



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 684

BY REPRESENTATIVES DEL MAR, ABAYON, TINIO AND CHIPECO

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 53, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO EXEMPT THE PUBLISHER, EDITOR OR REPORTER OF ANY PUBLICATION FROM REVEALING THE SOURCE OF PUBLISHED NEWS OR INFORMATION OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE", BY INCLUDING WITHIN ITS COVERAGE, JOURNALISTS FROM BROADCAST AND NEWS AGENCIES

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 53, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. Without prejudice to his liability under the civil and criminal laws, [the publisher, editor, columnist or duly accredited reporter of any newspaper, magazine or periodical of general circulation cannot be compelled to reveal the source of any news-report or information appearing in said publication which was related in confidence to such publisher, editor or reporter unless the court or a House or committee of Congress]

A DULY ACCREDITED JOURNALIST OF ANY LEGITIMATE PRINT, BROADCAST, WIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATION, STATION OR

NETWORK, INCLUDING THE PUBLISHER, STATION OWNER AND/OR MANAGER, BUREAU CHIEF, EDITOR, NEWS EDITOR, WRITER OR REPORTER, CORRESPONDENT, OPINION COLUMNIST OR COMMENTATOR, CARTOONIST, PHOTOGRAPHER, OR OTHER PRACTITIONER INVOLVED IN THE GATHERING, WRITING, EDITING OF, OR COMMENTING ON THE NEWS FOR MASS CIRCULATION OR BROADCAST CANNOT BE COMPELLED TO REVEAL THE SOURCE OF ANY NEWS ITEM, NEWS REPORT OR INFORMATION APPEARING OR BEING REPORTED, DISSEMINATED OR COMMENTED ON IN SAID MEDIA, WHICH WAS RELAYED IN CONFIDENCE TO SUCH JOURNALIST OR PRACTITIONER UNLESS THE COURT OR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR THE SENATE OR ANY OF ITS COMMITTEES finds that such revelation is demanded by the security of the State."

SEC. 2. Insert a new Section 2 after Section 1 of Republic Act No. 53, as amended, to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT, A DULY ACCREDITED JOURNALIST OR PRACTITIONER OF ANY LEGITIMATE PRINT, BROADCAST, WIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATION, STATION OR NETWORK IS ONE WHO IS ACCREDITED WITH ANY REPUTABLE ASSOCIATION OF MEDIA PERSONS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY - PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE (PIA - PCOO), THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB (NPC), THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS OF THE PHILIPPINES (NUJP), AND THE KAPISANAN NG MGA BROADCASTER NG PILIPINAS (KBP), AND/OR ONE WHO IS A REGULAR EMPLOYEE OF A LEGITIMATE PRINT, BROADCAST, WIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATION, STATION OR NETWORK:

1 **PROVIDED, THAT ANY JOURNALIST ENGAGED BY ANY**
2 **LEGITIMATE MEDIA COMPANY SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE AN**
3 **ACCREDITED JOURNALIST."**

4 SEC. 3. Any law, decree, ordinance or rule or regulation inconsistent
5 with or contrary to the provisions of this Act is hereby amended or repealed.

6 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
7 in the *Official Gazette* and/or in at least two (2) newspapers of national
8 circulation.

Approved,

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