



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5797

BY REPRESENTATIVES ZUBIRI, ESPINO, ABAYA, FIGUEROA, GIDAYA,
CODILLA, TULAGAN, MARCOLETA AND GULLAS, PER COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 1944

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AND FURTHER DEVELOPING
“117” AS THE NATIONWIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known and cited as the
2 “Hotline ‘117’ Act of 2006”.

3 SEC. 2. *Institutionalization of “117” as the Nationwide Emergency*
4 *Assistance Telephone Number.* – (a) Telephone number “117” is hereby
5 designated as the nationwide emergency assistance number both for landline
6 and wireless telephone systems in the whole territory of the Philippines.

7 (b) There shall be a Hotline “117” Public Safety Answering Center
8 (Call Center) in every region, province, city, municipality and barangay.

1 (c) The major service responders of Hotline “117” are:

2 (1) The Philippine National Police (PNP);

3 (2) The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP);

4 (3) The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP);

5 (4) The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA);

6 (5) The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);

7 (6) The Emergency Assistance and Response Network (EARnet);

8 (7) The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA);

9 (8) Other agencies such as the Department of Public Works and
10 Highways (DPWH), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of
11 Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Philippine National Red Cross
12 (PNRC) and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines;

13 (9) Volunteer nongovernment organizations (NGOs); and

14 (10) Other affiliated civic sector groups and public safety volunteers.

15 (d) The EARnet is a network of responders composed of government
16 and private institutions/NGOs, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and Special
17 Rescue Unit of the BFP, in coordination with the DPWH, the DSWD, the
18 MMDA, the DOH and other government agencies and with the cooperation of
19 private hospitals, electric companies, water districts, civil rescue groups, the
20 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines and other affiliated civic sector
21 groups and public safety volunteers.

1 (e) The establishment of the Hotline “117” call center shall anchor on
2 the mandatory participation of the existing private communication carriers
3 operating in the locality.

4 (f) In areas where an emergency telephone number does not yet exist,
5 the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) shall immediately direct
6 the concerned telephone companies to designate “117” as the nationwide
7 emergency telephone number within a reasonable period of time. Any
8 emergency telephone hotline established by any local government or state
9 agency using a number other than “117” shall be changed to “117”.

10 (g) All existing agreements in connection with the effective operation
11 of Hotline “117” with the private sector and the NGOs prior to the enactment
12 of this law shall continue to be enforced.

13 *SEC. 3. Institutionalization of Hotline “117” Community-based*
14 *Volunteer Network.* – A Hotline “117” community-based volunteer network is
15 hereby institutionalized constituting the Volunteer Service Responders
16 Network.

17 (a) There shall be a Hotline “117” barangay-based Volunteer Service
18 Responders Network to be organized from various components such as the
19 studentry, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines, the sangguniang
20 kabataan (SK) and the out-of-school youth.

1 (b) There shall be organized a group to advocate, train, organize,
2 mobilize and monitor (ATOMM) field level implementers of Hotline "117",
3 headed by the Chief of Police of the city/municipality as team leader with the
4 Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) C/M LGOO as
5 co-team leader and members from various government organizations and
6 NGOs, such as respective representatives from the office of the mayor, the
7 municipal/city liga president, the municipal/city SK chairman, the Department
8 of Education (DepEd), the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines
9 coordinators, the BFP, the BJMP and other affiliated public safety volunteers
10 and civil sector groups.

11 SEC. 4. *The Hotline "117" Commission.* – The present PATROL
12 "117" Commission, as per Presidential Administrative Order No. 36 dated
13 May 3, 2002, in conjunction with Presidential Administrative Order No. 124
14 dated June 2, 2003, shall continue to exist as the Hotline "117" Commission.

15 The Commission shall be headed by the Secretary of the Interior and
16 Local Government and the Chairman of the National Police Commission
17 (NAPOLCOM), as chairman, and the Chairman of the Foundation for Crime
18 Prevention, as cochairman.

19 Its members are:

20 (a) From the government sector:

21 (1) The PNP;

- 1 (2) The DepEd;
- 2 (3) The Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- 3 (4) The NTC; and
- 4 (5) The MMDA; and
- 5 (b) From the private sector:
 - 6 (1) The leading telephone carrier;
 - 7 (2) The Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas (KBP);
 - 8 (3) The Bankers Association of the Philippines;
 - 9 (4) The Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and
 - 10 (5) Four other members to be selected by the chairman from the
 - 11 private sector.

12 SEC. 5. *Functions of Hotline "117" Commission.* – (a) Prepare and
13 recommend, for the approval of the President, policies on crime prevention and
14 public safety operations of stakeholders and volunteers.

15 (b) Prepare and recommend thrusts, proposals and measures that
16 would effectively respond to the national security and development interests.

17 (c) Perform such other duties and functions as the President may direct.

18 SEC. 6. *The Hotline "117" Development Office.* – The existing DILG
19 Hotline "117" Development Group, activated by the DILG under the PATROL
20 "117" Commission, is hereby institutionalized as the Hotline "117"
21 Development Office to implement the Hotline "117" Program which shall

1 consist of existing uniformed personnel of the interior sector and the
2 nonuniformed plantilla personnel of the PATROL “117” Commission. It shall
3 serve as the secretariat of the Hotline “117” Commission. Furthermore:

4 (a) The Streetwatch plantilla and the IACCAG plantilla of the DILG
5 shall be transferred to the Hotline “117” Development Office to constitute the
6 Hotline “117” plantilla, subject to revision;

7 (b) The said office shall be staffed with personnel, subject to existing
8 civil service rules and regulations;

9 (c) The said office shall be headed by a director with an equivalent
10 plantilla position of Director IV, to be appointed by the President, upon the
11 recommendation by the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government,
12 subject to civil service rules and regulations; and

13 (d) The said office shall have parallel organization in the regional
14 level, to be headed by a regional officer, and in the field level to monitor
15 provincial, city, municipal and barangay operations.

16 *SEC. 7. Functions of the Hotline “117” Development Office. – (a) Plan*
17 *and implement the Hotline “117” Program as a nationwide network.*

18 (b) Institutionalize the ATOMM Team Network in every city and
19 municipality.

20 (c) Institutionalize the barangay-based Volunteer Service Responders
21 Network.

1 (d) Conduct readiness test, monitor and evaluate the response
2 capability of all systems in Hotline “117” operations.

3 (e) Undertake such other duties as the Commission may direct.

4 SEC. 8. *Involvement of Other Agencies of the Government.* – All
5 government agencies are stakeholders in the promotion of peace and order and
6 public safety. Hence, they shall provide the necessary support in the advocacy
7 for and the implementation of this program with the Secretary of the Interior
8 and Local Government as the lead coordinator.

9 SEC. 9. *Participation by the Private Sector.* – The private sector and
10 the NGOs are enjoined to actively participate in whatever capacity in
11 advocating crime prevention and public safety by supporting Hotline “117”.

12 SEC. 10. *Penalties for Illegitimate “117” Calls.* – (a) Definition of an
13 Illegitimate Caller – Whoever accesses Hotline “117” for the purpose of
14 making a prank call, false alarm, deceitful complaint or giving untrue
15 information which could result in the emergency response of any public safety
16 agency or cause delay in answering legitimate calls is an illegitimate caller and
17 shall therefore be punished as follows:

18 (1) For the first offense, a fine of One thousand pesos (P1,000.00)
19 shall be imposed;

20 (2) For the second offense by the same offender, a fine of Five
21 thousand pesos (P5,000.00) shall be imposed;

1 (3) For the third offense by the same offender, a fine of Five thousand
2 pesos (P5,000.00) and imprisonment for a period of fifteen (15) to thirty (30)
3 days, at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed; and

4 (4) For succeeding offenses committed by the same offender, a fine of
5 Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) and imprisonment for a period of one
6 month and one day to six months, at the discretion of the court, shall be
7 imposed.

8 (b) A call made to Hotline "117" constitutes an authorization or
9 consent by the caller for his/her distress call to be automatically recorded. In
10 case the call turns out to be illegitimate, the recording shall be used as
11 evidence against the offender and the provisions of Republic Act No. 4200,
12 otherwise known as the "Anti-Wiretapping Act", cannot be invoked by the
13 offender.

14 (c) A telecommunications company can be compelled, through a
15 *subpoena duces tecum* issued by a duly authorized government agency, to
16 disclose the name and address of the owner/subscriber of the telephone line
17 from where an illegitimate call was established to have originated.

18 SEC. 11. *Funding.* – The funding requirements needed to sustain the
19 institutionalization of Hotline "117" shall be derived from:

20 (a) The regular appropriations of the DILG;

1 (b) The imposition of a reasonable call fee to callers for the value-
2 added service of Hotline “117” based on the generally accepted practice in
3 other countries. Funds derived from this source shall strictly be used for the
4 modernization and upgrading of the program. The amount and mechanics of
5 the collection and use of the emergency call fee shall be contained in the
6 implementing rules and regulations of this Act; and

7 (c) The proceeds from the different fines imposed and collected in the
8 enforcement of this Act.

9 SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the
10 Interior and Local Government shall formulate and issue the implementing
11 rules and regulations (IRRs) necessary for the efficient and effective
12 implementation of the provisions of this Act within one month from its
13 effectivity. Said IRR shall be reviewed every year thereafter and revised upon
14 the recommendation by the Hotline “117” Commission for the purpose of
15 updating its efficiency and effectiveness.

16 SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders and
17 issuances or any part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby
18 repealed or amended accordingly.

19 SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be
20 held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected
21 shall remain in full force and effect.

22 SEC. 15. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
23 its publication in any two national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,