



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4128

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BY REPRESENTATIVES CO AND BATOCABE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 149

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AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER TWENTY-THREE OF EVERY YEAR AS "PHILIPPINE PRESS FREEDOM DAY"

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

1           SECTION 1. In recognition of the need to promote awareness and  
2 recognition of the valuable contribution of the press in nation-building,  
3 encourage the unhampered exercise of their profession without fear for their  
4 personal safety and well-being, and to simultaneously underscore their  
5 obligation to uphold the rights of others through fair reporting, November  
6 twenty-three of every year is hereby declared as the "Philippine Press Freedom  
7 Day".

8           SEC. 2. To ensure meaningful observance and celebration of the  
9 "Philippine Press Freedom Day" as herein declared, all government agencies  
10 and instrumentalities, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine  
11 National Police, government-owned and -controlled corporations, local  
12 government units as well as the private sector shall afford sufficient time and  
13 opportunity for their employees to engage and participate in any related  
14 activity to be conducted in the premises of their respective offices or  
15 establishments.

1           SEC. 3. The Department of Education, the Commission on Higher  
2 Education, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, in  
3 consultation with the Office of the President, government media organizations  
4 and private media organizations, shall lead public and private schools at all  
5 levels in organizing consciousness-raising activities on the importance of the  
6 press, their rights and social responsibilities and the elimination of all forms of  
7 violence against the press.

8           SEC. 4. If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is  
9 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof not  
10 affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

11           SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete  
12 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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