

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila

Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fourth day of July, nineteen hundred and eighty-nine.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6955]

AN ACT TO DECLARE UNLAWFUL THE PRACTICE OF MATCHING FILIPINO WOMEN FOR MARRIAGE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS ON A MAIL-ORDER BASIS AND OTHER SIMILAR PRACTICES, INCLUDING THE ADVERTISEMENT, PUBLICATION, PRINTING OR DISTRIBUTION OF BROCHURES, FLIERS AND OTHER PROPAGANDA MATERIALS IN FURTHERANCE THEREOF AND PROVIDING PENALTY THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. It is the policy of the State to ensure and guarantee the enjoyment of the people of a decent standard of living. Towards this end, the state shall take measures to protect Filipino women from being exploited in utter disregard of human dignity in their pursuit of economic upliftment.

SEC. 2. Pursuant thereto, it is hereby declared unlawful:

(a) For a person, natural or juridical, association, club or any other entity to commit, directly or indirectly, any of the following acts:

- (1) To establish or carry on a business which has for its purpose the matching of Filipino women for marriage to foreign nationals either on a mail-order basis or through personal introduction;
- (2) To advertise, publish, print or distribute or cause the advertisement, publication, printing or distribution of any brochure, flier, or any propaganda material calculated to promote the prohibited acts in the preceding subparagraph;

- (3) To solicit, enlist or in any manner attract or induce any Filipino woman to become a member in any club or association whose objective is to match women for marriage to foreign nationals either on a mail-order basis or through personal introduction for a fee;
- (4) To use the postal service to promote the prohibited acts in subparagraph 1 hereof.

(b) For the manager or officer-in-charge or advertising manager of any newspaper, magazine, television or radio station, or other media, or of an advertising agency, printing company or other similar entities, to knowingly allow, or consent to, the acts prohibited in the preceding paragraph.

SEC. 3. In case of violation of this Act by an association, club, partnership, corporation, or any other entity, the incumbent officers thereof who have knowingly participated in the violation of this Act shall be held liable.

SEC. 4. Any person found guilty by the court to have violated any of the acts herein prohibited shall suffer an imprisonment of not less than six years and one day but not more than eight years, and a fine of not less than eight thousand pesos (₱8,000) but not more than twenty thousand pesos (₱20,000): *Provided*, That if the offender is a foreigner, he shall be immediately deported and barred forever from entering the country after serving his sentence and payment of fine.

SEC. 5. Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted as a restriction on the freedom of speech and of association for purposes not contrary to law as guaranteed by the Constitution.

SEC. 6. All laws, decrees, orders, instructions, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect upon its publication for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

(Sgd.) RAMON V. MITRA
*Speaker of the House of
Representatives*

(Sgd.) JOVITO R. SALONGA
President of the Senate

This Act which is originated in the Senate was finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on June 5, 1989 and May 15, 1990, respectively.

(Sgd.) QUIRINO D. ABAD SANTOS, JR.
*Secretary of the House of
Representatives*

(Sgd.) EDWIN P. ACOBA
Secretary of the Senate

Approved: June 13, 1990

(Sgd.) CORAZON C. AQUINO
President of the Philippines