mandate of the Constitution, AND AS ENABLING LAW OF
7 SECTION 6 ARTICLE XIV ON LANGUAGE OF THE 1987
8 CONSTITUTION, it is hereby declared to be a policy of the Government to
9 TAKE STEPS TO INITIATE AND SUSTAIN THE USE OF FILIPINO AS
10 MEDIUM OF OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION AND AS LANGUAGE OF
11 INSTRUCTION IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM THROUGH THE
12 PROMOTION, EVOLUTION, DEVELOPMENT, AND FURTHER
13 ENRICHMENT OF FILIPINO AS THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE. TO THIS
14 END, THE GOVERNMENT, AS SPEARHEADED BY KOMISYON SA
15 WIKANG FILIPINO (COMMISSION ON THE FILIPINO LANGUAGE),
16 SHALL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO CARRY OUT THE SAID
17 POLICY.

1 Sec. 3. Section 3 is amended to read as follows:

2 Section 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the following terms are
3 defined as follows:

- 4 a. Commission - refers to the **KOMISYON SA WIKANG FILIPINO**
5 (Commission on the Filipino Language).
- 6 b. **CHAIRPERSON** - refers to the **CHAIR** of the Commission.
- 7 c. Filipino - refers to the national language of the Philippines.
- 8 d. Philippine languages - refer to the indigenous languages of the
9 Philippines, including **FILIPINO AS THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE;**
10 **CAN ALSO BE CALLED NATIVE LANGUAGES.**
- 11 e. **OTHER LANGUAGES - REFER TO FOREIGN LANGUAGES,**
12 **WHETHER OFFICIAL OR NOT, AS LONG AS THEY HAVE**
13 **INFLUENCED THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND CULTURES**
14 **TO A CERTAIN DEGREE.**
- 15 f. **ETHNOLINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES** - refer to certain geographical
16 areas where particular groups of people speak a common language.
- 17 g. Disciplines - refer to various fields of learning.
- 18 h. **MEDIUM OF OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION - REFERS TO A**
19 **LANGUAGE ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS THE**
20 **LANGUAGE THAT IT USES IN ITS TRANSACTIONS**
- 21 i. **LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION - REFERS TO A LANGUAGE**
22 **ADOPTED BY THE LEARNING INSTITUTION AS THE**
23 **LANGUAGE THAT IT USES IN ITS EDUCATIONAL**
24 **INSTRUCTION**
- 25 j. **SYSTEM OF EDUCATION - REFERS TO ALL LEVELS OF**
26 **EDUCATION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, BASIC**
27 **EDUCATION, SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND TERTIARY**
28 **EDUCATION.**
- 29 k. **ENDANGERED LANGUAGE - REFERS TO A PHILIPPINE**
30 **LANGUAGE THAT IS AT RISK OF VANISHING ACCORDING TO**
31 **FACTORS SET OUT BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.**

1 Sec. 4. Section 4 is amended to read as follows:

2 Section 4. Creation of the KOMISYON SA WIKANG FILIPINO (Commission
3 on the Filipino Language). -

4 There is hereby created a commission, to be known as
5 the KOMISYON SA WIKANG FILIPINO (Commission on the
6 Filipino Language), composed of representatives OF THE TWO
7 BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT and various ethnolinguistic groups,
8 and different disciplines, which shall undertake, coordinate and
9 promote researches for the development, propagation and preservation
10 of Filipino and other Philippine languages ~~{and which shall be directly
11 under the Officer of the President}~~.

12 IT IS THE PRIMARY POLICYMAKING AND COORDINATING
13 BODY ON LANGUAGE CONCERNS AND WHICH SHALL BE
14 DIRECTLY UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

15 THE KWF (CFL) SHALL BE THE OVERALL MONITORING BODY
16 AND OVERSIGHT AGENCY TO ENSURE THE
17 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT. THE KWF (CFL) SHALL ALSO
18 LEAD IN ENSURING THAT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ARE
19 CAPACITATED ON THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF
20 THIS ACT.

21 TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE KWF (CFL) SHALL INFLUENCE
22 THE SYSTEMS, PROCESSES, AND PROCEDURES OF THE
23 EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE, AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES OF
24 GOVERNMENT VIS-A-VIS LANGUAGE POLICIES TO ENSURE
25 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.

26 TO UNDERTAKE AND ACCOMPLISH ITS FUNCTIONS, THE KWF
27 (CFL) SHALL REVISE ITS STRUCTURE AND STAFFING
28 PATTERN, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF *SENTRO SA*
29 *SALIN AND SENTRO NG WIKA AT KULTURA*, WITH THE
30 ASSISTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND
31 MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY.

1 Sec. 5. Section 5 is amended to read as follows:

2 Section 5. Composition of the Commission. -

3 The Commission shall be composed of NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS,
4 ONE OF WHOM SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR.

5 THE COMMISSIONERS SHALL INCLUDE TWO (2)
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS (1) SENATE
7 CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS,
8 AND CULTURE; 2) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND
10 CULTURE; AND ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXECUTIVE
11 BRANCH: THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENT, OR
12 HIS DULY APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVE WHO SHALL BE NO
13 LESS THAN UNDERSECRETARY LEVEL OF THE OFFICE OF THE
14 PRESIDENT OR THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL
15 GOVERNMENT.

16 THE OTHER COMMISSIONERS SHALL REPRESENT PHILIPPINE
17 LANGUAGES: (4) ANY OF THE LANGUAGES OF LUZON, (5) ANY
18 OF THE LANGUAGES OF VISAYAS, 6) ANY OF THE LANGUAGES
19 OF MUSLIM FILIPINOS, (7) THE NORTHERN CULTURAL
20 COMMUNITIES; (8) THE SOUTHERN CULTURAL
21 COMMUNITIES; AND SUCH OTHER PHILIPPINE LANGUAGES
22 AS THE COMMISSION MAY DECIDE UPON; (9) TAGALOG AS
23 THE BASE LANGUAGE OF FILIPINO; PROVIDED, THAT AT
24 LEAST FOUR (4) OF THESE COMMISSIONERS SHALL ALSO
25 REPRESENT VARIOUS DISCIPLINES.

26 THE CHAIR AND TWO (2) OF THE COMMISSIONERS,
27 REPRESENTING PHILIPPINE LANGUAGES, SHALL SERVE ON A
28 FULL-TIME BASIS; THE REMAINING FOUR (4) SHALL SERVE ON
29 A PART-TIME BASIS AND SHALL ATTEND THE REGULAR AND
30 SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION.

1 Sec. 6. Section 6 is amended to read as follows:

2 Section 6. Appointment and Qualifications of Commissioners representing
3 Philippine languages. –

4 THE COMMISSIONERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE
5 PRESIDENT FROM THE LIST OF NOMINEES TO BE SUBMITTED
6 BY THE DIFFERENT ETHNOLINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES IN THE
7 COUNTRY. THE PRESIDENT SHALL APPOINT THE SIX (6)
8 COMMISSIONERS, THE CHAIR AND THE TWO FULL-TIME
9 COMMISSIONERS. THE PRESIDENT SHALL LIKEWISE APPOINT
10 FROM THE REMAINING THREE (3) COMMISSIONERS, TWO
11 WHO SHALL SERVE FOR A TERM OF FIVE (5) YEARS AND ONE
12 (1) WHO SHALL SERVE FOR A TERM OF 3 YEARS. IN
13 THE ABSENCE OF THE CHAIR, THE COMMISSIONERS SHALL
14 CHOOSE A TEMPORARY OR AN ACTING CHAIR FROM THE
15 TWO (2) FULL-TIME COMMISSIONERS.

16 NO ONE SHALL BE APPOINTED AS COMMISSIONER UNLESS
17 HE OR SHE IS A NATURAL-BORN FILIPINO CITIZEN, AT LEAST
18 THIRTY (30) YEARS OLD, MORALLY UPRIGHT AND NOTED FOR
19 HIS OR HER EXPERTISE IN LINGUISTICS, THE CULTURE AND
20 LANGUAGE OF THE ETHNOLINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES AND
21 THE DISCIPLINE HE OR SHE REPRESENTS.

22 Sec. 7. Section 7 is amended to read as follows:

23 Section 7. Terms of Office. –

24 FOR THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
25 REPRESENTING PHILIPPINE LANGUAGES, THE CHAIR and the
26 two (2) full time commissioners shall serve for a term of seven (7) years,
27 TWO (2) of the commissioners shall serve for a term of five (5) years and
28 ONE (1) of the commissioners shall serve for a term of 3 years.

29 The commissioners REPRESENTING PHILIPPINE LANGUAGES
30 may be reappointed for a maximum of 1 term by the President.

1 THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL SERVE AND CONTINUE
2 TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS SHALL HAVE
3 BEEN APPOINTED AND QUALIFIED. SHOULD A MEMBER OF
4 THE BOARD FAIL TO COMPLETE HIS OR HER TERM, HIS
5 OTHER SUCCESSOR SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT
6 BUT ONLY FOR THE UNEXPIRED PORTION OF THE TERM.

7 Sec. 8. Section 10 is amended to read as follows:

8 Section 10. Rules of Procedures and Meetings. -

9 The Commission shall adopt its own rules and procedures and shall
10 hold sessions at least once a month or as often as the Commission deems
11 necessary. A majority of the NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS shall
12 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

13 Sec. 9. Section 12 is amended to read as follows:

14 Section 12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. -

15 There shall be AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR who shall be appointed by the
16 Commission for a term of seven (7) years and who may be reappointed for a
17 maximum of one (1) term. UPON APPOINTMENT, AN EXECUTIVE
18 DIRECTOR SITS AS NON-VOTING MEMBER OF THE BOARD. The
19 Commission shall determine the powers, functions, duties, and compensation
20 of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

21 Sec. 10. Section 13 is amended to read as follows:

22 Section 13. The Secretariat. -

23 There shall be a secretariat to be headed by the EXECUTIVE
24 DIRECTOR. The functions, duties and compensation of its personnel
25 shall be determined by the Commission, upon the recommendation of
26 the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

27 Sec. 11. Section 14 is amended to read as follows:

28 Section 14. Powers, Functions and Duties of the Commission. -

29 The Commission, pursuant to the pertinent provisions of the Constitution,
30 shall have the following powers, functions and duties:

- 31 a. FORMULATE A NATIONAL POLICY ON FILIPINO AS OFFICIAL
32 LANGUAGE OF COMMUNICATION AND MEDIUM OF

1 **INSTRUCTION, AND A NATIONAL POLICY ON PRESERVING**
2 **AND REVITALIZING ENDANGERED LANGUAGES;**

- 3 b. Formulate policies, plans, and programs to ensure the further
4 development, enrichment, propagation, and preservation of Filipino
5 and other Philippine languages;
- 6 c. Promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines to implement its policies,
7 plans, and programs;
- 8 d. Undertake or contract research and other studies to promote the
9 evolution, development, enrichment, and eventual standardization of
10 Filipino and other Philippine languages. This will include the collation
11 of works for possible incorporation into a multi-lingual dictionary of
12 words, phrases, idioms, quotations, sayings and other expressions,
13 including words and phrases from other languages now commonly
14 used or included in the lingua franca;
- 15 e. Propose guidelines and standards for linguistic forms and expressions
16 in all official communications, publications, textbooks, and other
17 reading and teaching materials.
- 18 f. Encourage and promote, through a system of incentives, grants and
19 awards, the writing and publication, in Filipino and other Philippine
20 languages, of original works, including textbooks and reference
21 materials in various disciplines;
- 22 g. Create and maintain within the Commission a division of translation
23 which shall encourage through incentives, undertake and vigorously
24 support the translation into Filipino and other Philippine languages of
25 important historical works and cultural traditions of ethnolinguistic
26 groups, laws, resolutions, and other legislative enactments, executive
27 issuances, government policy statements and official documents,
28 textbooks and reference materials in various disciplines, and other
29 foreign materials which it may deem necessary for education and other
30 purposes;
- 31 **h. OBLIGE ANY DEPARTMENT, BUREAU, OFFICE, AGENCY OR**
32 **ANY INSTRUMENTALITY OF GOVERNMENT OR ANY PRIVATE**

1 ENTITY, INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION TO ALIGN ITS
2 LANGUAGE POLICIES WITH THE KWF (CFL) TO GUARANTEE A
3 HARMONIZED APPROACH TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION
4 OF THIS ACT;

- 5 i. Conduct at the national, regional and local levels, public hearings,
6 conferences, seminars, and other group discussions to identify and help
7 resolve problems and issues involving the development, propagation
8 and preservation of Filipino and other Philippine languages;
- 9 j. Formulate and adopt guidelines, standards, and systems for monitoring
10 and reporting on its performance at the national, regional and local
11 levels; and submit to the Office of the President and to Congress an
12 annual progress report on the implementation of its policies, plans and
13 programs;
- 14 k. Appoint, subject to the provisions of existing laws, its officials and
15 employees and such other personnel as are necessary for the effective
16 performance of its functions, duties and responsibilities; and dismiss
17 them for cause;
- 18 l. Organize and reorganize the structure of the Commission, **CREATE**
19 **SENTRO SA SALIN AND SENTRO NG WIKA AT KULTURA AS**
20 **LINKAGES**, create or abolish positions, or change the designation of
21 existing positions to meet the changing conditions or as the need
22 therefore arises: Provided, That such changes shall not affect the
23 employment status of the incumbents, reduce their ranks, decrease their
24 salaries or result in their separation from the service;
- 25 m. **ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHALL TAKE STEPS TO**
26 **INITIATE AND SUSTAIN THE USE OF FILIPINO AS MEDIUM OF**
27 **OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION;**
- 28 n. **ENSURE THAT ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN ALL**
29 **LEVELS OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, WHERE APPLICABLE,**
30 **SHALL MAINTAIN THE USE OF FILIPINO AS LANGUAGE OF**
31 **INSTRUCTION AS A REQUIREMENT OF ACCREDITATION**
32 **FROM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, COMMISSION ON**

1 HIGHER EDUCATION, AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND
2 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

3 o. COMMENT ON THE IMPLICATION ON NATIONAL LANGUAGE
4 POLICY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL OR LOCAL STATUTES,
5 REGULATIONS OR PROCEDURES, ISSUE ADVISORY OPINIONS
6 AND INTERPRET THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

7 p. ACT AS OVERALL MONITORING BODY AND OVERSIGHT TO
8 ENSURE THAT ALL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT ALLOT 1%
9 OF THEIR MOOE BUDGET, ALLOTMENT LEVEL SUBJECT TO
10 REVISION OF KWF (CFL), COA, AND DBM, TO THE
11 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.

12 q. Perform such other activities which are necessary for the effective
13 exercise of the abovementioned powers, functions, duties, and
14 responsibilities.

15 Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
16 order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this
17 Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18 Sec. 13. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from
19 the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,