



'19 SEP 24 P 1 :47

SENATE
S. No. 1072

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**AN ACT
REGULATING THE SALE, LEASE, OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF
DRONES, MANDATING THE REGISTRATION OF DRONE DEALERS AND
DRONE OWNERS/OPERATORS, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR THE
VIOLATION THEREOF**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are increasingly becoming commonplace in today's world. Enthusiasts and hobbyists can now easily purchase simple drones by browsing through online shops and stores, for prices reaching as low as less than Php2,000.00¹. Commercially, drones are also being used in videography and imaging, surveying, package or cargo deliveries, disaster relief and even in agricultural applications.

However, the seemingly benign applications of drones are tainted by its potential to be used in the commission of crimes and terrorist activities. Just recently, coordinated drone strikes knocked out various oil facilities and sites in Saudi Arabia which caused a disruption to approximately 5% of the daily global oil supply². Drones were reported to cause collisions with airplanes³, prolonged grounding of airplanes⁴

¹ <https://shopee.ph/search?keyword=drone>

² <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/09/14/business/saudi-oil-output-impacted-drone-attack/index.html>

³ <https://web.archive.org/web/20171016170044/https://finance.yahoo.com/news/drone-hits-commercial-plane-first-134300420.html>

⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/19/gatwick-flights-halted-after-drone-sighting>

and smuggling of drugs and other contrabands in prisons.⁵ The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) also revealed that drones were used by the terrorist groups during the Marawi siege for surveillance purposes and the use of this technology in carrying out future attacks is "not a remote possibility."⁶

To address this security risk, this proposed measure provides for the regulation of the sale, lease, ownership and operation of drones. Drone dealers and drone owners/operators will be required to register with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP). The CAAP is further mandated to promulgate regulations concerning the general safety and restrictions on the use of drones and the designation of No-Drone Zones in the country. Under this bill, penalties shall be imposed for non-registration and the violation of the general safety regulations issued by CAAP.

In view thereof, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



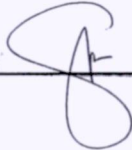
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

⁵ <https://www.npr.org/2017/11/15/564272346/prisons-work-to-keep-out-drug-smuggling-drones>

⁶ <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/708289/afp-reveals-they-had-long-been-aware-of-drone-use-by-terror-groups/story/>

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**AN ACT
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MANDATING THE REGISTRATION OF DRONE DEALERS AND DRONE
OWNERS/OPERATORS, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION
THEREOF**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Drone Regulation
2 Act”.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to maintain peace
4 and order, and protect the life, liberty and property of all people. Pursuant to this,
5 this Act shall regulate the sale, lease, ownership and operation of drones by private
6 persons.

7 Sec. 3. *Definition.* – As used in this Act, “Drones” shall refer to an unmanned
8 aerial vehicle (UAV), which is a powered, aerial vehicle that does not carry a human
9 operator, uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift, can fly autonomously or
10 be piloted remotely, and can be expendable or recoverable.

11 Sec. 4. *Coverage.* – This Act shall regulate only drones as defined herein,
12 purchased, leased, owned and operated by private persons. The use of drones by
13 the Government shall not be subject to this Act.

1 Sec. 5. *Registration of Drone Dealers.* – No private person, natural or
2 juridical, shall be allowed to sell or lease drones without first registering with the
3 Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP).

4 The CAAP is hereby empowered to impose reasonable requirements and
5 fees for the grant of registration under this Section.

6 Sec. 6. *List of Buyers and Lessees.* – All drone dealers are hereby required to
7 maintain a list of buyers or lessees of their drones or unmanned aerial vehicles
8 (UAVs), containing the names and addresses of such buyers or lessees as reflected
9 in their valid identification cards. If the sale or lease of said drones is done through
10 agents, the dealers shall ensure that said agents submit to them the verified names
11 and addresses of the buyers or lessees within five (5) days from the date of sale or
12 contract of lease.

13 Such list shall be submitted to the CAAP within ninety (90) days from the
14 effectivity of Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act. Thereafter, a drone
15 dealer shall update such list with the CAAP on a quarterly basis.

16 Sec. 7. *Registration of Drone Owners/Operators.* – All drone owners/operators
17 are also mandated to register their drones with the CAAP. The CAAP shall then
18 issue a certificate of registration and a unique identification number for each
19 registered drone.

20 The CAAP is hereby authorized to impose reasonable requirements and fees
21 for the grant of registration under this Section.

22 Sec. 8. *Disclosure of Information.* – Upon issuance of a proper court order or
23 a valid request from government law enforcement agency showing proof that a
24 particular drone was used in the commission of a crime or for an unlawful purpose,
25 the CAAP shall be mandated to reveal the identity and personal circumstances of
26 the owner or lessee of such drone.

27 Sec. 9. *Establishment of No-Drone Zones.* – The CAAP is hereby authorized
28 to prohibit the use of drones, for any or a specified purpose, in any part of the
29 Philippines, whether permanently or for a designated period of time, subject to a
30 notice that must be published in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation

1 for at least two (2) weeks prior to the effectivity of the prohibition. This notice
2 requirement may be waived in emergency situations, as determined by the CAAP.

3 This is without prejudice to the power of other government agencies to
4 regulate airspace, particularly in emergency situations that may require the
5 establishment of no-fly zones.

6 Sec. 10. *General Safety Regulations and Restrictions on Drone Usage.* – The
7 CAAP shall periodically update and publish safety regulations and restrictions on
8 drone usage. Such regulations shall be published in at least two (2) newspapers of
9 general circulation for at least two (2) weeks prior to the effectivity of the said
10 regulations.

11 Sec. 11. *Penalties.* – Failure to register a drone shall result in the confiscation
12 of the drone.

13 Sale and/or leasing by unregistered drone dealers shall result in a fine of not
14 less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) but not more than Five
15 Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php500,000.00) and the closure of its business
16 operations.

17 Any violation of the general safety regulations and restrictions on drone
18 usage shall result in a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos
19 (Php100,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php500,000.00)
20 and the confiscation of the drone, without prejudice to any separate civil or criminal
21 action that may be brought against the drone owner/operator for any injury or
22 damage resulting from the violation.

23 Sec. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The CAAP shall issue the
24 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act not later
25 than ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

26 Sec. 13. *Retroactivity Clause.* – Sections 4, 5 and 6 of this Act shall have
27 retroactive effect. All existing drone dealers and drone owners/operators are given
28 ninety (90) days from the effectivity of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of
29 this Act to comply with the registration requirements.

1 Sec. 14. - *Separability Clause*. - Should any provision of this Act or the
2 application thereof to any person or circumstance be held invalid, the other
3 provisions or sections of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

4 Sec. 15. - *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
5 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
6 amended or modified accordingly.

7 Sec. 16. *Effectivity Clause*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
8 following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of
9 general circulation.

10 Approved,