

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2223

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Introduced by HON. PAZ C. RADAZA

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The defeat of Spaniards headed by Lapu-Lapu in the Battle of Mactan is a significant part of our history. Recognized as one major national hero of our country, Lapu-Lapu is honored by two (2) memoire/documentary films, and a giant bronze sculpture of his image in the island of Mactan.

While we value Lapu-Lapu's heroic act, it is ironic that his name is also being used to call a fish with the scientific name of *Plectropomus leopardus*. It is inappropriate, defilement, and a violation, even if the fish could be the most sought-after, not only in the Philippines but also in Southeast Asia.

This bill is to rectify, correct, and give justice to the honorable name of Lapu-Lapu as our hero. In yester years, the fish, *Plectropomus leopardus* was known in the regions of the Visayas and Mindanao as "**Pugapo**". Nowadays, it is alarming that more and more Filipinos prefer to call it Lapu-Lapu or lapulapu, a disrespect to a patriotic Filipino forebear.

For *Plectropomus leopardus* to be known, named and promoted as a delicious delicacy, let us encourage our countrymen to call it "Pugapo" through this bill.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
PAZ C. RADAZA

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AN ACT RECTIFYING THE DISHONORABLE USE OF A GREAT FILIPINO NAME LAPU-LAPU TO A FISH SPECIES "*PLECTROPOMUS LEOPARDUS*"

*Be it enacted by the Houses of Senate and Representatives of the Philippines in Assembly:*

SECTION 1. Lapu-Lapu who resisted and defeated the Spaniards in the Battle of Mactan, should always be accorded and honored befitting of a patriot, great ruler and a hero;

SECTION 2. As it is a defilement that his name is being used to call a fish, *Plectropomus leopardus*, discontinuance of calling the species as Lapu-Lapu or Lapulapu shall be prohibited. Instead, the species shall be called and restored to its original name "***Pugapu***".

SECTION 3. The *National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP)* together with the *Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)* of the Department of Agriculture shall take the lead in the full implementation of this act;

SECTION 4. The *Philippine Information Agency (PIA)* is hereby directed to prepare ads and information campaign on this Act, until full compliance is attained. Local Government Units (LGUs) are also hereby directed to help in the implementation by passing their local ordinances and disseminating information within their areas of jurisdiction.



SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, with provisions that are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long, sweeping tail that ends in a small hook.