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SENATE
S. No. 2213

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ASV

Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 58 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
REFORM AND REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1998",
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 14 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution acknowledges the role of women in nation-building.

In 2009, Republic Act No. 9710, or the Magna Carta of Women, was enacted into law which seeks to eliminate discrimination against women by recognizing, protecting, fulfilling and promoting the rights of Filipino women. One of the rights spelled out was the right of a woman to equal treatment of the law.

To date, there are still a number of existing laws discriminatory to women.

One example is Section 58 of Republic Act No. 8551 or the Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act which mandates that "[t]he PNP shall reserve ten percent (10%) of its annual recruitment, training, and education quota for women [who shall serve in the women's desks]".

This provision runs contrary to Section 9 (a) of the Magna Carta of Women which expressly states:

"Section 9. Protection from Violence. – xxx

a. Within the next five (5) years, there shall be an incremental increase in the recruitment and training of women in the **police force**, forensics and medico-legal, legal services, and social work services availed of by women who are victims of gender-related offenses **until fifty percent**

(50%) of the personnel thereof shall be women..." (Emphasis supplied).

To address this gap, we should rectify that provision of R.A. No. 8551 and align it with our commitments in the Magna Carta of Women.

In addition and in the wake of reports of abuses by male officers against women and children in police custody, it is important that there is an increase in women's representation in the police force which hopefully will result in a more responsive and committed police force towards preventing violations and abuses of women's rights.

As a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Philippines is obliged to take appropriate measures, including legislation, so that every Filipino woman can enjoy her human rights and fundamental freedoms, without discrimination.

For the above reasons, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


LEILA M. DE LIMA

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



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REFORM AND REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1998",
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines
in Congress assembled:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 58 of Republic Act No. 8551, otherwise known as the
2 "Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998", is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 "SEC. 58. Within the next five (5) years, the PNP shall prioritize the
5 recruitment and training of women who shall serve in the women's desk.
6 Pursuant to this requirement, the PNP shall [reserve ten percent (10%)
7 of its] IMPLEMENT AN INCREMENTAL INCREASE IN THE annual
8 recruitment, training, and education quota for women UNTIL FIFTY
9 PERCENT (50%) OF THE PERSONNEL THEREOF SHALL BE
10 WOMEN."

11 Sec. 2. All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations
12 contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed and
13 modified accordingly.

14 Sec. 3. If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the
15 other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

16 Sec. 4. This Act shall take fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in
17 two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,