

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9287, April 02, 2004 ]**

**AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL NUMBERS  
GAMES, AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL  
DECREE NO. 1602, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. It is likewise the policy of the State that the promotion of social justice shall include the commitment to create economic opportunities based on freedom of initiative and self-reliance.

Hence the State hereby condemns the existence of illegal gambling activities such as illegal numbers games as this has become an influential factor in an individual's disregard for the value of dignified work, perseverance and thrift since instant monetary gains from it are being equated to success, thereby becoming a widespread social menace and a source of corruption.

Towards this end, the State shall therefore adopt more stringent measures to stop and eradicate the existence of illegal numbers games in any part of the country.

SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. *Illegal Numbers Game.* - Any form of illegal gambling activity which uses numbers or combinations thereof as factors in giving out jackpots.
- b. *Jueteng.* - An illegal numbers game that involves the-combination of thirty-seven (37) numbers against thirty-seven (37) numbers from numbers one (1) to thirty-seven (37) or the combination of thirty-eight (38) numbers in some areas, serving as a form of local lottery bets are placed and accepted per combination, and its variants.
- c. *Masiao.*- An illegal numbers game where the winning combination is derived from the results of the last game of Jai Alai or the Special Llave portion or any result thereof based on any fictitious Jai Alai game consisting of ten (10) players pitted against one another, and its variants.
- d. *Last Two.* - An illegal numbers game where the winning combination is derived from the last two (2) numbers of the first prize of the winning Sweepstakes ticket which comes out during the weekly draw of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and its variants.
- e. *Bettor ("Mananaya", "Tayador" or variants thereof).* - Any person who places bets for himself/herself or in behalf of another person, or any person, other

than the personnel or staff of any illegal numbers game operation.

- f. *Personnel or Staff of Illegal, Numbers Game Operation.* - Any person, who acts in the interest of the maintainer, manager or operator, such as, but not limited to, an accountant, cashier, checker, guard, runner, table manager, usher, watcher, or any other personnel such similar functions in a building, structure, vessel, vehicle, or any other place where an illegal numbers game is operated or conducted.
- g. *Collector or Agent ("Cabo", "Cobrador", "Coriador" or variants thereof).* - Any person who collects, solicits or produces bets in behalf of his/her principal for any illegal numbers game who is usually in possession of gambling paraphernalia.
- h. *Coordinator, Controller or Supervisor ("Encargado" or variants thereof).* - Any person who exercises control and supervision over the collector or agent.
- i. *Maintainer, Manager or Operator.* - Any person who maintains, manages or operates any illegal numbers game in a specific area from whom the coordinator, controller or supervisor, and collector or agent take orders.
- j. *Financier of Capitalist.* - Any person who finances the operations of any illegal numbers game.
- k. *Protector or Coddler.* - Any person who lends or provides protection, or receives benefits in any manner in the operation of any illegal numbers game.

SEC. 3. *Punishable Acts.* — Any person who participates in any illegal numbers game shall suffer the following penalties:

- a. The penalty of imprisonment from thirty (30) days to ninety (90) days, if such person acts as a bettor;
- b. The penalty of imprisonment from six (6) years and one (1) day to eight (8) years, if such person acts as a personnel or staff of an illegal numbers game operation;  
The same penalty shall likewise be imposed to any person who allows his vehicle, house building or land to be used in the operation of the illegal numbers games.
- c. The penalty of imprisonment from eight (8) years and one (1) day to ten (10) years, if such person acts as a collector or agent;
- d. The penalty of imprisonment from ten (10) years and one (1) day to twelve (12) years, if such person acts as a coordinator, controller or supervisor;
- e. The penalty of imprisonment from twelve (12) years and one (1) day to fourteen (14) years, if such person acts as a maintainer, manager or operator; and,
- f. The penalty of imprisonment from fourteen (14) years and one (1) day to sixteen (16) years; if person acts as a financier or capitalist;
- g. The penalty of imprisonment from sixteen (16) years and one (1) day to twenty (20) years, if such person acts as a protector or coddler.

SEC. 4. *Possession of Gambling Paraphernalia or Materials.* — The possession of any gambling paraphernalia and other materials used in the illegal numbers game operation shall be deemed *prima facie* evidence of any offense covered by this Act.

SEC. 5. *Liability of Government Employees and/or Public Officials.* — a) If the collector, agent, coordinator, controller, supervisor, maintainer, manager, operator, financier or capitalist of any illegal numbers game is a government employee and/or public official, whether elected or appointed, shall suffer the penalty of twelve (12) years and one (1) day to twenty (20) years and a fine ranging from Three million