

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )**

Office of the Secretary

16 JUL 19 11:51

**SENATE**

**S. No. 501**

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**Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV**

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**AN ACT  
TO STRENGTHEN, PROFESSIONALIZE AND MODERNIZE THE PHILIPPINE  
IMMIGRATION SYSTEM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH  
ACT 613, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE IMMIGRATION ACT OF  
1940, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Bureau of Immigration came into existence upon the passage of Commonwealth Act No. 613, or the "Philippine Immigration Act of 1940". This law governs the entry and admission of foreigners into the Philippines. Though amendments were introduced to this Act, there is a pressing need to modernize the Bureau of Immigration to become more responsive to the challenges brought about by the advancement in science and technology, and attuned to the current needs especially with the onset of globalization, transnational crimes, and human trafficking.

Recognizing the need for a "modern, efficient and professionalized" Philippine Immigration Service, this bill seeks to reorganize the Bureau of Immigration by defining the functions of the departments under it as well as to modernize the systems and procedures on immigration in our country. It also seeks to create the Commission on Immigration and strengthen its function as gatekeeper and a primary economic agent taking into account the duty to safeguard the country's national borders while fostering investments.

The proposed measure also calls for the creation of more visa categories and privileges for foreign investors, providing a more friendly business environment conducive to attracting and increasing foreign investments into the country.

Moreover, this bill seeks to expand the classification of disqualified aliens and the imposition of penalties for aliens involved in syndicated criminal activities to enhance national security and ensure the safety of Filipinos.

It is hoped that through the said modernization, businessmen will be attracted, thereby contributing to the much needed investments in the country, rendering the agency as an effective agent of economic development.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV**  
Senator

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1940, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**TITLE I  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 1. *Title of the Act.*** - This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine  
Immigration Act of 2016*".

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - In relation to other states, the Philippines shall give  
paramount consideration to national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national security,  
national interest, and the right to self-determination, as it adheres to the policy of peace,  
cooperation and amity with all nations. Toward this end, Philippine immigration policies,  
rules and regulations under this Act shall be applied and administered in the promotion of  
domestic and international interests of the Philippines, in recognition of:

- A) The admission of foreign nationals for the purpose of enhancing capital  
investments, trade and commerce, cultural exchanges and other forms of friendly  
relations and cooperation;
- B) The need for increased technological and scientific development;
- C) Promotion of conditions for social welfare and economic security of the people;
- D) Compliance with obligations and standards set by international law in the  
admission or exclusion of foreign nationals;
- E) Promoting international order and justice by denying the use of Philippine  
territory to persons who are engaged or likely to engage in terrorism, human  
smuggling and trafficking, criminal and other nefarious activities;

1 F) Modernization of structures and mechanisms necessary for the administration  
2 of immigration laws in keeping with the changing demands of the country's role  
3 in the global community; and  
4

5 G) Professionalization of the immigration service by instituting a rigid system  
6 of screening and selection of immigration officials and employees and  
7 promoting their development.  
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9 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** - As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as  
10 follows:  
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12 A) "*Admission*" refers to the process by which a foreigner arriving at a port of entry  
13 in the Philippines is allowed into the country by the immigration authorities;  
14

15 B) "*Board*" refers to the Board of Commissioners;  
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17 C) "*Border Control Officer*" refers to any person tasked to man the border control  
18 station as provided under Section 26 of this Act;  
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20 D) "*Captain*" refers to the master of a vessel or pilot of an aircraft;  
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22 E) "*Child*" refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age;  
23

24 F) "*Citizen*" refers to any person who is a citizen of the Philippines under Section 1,  
25 Article IV of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines;  
26

27 G) "*Commission*" refers to the Commission on Immigration;  
28

29 H) "*Commissioner*" and "*Deputy Commissioner*" refer to the Commissioner of  
30 Immigration and the Deputy Commissioner of Immigration, respectively;  
31

32 I) "*Commitment Order*" refers to an order issued by the Commissioner under Section  
33 7 (c) (2) of this Act that directs the detention of a foreigner after it has been  
34 determined that a probable cause exists that he/she committed acts and/or  
35 omissions in violation of Philippine immigration laws, rules and regulations, or  
36 during the pendency of deportation case against such foreigner: Provided, That  
37 such detention shall not exceed three (3) months, unless there exists other legal  
38 grounds for continued detention;  
39

40 J) "*Consular officer*" refers to any consular, diplomatic, or other officer of the  
41 Government of the Philippines who has been duly granted a consular commission  
42 for the purpose of issuing visas under this Act;  
43

44 K) "*Entry*" refers to the arrival of a foreigner into any designated port of entry in the  
45 Philippines from a place outside thereof. A foreigner having a lawful permanent  
46 residence in the Philippines shall not be regarded as making an entry for the  
47 purpose of this Act if such foreigner proves that his/her departure to a place  
48 outside the Philippines was for a temporary or limited period, or his/her  
49 continued absence from the Philippines was occasioned by deportation  
50 proceedings, extradition, or other legal process;

- 1 L) "*Exclusion*" refers to the act of Immigration Officers denying admission of a  
2 foreigner into the country on grounds provided for in this Act;  
3
- 4 M) "*Foreigner*" or "*Foreign National*" refers to any person not a citizen of the  
5 Philippines;  
6
- 7 N) "*Foundling*" refers to a deserted or abandoned infant or child whose parents,  
8 guardian or relatives are unknown; or a child committed to an orphanage or  
9 charitable or similar institution with unknown facts of birth and parentage and  
10 registered in the Civil Registrar as a "foundling";  
11
- 12 O) "*Hold Departure Order*" refers to (1) a directive that commands the  
13 Commissioner to prevent a foreigner from leaving the territorial jurisdiction of the  
14 Philippines in cases of grant of bail and recognizance pending implementation of  
15 Summary Deportation Order, or (2) an order implementing a directive from the  
16 President, the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Department of Justice  
17 (DOJ), Regional Trial Courts, Sandiganbayan, and appellate courts to prevent  
18 a person from leaving the Philippines to any place outside thereof;  
19
- 20 P) "*Husband*" and/or "*Wife*" refer(s) to those regarded as such by the laws of  
21 the country of which they are nationals but shall not include husband or wife by  
22 reason of proxy or "picture marriage";  
23
- 24 Q) "*Immigrant*" refers to any foreign national departing from any place outside  
25 the Philippines destined for the Philippines, other than a non-immigrant;  
26
- 27 R) "*Immigration laws*" refers to this Act and any other law presently existing or  
28 which may hereafter be enacted relating to movement of natural persons to and  
29 from the Philippines, and their exclusion, interception, deportation and  
30 repatriation;  
31
- 32 S) "*Immigration Officer*" refers to any person appointed under Section 28 of this Act  
33 or any employee of the Commission designated by the Commissioner to perform  
34 the powers, duties and functions of an Immigration Officer as specified under this  
35 Act;  
36
- 37 T) "*Interception*" refers to the act of Immigration Officers denying departure  
38 clearance to any person leaving the country on grounds provided for in this Act;  
39
- 40 U) "*Non-immigrant*" refers to any foreigner departing from any place outside  
41 the Philippines who is allowed entry and admission into the Philippines for a  
42 temporary or limited period of stay;  
43
- 44 V) "*Non-refoulement*" refers to principle of international law which prohibits the  
45 forced return of a refugee to the state or territory where his/her life or liberty  
46 would be threatened;  
47
- 48 W) "*Passport*" refers to document issued by the Philippine Government to its  
49 citizens requesting other governments to allow its citizens to pass safely and  
50 freely, and in case of need to give him all lawful aid and protection;

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2 X) "*Person*" refers to natural and juridical person such as partnerships,  
3 corporations, companies, and associations;  
4  
5 Y) "*Port of entry*" refers to any port designated by competent authority in accordance  
6 with law through which a foreigner may apply to the Immigration Officer thereat  
7 for admission into the Philippines;  
8  
9 Z) "*President*" refers to the President of the Republic of the Philippines;  
10  
11 AA) "*Refugee*" refers to a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being  
12 persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular  
13 social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality, and  
14 is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail of the protection of that  
15 country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his/her  
16 former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return  
17 to it;  
18  
19 BB) "*Seaman*," "*Seafarer*" or "*Crewmember*" refers to a person actually employed  
20 in the operation or service in any capacity on board a vessel;  
21  
22 CC) "*Secretary*" refers to the Secretary of the Department of Justice;  
23  
24 DD) "*Stateless Person*" refers to a person who is not considered as a national by  
25 any State under the operation of its laws;  
26  
27 EE) "*Travel document*" refers to a certification or identifying document containing  
28 the description and other personal circumstances of its bearer, issued for direct  
29 travel to and from the Philippines valid for short periods or a particular trip. It is  
30 issued only to persons whose claim to Philippine citizenship is doubtful or who  
31 fall under the category enumerated in Section 13 of Republic Act No. 8239,  
32 otherwise known as "The Philippine Passport Act of 1996";  
33  
34 FF) "*Vessel*" refers to all means of conveyances, whether aircraft or sea craft;  
35  
36 GG) "*Visa*" refers to an endorsement on a passport or any travel document issued  
37 by a Consular Officer abroad authorizing the holder thereof to proceed to a  
38 designated port of entry in the Philippines and there to apply for entry and  
39 admission under the status specified therein; or immigration status granted and or  
40 issued to foreigners by the Commissioner or the Board under this Act; and  
41  
42 HH) "*Watchlist Order*" refers to an order issued by the Commissioner under  
43 Section 7 (c)(4) of this Act that requires immigration personnel to monitor and/or  
44 prevent the departure of any person for a period of fifteen (15) days, extendible  
45 for another fifteen (15) days, and to notify concerned government or law  
46 enforcement agencies, when his/her presence is required in criminal or  
47 legislative proceedings or he/she poses or may pose a threat to national security,  
48 public health or public safety.  
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**TITLE II**  
**COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION**  
**CHAPTER 1**  
**THE COMMISSION**

**SEC. 4. *Creation.*** - The Commission on Immigration is hereby created. It shall be principally responsible for the administration and enforcement of this Act, and the implementation of all laws, rules, regulations or orders of any competent authority concerning the entry and admission into, stay in, and the departure from the Philippines of all persons. The Commission shall be under the general supervision of the Office of the President.

**SEC. 5. *Composition and Qualification.*** - The Commission shall be administered by the Board headed by the Commissioner as Chairperson, and four (4) Deputy Commissioners as members, all of whom shall be natural-born citizens of the Philippines and, at the time of their appointment, at least thirty-five (35) years of age, holders of a college degree and with proven capacity for administration: *Provided*, That the majority or three (3) members including the Chairperson of the Commission shall be members of the Philippine Bar in good standing for at least five (5) years.

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**CHAPTER 2**  
**THE COMMISSIONER**

**SEC. 6. *Appointment and Rank of the Commissioner.*** - The Commissioner shall be appointed by the President and shall have the same rank, salary, and privileges of an Undersecretary of a Department.

**SEC. 7. *Powers and Functions of the Commissioner.*** - In addition to the duties as Chairperson of the Board, the Commissioner shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- A) Supervise, direct and coordinate the overall operations of the Commission;
- B) Appoint, and exercise control and supervision over, the officers and personnel of the Commission, subject to existing civil service laws, rules and regulations;
- C) Issue, (1) letter orders after determination of the existence of probable cause; (2) commitment or release orders; (3) warrant of deportation; (4) watchlist orders; (5) hold departure orders; (6) allow entry or departure orders; (7) blacklist orders; and (8) orders implementing watchlist orders issued by the Department of Justice;
- D) Delegate authority to subordinate officers and employees of the Commission, except with regard to powers and functions enumerated in the immediately preceding paragraph, which may be delegated only to the Deputy Commissioners;
- E) Act on applications for issuance and revocation of immigrant visas;
- F) Act on petitions for declaration of indigency;
- G) Declare such control posts, landing places, airports or ports as points of entry or exit, whether limited or unlimited;
- H) Increase, reduce or waive immigration fees, fines, penalties and other charges;

- 1 I) Participate as member of the Special Committee on Naturalization pursuant to  
2 Section 6 of Republic Act No. 9139 otherwise known as "The Administrative  
3 Naturalization Law of 2000"; Act on applications for retention or  
4 reacquisition of citizenship under Republic Act No. 9225 otherwise known as  
5 "Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003;  
6 J) Issue Certificate of Identification to foreigners who have obtained  
7 Filipino citizenship;  
8 K) Issue letter orders and permits to carry firearms, ammunition and  
9 communications equipment to authorized immigration operatives for use in  
10 and ammunition are owned and issued by the Commission;  
11 L) Inspect the documents, premises and records of persons covered by this Act;  
12 M) Deputize any official or employee of the national government and local  
13 government units, including uniformed personnel of the Armed Forces of the  
14 Philippines, the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Coast Guard to  
15 perform Immigration duties and functions subject to the concurrence of the  
16 Board;  
17 N) Authorize and prescribe the forms and the amount of cash bonds for the  
18 provisional release of respondents in deportation proceedings;  
19 O) Impose reasonable fines and penalties for violation of immigration and  
20 Alien registration laws in accordance with this Act and the guidelines adopted  
21 by the Commission;  
22 P) Provide an express lane for the rendition of services upon payment of  
23 prescribed fees by airlines/shipping companies or other persons served  
24 and to deposit in a government authorized depository bank all such fees  
25 received under a trust fund that may be made available for the payment of  
26 allowances to employees of the Commission, subject to existing accounting  
27 and auditing rules and regulations;  
28 Q) Accept donation of materials, equipment or technical services from any  
29 Foreign government, international or domestic organization, to upgrade the  
30 efficiency and operations of the Commission;  
31 R) Submit to the President and Congress, annually or as may be directed, a report  
32 on the: number and status of foreigners in the Philippines; foreigners  
33 admitted or granted change of status as permanent residents; foreigners  
34 who have been excluded or deported from the Philippines; estimated  
35 number of illegal foreigners in the Philippines in each calendar year and  
36 actions taken to arrest them, by nationality grouping, for each region in the  
37 Philippines; and such other transactions of the Commission;  
38 S) Prepare and submit supplemental budget of the Commission for the  
39 consideration of the Department of Budget and Management;  
40 T) Prescribe such rules, regulations or other administrative issuances to carry out  
41 the provisions of this Act;  
42 U) Prescribe the appropriate forms, bonds, reports, entries and other papers  
43 in accordance with this Act;  
44 V) Perform such other functions inherent to the Commission; and  
45 W) Act on applications for recognition of Philippine citizenship on foundlings.  
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### CHAPTER 3 THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS

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**SEC. 8. *Appointment and Rank of Deputy Commissioners.*** - There shall be four (4) Deputy Commissioners who shall be appointed by the President. They shall have the same rank, salary and privileges of an Assistant Secretary of a Department.

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*Provided,* That a plantilla for one (1) Deputy Commissioner shall be created which shall be occupied by a career officer from the Commission.

**SEC. 9. *Duties of Deputy Commissioners.*** - In addition to their duties as Members of the Board, the Deputy Commissioners shall exercise additional powers, subject to the approval of and as may be assigned by the Board, in the following areas of concern as:

- A) Deputy Commissioner for Administration, Finance, Planning, Legal and Information and Communications Technology;
- B) Deputy Commissioner for Regional Operations, Registration, Immigration Regulation and Visa and Special Permit;
- C) Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence, Enforcement, Fraud Prevention and Complaint and Prosecution; and
- D) Deputy Commissioner for International Policies, Cooperation and Social Integration.

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### CHAPTER 4 THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**SEC. 10. *Powers and Functions of the Board.*** - The Board shall have the following powers and functions:

- A) Decide on deportation cases;
- B) Act on appeals on decisions promulgated by immigration hearing officers;
- C) Act on applications or recommendations for revocation of immigration status;
- D) Act on applications for recognition of Philippine citizenship by reason of birth or marriage;
- E) Act on applications for recognition of Philippine citizenship of foundlings;
- F) Decide on applications for legalization of residence in accordance with law;
- G) Prescribe and promulgate rules of proceedings before it;
- H) Cite and punish for contempt any person in accordance with the Rules of Court;
- I) Prepare and publish operations manual and rules of procedure, including schedule of fees, for transactions entered into by the Commission with the public;
- J) Formulate policies, directives, programs and projects of the Commission; and
- K) Perform such other powers and functions as provided by existing laws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 11. *Decisions of the Board.*** - In all cases or proceedings before the Board, the decision of the majority shall prevail. Decisions of the Board shall become final and executor fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof. Only one (1) motion for reconsideration shall be filed



1 with the Board. Decisions in deportation cases may be appealed to the Office of the President  
2 within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof, whose decision shall be final and executory  
3 unless stayed by an order of the Court of Appeals. The appeal shall stay the execution of the  
4 decision appealed from unless the Board, in the interest of national security and/or public  
5 safety, directs its execution pending appeal.

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7 **SEC. 12. *Period for Decision by the Board.*** - The Board shall decide deportation  
8 cases within thirty (30) days from the date they are submitted for decision or resolution.

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10 **SEC. 13. *Meetings of the Board.*** - In all cases, the Board shall convene and act as a  
11 collegial body in all matters referred to in Section 10 of this Act. The Board shall meet at  
12 least once a week or, if necessary, twice a week. Members of the Board shall be notified  
13 accordingly and the presence of the Chairperson and two (2) members shall constitute a  
14 quorum.

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16 **SEC. 14. *Board Secretary.*** - The Board shall be assisted by a Board Secretary who  
17 shall be appointed by the Commissioner. He/she must be a member of the Philippine Bar in  
18 good standing for at least three (3) years prior to his/her appointment. He/she shall keep a  
19 docket book for deportation cases, applications for revocation of immigration status,  
20 applications for recognition of Philippine citizenship by reason of birth or marriage,  
21 applications for legalization of residence and applications for refugee status.

## 22 23 24 **CHAPTERS 5** 25 **THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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27 **SEC. 15. *Appointment and Tenure.*** - There shall be an Executive Director of the  
28 Commission who shall be appointed by the President, and whose term shall be co-terminous  
29 with the Commissioner. He/she must be a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, at least  
30 thirty (30) years of age and a member of the Philippine Bar in good standing for at least five  
31 (5) years prior to his/her appointment.

32  
33 **SEC. 16. *Powers and Duties.*** - The Executive Director shall:

- 34  
35 A) Advise and assist the Commissioner on the formulation and  
36 Implementation of the objectives, policies, plans and programs of the  
37 Commission;  
38 B) Oversee all the operational activities of the Commission;  
39 C) Coordinate the programs and projects of the Commission and be responsible  
40 for its economical, efficient and effective administration;  
41 D) Administer oaths in connection with all matters relating to the business  
42 of the Commission; and  
43 E) Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Commissioner.

## 44 45 46 **CHAPTER 6** 47 **THE BOARD OF SPECIAL INQUIRY**

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49 **SEC. 17. *Constitution of Boards of Special Inquiry.*** - There shall be constituted as  
50 many Boards of Special Inquiry as required in the exigency of service but not more than

1 twelve (12). Each Board shall be composed of a Chairperson and two (2) members. The  
2 Board shall be designated according to their areas of specialization to be determined by the  
3 Board.  
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5 **SEC. 18. *Appointment and Qualification of the Chairpersons and Members of the***  
6 ***Boards of Special Inquiry.*** - The Chairpersons and members of the Boards of Special Inquiry  
7 shall be appointed by the Commissioner, all of whom shall be natural-born citizens of the  
8 Philippines and, at the time of their appointment, at least thirty (30) years of age, members of  
9 the Philippine Bar in good standing, and engaged in the practice of law for at least three (3)  
10 years. They shall hold office during good behavior, unless sooner removed for cause.  
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12 **SEC. 19. *Powers and Functions of the Boards of Special Inquiry.*** - The Boards of  
13 Special Inquiry shall:  
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- 15 A) Administer oaths;
- 16 B) Cite and punish for contempt in accordance with the Rules of Court;
- 17 C) Issue subpoena in cases being heard by the Board of Special Inquiry;
- 18 D) Recommend to the Board the imposition, waiver or reduction of fees, fines,  
19 penalties and other charges subject to existing laws, rules and regulations;
- 20 E) Exercise exclusive original authority to hear and recommend to the Board for  
21 final resolution the following cases:
  - 22 1) Deportation;
  - 23 2) Applications for revocation of immigration status;
  - 24 3) Applications for recognition of Philippine citizenship by reason of  
25 birth or marriage;
  - 26 4) Applications for legalization of residence in accordance with law;
  - 27 5) Application for issuance of visa for stateless person; and
- 28 F) Perform such other duties and functions as may be directed by the  
29 Commissioner.  
30

31 **SEC. 20. *Proceedings Before the Boards of Special Inquiry.*** - The proceedings  
32 before the Boards of Special Inquiry shall be public and recorded. In all cases, the Boards of  
33 Special Inquiry shall meet and act as a collegial body. Only members of the Philippine Bar in  
34 good standing shall appear for and in behalf of any party before the Boards of Special  
35 Inquiry.  
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37 **SEC. 21. *Resolutions of the Boards of Special Inquiry.*** - Cases before the Boards of  
38 Special Inquiry shall be resolved within five (5) working days from the date the same  
39 are submitted for resolution. Said resolution shall be submitted immediately to the Board for  
40 action.  
41

## 42 43 **CHAPTER 7** 44 **DIVISIONS OF THE COMMISSION** 45

46 **SEC. 22. *Divisions and Other Operating Offices of the Commission.*** - The  
47 Commission shall have the following divisions and other operating offices, namely: (1)  
48 Administration; (2) Finance; (3) Information and Communications Technology; (4)  
49 Planning and Research; (5) International Policies and Cooperation; (6) Social  
50 Integration; (7) Intelligence; (8) Law Enforcement; (9) Fraud Prevention; (10) Legal;

(11) Immigration Regulation; (12) Registration; (13) Visa and Special Permit; (14) Complaint and Prosecution; (15) Internal Audit Office; (16) National Operations Center; and (17) Immigration Academy of the Philippines.

**SEC. 23. *Heads of the Divisions and Other Operating Offices.*** - Each Division and other operating offices shall be headed by a Director to be appointed by the Secretary, upon recommendation of the Commissioner: Provided, however, That Directors for the Division for Legal and the Division for Complaint and Prosecution shall be members of the Philippine Bar in good standing, and must have been engaged in the practice of law for at least three (3) years. The Director for Finance Division shall be a Certified Public Accountant in good standing for at least three (3) years.

**SEC. 24. *Duties and Functions of the Divisions and Other Operating Offices.*** - The different divisions and other operating offices of the Commission shall operate in accordance with their respective duties and functions as defined by the Commissioner, subject to the requirements of efficiency, economy, transparency, accountability and effectiveness, and pertinent budget and civil service laws, rules and regulations.

## **CHAPTERS 8 REGIONAL OFFICES**

**SEC. 25 *Field Offices of the Commission.***- The Commission shall operate and maintain a Regional Immigration Office in each of the administrative regions including the National Capital Region and the Regional Immigration Offices of the Commission shall each be headed by a Regional Immigration Officer, all of whom shall be appointed by the Secretary upon the recommendation of the Commissioner.

**SEC. 26. *Border Control Stations.*** - There shall be established Border Control Stations which shall be manned by Border Control Officers appointed by the Commissioner. The Border Control Stations shall be placed in specific areas in the Philippines which shall be determined by the Board. Their duties and responsibilities shall be determined by the Commissioner.

**SEC. 27. *Changes in the Composition, Distribution of Assignment of Regional Offices.*** - The Commissioner may make changes in the composition, distribution and Assignment of Regional Offices, as well as its personnel, based on the demographics of the Philippines' foreigner population and as the exigency of the service requires.

**SEC. 28. *Immigration Officers.*** - The position of Immigration Officer is hereby created. No person shall be appointed to the position of Immigration Officer unless he/she is a holder of a bachelor's degree and a first grade civil service eligible. The Immigration officers shall perform the following duties:

- A) Examine, with the assistance and advice of medical authorities in appropriate cases- foreigners at the port of entry concerning their admissibility to enter and their qualifications to remain in the Philippines;
- B) Exclude foreign nationals not properly documented, and to admit foreign nationals complying with the applicable provisions of immigration and related laws;

- 1 C) Administer oaths in connection with the performance of their duties;  
2 D) Search for foreign nationals on any vessel believed to be used to illegally  
3 bring foreign nationals into the Philippines, and to arrest without warrant any  
4 foreigner who in his presence or view is entering or is about to enter the  
5 Philippines in violation of immigration and related laws, rules and regulations;  
6 E) Act as control officer with authority to prevent the departure of passengers  
7 not complying with departure requirements; and  
8 F) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Commissioner from  
9 time to time.

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11 **SEC. 29. *Designation of Employees.*** - The Commissioner may designate, in  
12 accordance with civil service laws, rules and regulations, any competent and qualified  
13 employee of the Commission, to act as immigration officer or assign any employee to other  
14 offices within the Commission and/ or assign him/her additional or other duties as the best  
15 interest or exigency of the service may require.

16  
17 **SEC. 30. *Assignment of Employees to do Overtime Work.***- The Commissioner may  
18 assign immigration employees to do overtime work or services pursuant to rules and  
19 regulations to be prescribed and at the rates fixed by the Commissioner when the work or  
20 service to be rendered is to be paid by the airline, shipping companies or other persons  
21 served.

22  
23 **SEC. 31. *Deployment of Immigration Personnel Abroad.***- Within ninety (90)  
24 days from the affectivity of this Act, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the  
25 Commission shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement pertinent to the assignment  
26 and deployment of immigration personnel to select consular posts abroad who shall perform  
27 immigration duties, except diplomatic and consular functions.

28  
29 **SEC. 32. *Manning Levels*** - On the average, the manning levels of immigration  
30 officers of the Commission nationwide shall be in accordance with the number of arrivals in  
31 each port of entry as determined by the Board: *Provided*, That the number of employees, as  
32 provided in the staffing pattern in accordance with Section 130 of the Act, shall not be  
33 decreased.

34  
35  
36 **TITLE III**  
37 **IMMIGRATION**  
38 **CHAPTER 1**  
39 **NON-IMMIGRANTS**  
40

41 **SEC. 33. *Categories of Non-immigrants and Types of Visa Issued*** - Foreign  
42 nationals departing from any place outside the Philippines who are otherwise admissible and  
43 who qualify under anyone of the following categories maybe admitted as non-immigrants:

- 44  
45 A) Temporary visitors (A Visas): Visitors coming to the Philippines for a  
46 temporary period for reasons of business, pleasure or health:  
47 1) Business (A-1 visa): Temporary visitors engaged in activities  
48 of a Commercial or professional nature for a foreign employer  
49 or for themselves that will not result in gainful Employment in  
50 the Philippines as used herein, the term "business" refers to

- 1 conventions, conferences, consultations and other legitimate  
2 activities of a commercial or a professional nature, but does not  
3 include local employment or labor for hire;
- 4 2) Pleasure (A-2 visa): Temporary visitors who ' stay in the  
5 Philippines for holiday, including sightseeing, recreation or  
6 visiting relatives; and
- 7 3) Health (A-3 visa): Temporary visitors who stay in the  
8 Philippines to avail of medical treatment.
- 9 B) Transit Persons (B Visa): Persons passing through the Philippines solely for a  
10 "stop over" who have a confirmed connecting flight to another country or  
11 passengers in immediate and continuous transit to a destination outside the  
12 Philippines;
- 13 C) Crew members (C Visa): Members of the crew of vessels required for the  
14 normal operation and servicing of the vessels who come to the Philippines  
15 temporarily as part of their jobs either arriving with or coming to join the  
16 vessels;
- 17 D) Treaty Traders (D-1 Visa) and Treaty Investors (D-2 Visa): Citizens and their  
18 family members from a country that has a trade treaty with the Philippines and  
19 coming to work in the Philippines for either a company they own or one that is  
20 at least fifty percent (50%) owned by nationals of their home country and  
21 which company is engaged in substantial trade between the Philippines and  
22 their home country shall be granted a D-1 visa. Citizens of a country that has  
23 an investor treaty with the Philippines for a business they own or one that is  
24 at least fifty percent (50%) owned by nationals of their home country and  
25 which business is supported by a substantial investment from nationals of their  
26 home country shall be granted a D-2 visa;
- 27 E) Accredited Foreign Government Officials, Their Families and Attendants (E  
28 Visas), Foreign government officials, their families and attendants coming  
29 to the country for official purpose, pursuant to international conventions  
30 and bilateral agreements, shall be granted E Visas divided into three (3)  
31 types, namely:
- 32 1) Persons entitled to E-1 Visa: The E-1 Visa shall be issued to  
33 persons enjoying diplomatic immunities and privileges,  
34 particularly the following classes of foreign nationals:
- 35 a) Heads of the State and Heads of Government and their  
36 personal representatives;
- 37 b) Members of reigning royal families recognized by the  
38 Philippine government;
- 39 c) Governors-General, Governors, and High  
40 Commissioners of dependent territories and their  
41 personal representatives;
- 42 d) Cabinet ministers and their deputies and officials with  
43 cabinet rank of ministers;
- 44 e) Presiding officers of national legislative bodies;
- 45 f) Justices or judges of the highest national judicial bodies;
- 46 g) Diplomats and career consular officials;
- 47 h) Diplomatic couriers regularly and professionally  
48 employed as such;
- 49 i) Military, naval, air and other attaches assigned to a  
50 diplomatic mission;

- j) All members of official special missions of a diplomatic character;
  - k) Officials of international organizations bearing diplomatic passports when traveling on official business;
  - l) Representatives of international organizations who have diplomatic status and bearing diplomatic passports issued by their governments;
  - m) Members of delegations proceeding to or from an international conference of an official or diplomatic nature;
  - n) Accompanying spouses and unmarried minor children of foreigners within the above-mentioned categories; and
  - o) Such other officials going to the Philippines on diplomatic missions.
- 2) Persons entitled to E-2 Visa: The E-2 visa shall be issued to any other person not included in the foregoing list, who is an officer of a foreign government recognized by the Philippines, is a national of the country whose government he represents, and is proceeding to the Philippines in connection with official business for his/her government. This category includes, inter alia, the members of the staff of a diplomatic mission or consular post, the staff of international organizations, and official students or participants in programs under the auspices of the Philippine Government or recognized international Institutions. The family members of the above-mentioned persons shall also be issued E- Visa.
  - 3) Persons entitled to E-3 Visa: The E-3 Visa shall be issued to the members of the household, the attendants, servants and employees of persons to whom E-1 and E-2 visas have been granted;
- F) Students (F Visa): Foreign students having means sufficient for their support and education in the Philippines who seek to enter the Philippines temporarily for the sole purpose of taking up a course of study higher than high school at a university, seminary, academy or college accredited for such foreign students by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in collaboration with the Commission. Their collaboration shall include the monitoring of the status of activities of such foreign students in the Philippines;
- G) Prearranged Employment (G Visa): Foreign nationals coming to the Philippines on prearranged employment, including their family members accompanying or following to join them within the period of their employment. This category includes intra-company transferees, professionals, performing artists, athletes, and cultural exchange workers under a work exchange program;
- H) Religious Workers (H Visa): Duly ordained or professional missionaries and religious ministers, including members of their family, coming to the Philippines to join a religious congregation or denomination duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon invitation,

1 sponsorship or guarantee of such religious congregation or denomination,  
2 solely for the purpose of propagating, teaching and disseminating their faith  
3 or religion;

4 I) Representatives of International Organizations and Government Agencies (I  
5 Visa) Officials, principal representatives and foreign workers of accredited  
6 international organizations as well as missions, including their family  
7 members, staff and servants. The term "accredited international organization"  
8 includes any public international organization in the activities of which the  
9 Philippines participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any act  
10 of the Congress of the Philippines authorizing such participation or making an  
11 appropriation for such participation and such other international  
12 organizations, institutions, agencies, programs, foundations and entities  
13 which are recognized by the government of the Republic of the  
14 Philippines, including those existing and already recognized as such at the  
15 time of the affectivity of this Act. The term "staff" includes the employees of  
16 persons to whom the E-3 visa has been granted;

17 J) Media Workers (J Visa): Foreign media personnel or correspondents, duly  
18 accredited by the government agency concerned, who are bona fide  
19 representatives of a foreign press, radio, satellite, television, film, or other  
20 information media, and are coming to the Philippines solely to engage in  
21 gathering information principally for dissemination abroad, including their  
22 family members accompanying or following to join them during the period of  
23 the assignment in the Philippines;

24 K) Exchange Visitors (K Visa): Foreign nationals entering the Philippines to  
25 teach, study, observe, conduct research or receive training in a specific  
26 Exchange Visitor Program duly approved by the Philippine Government; (I)  
27 Refugees (L-1 Visa) and Stateless Persons (L-2 Visa): Refugees as defined in  
28 Section 3 (z) hereof shall be issued L-1 Visa. Stateless persons, whose  
29 admission for humanitarian reasons and not inimical to public interest has  
30 been approved by the Commissioner or the President in such cases and under  
31 such conditions as he may prescribe, shall be issued L-2 Visa; and (M)  
32 Special Non-Immigrants (M Visas): Such other foreign nationals including  
33 their family members who may be admitted as non-immigrants under special  
34 laws or foreign nationals not otherwise provided for by this Act who are  
35 coming for temporary periods only, and whose admission is authorized by the  
36 Commissioner or the President in the interest of the public or for humanitarian  
37 considerations and under such conditions as he may prescribe.  
38

39 **SEC 33-A. Visa Policy.** - The policies governing the issuance, extension, renewal  
40 and conversion of visas referred to in Section 33 hereof shall be jointly formulated by  
41 the Commission and the Department of Foreign Affairs and, when appropriate, the  
42 Commission and the Department of Foreign Affairs shall consult with the concerned  
43 government agencies or offices relative thereto. Any visa policy or guidelines to be  
44 implemented abroad shall be done by the Department of Foreign Affairs, with due notice to  
45 the Commission and other concerned agencies and or offices.  
46

47 **SEC. 33-B. Visa Issuance Overseas.** - All non-immigrant visas issued outside  
48 of the Philippines shall be done by Consular Officers of the Department of Foreign  
49 Affairs duly assigned at Philippine posts abroad. Immigrant visas, whenever issued abroad,

1 shall be done by the Consular Officers upon the approval of the Commission through the  
2 Department of Foreign Affairs.

## 3 4 5 **CHAPTER 2** 6 **IMMIGRANTS** 7

8 **SEC. 34. *Quota Immigrants.*** - Subject to conditions set forth in this Act, they may  
9 be admitted into the Philippines, immigrants, otherwise known as "quota immigrants", not  
10 to exceed two hundred (200) of anyone nationality based on immigration reciprocity for  
11 anyone calendar year and upon allotment by the Commissioner of the corresponding quota  
12 number. In the allotment of quota numbers, the following order of preference shall be  
13 observed:  
14

- 15 A) First Preference: Those whose service and qualifications show high  
16 educational attainment, technical training, specialized experience, or  
17 exceptional ability in the sciences, arts, professions, or business as would  
18 reasonably enhance and contribute substantial benefits prospectively to the  
19 national economy, or cultural or educational interests or welfare of the  
20 Philippines, including their family members, accompanying or following to  
21 join them, who shall likewise be allotted individual quota numbers;  
22 B) Second Preference: Parents of a naturalized Philippine citizen;  
23 C) Third Preference: Spouses or minor children of foreign nationals who are  
24 lawful permanent residents of the Philippines; and  
25 D) Fourth Preference: Parents of foreign nationals who are lawful permanent  
26 residents of the Philippines.  
27

28 **SEC 35. *Allotment of Quota.*** - The Commissioner shall, with respect to the first  
29 preference, allot not more than fifty percent (50%) of the annual quota allotment up to the  
30 end of June each year: *Provided*, however, That if the fifty percent (50%) is not utilized by  
31 the first preference, the balance thereof shall be given to the second, third, and fourth  
32 preferences in accordance with Section 34 of this Act. Any unused quota allotment for a  
33 calendar year cannot be carried over and utilized for the ensuing calendar year.  
34

35 **SEC. 36. *Basis in Determination of Quota Allotment.*** - The nationality of an  
36 immigrant whose admission is subject to the numerical limitation imposed by Section 34 of  
37 this Act shall be that of the country of which the immigrant is a national or a citizen. The  
38 nationality of an immigrant possessing dual nationality may be that of either of the two  
39 countries regarding him/her as a national : citizen if he/she applies for a visa in a third  
40 country. If he/she applies for a visa within one of the two countries regarding him/her as a  
41 national or citizen, his/her nationality shall be that of the country in which he/she files his/her  
42 application for a visa to enter the Philippines.  
43

44 **SEC. 37. *Non-Quota Immigrants.*** - The following immigrants, known as "non-  
45 quoin immigrants", may be admitted without regard to numerical limitation and  
46 immigration reciprocity:  
47

- 48 A) The spouse of a Philippine citizen: Provided, however, that the abandonment  
49 and failure to give support by a foreign spouse to his/her Filipino spouse and  
50 family, legal separation, or termination of the marital status by annulment,



1 declaration of nullity of marriage or divorce where the cause is attributable to  
2 the foreign spouse, shall constitute grounds for cancellation of the immigrant  
3 visa issued to the foreign spouse;

- 4 B) A person of Filipino descent regardless of generation;  
5 C) A child born to a foreign mother during her temporary visit abroad, the Mother  
6 being a lawful permanent resident of the Philippines, if accompanied by or  
7 coming to join the mother who applies for admission within five (5) years  
8 from the birth of the child;  
9 D) A child born subsequent to the issuance of an immigrant visa to the  
10 accompanying 4 parent, the visa not having expired or revoked;  
11 E) A foreign national who had been previously lawfully admitted into the  
12 Philippines for permanent residence who is returning from a temporary visit  
13 abroad to an relinquished residence in the Philippines; and  
14 F) A natural-born citizen who becomes a naturalized citizen of a foreign country  
15 and is returning to the Philippines for permanent residence therein, including  
16 his/her spouse, and minor children accompanying or following to join him/her,  
17 except the one who has reacquired or II retained his/her Philippine citizenship  
18 pursuant to Republic Act No. 9225.  
19

20 **SEC. 38. *Status of Children Born to Foreign Nationals.* –**

- 21 A) A child born in the Philippines to parents who are foreign nationals and lawful  
22 residents of the Philippines shall be deemed a native born permanent resident.  
23 B) A child born to parents who are both non-immigrants shall be deemed a  
24 native-born non-immigrant or temporary resident and may remain in the  
25 Philippines only during the period of authorized stay of the parents, unless  
26 he/she reaches the age of eighteen (18) years while continuously residing in  
27 the Philippines, in which case he/she may apply for naturalization under  
28 existing laws or for an appropriate visa.  
29  
30

31 **CHAPTER 3**  
32 **ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS**  
33

34 **SEC 39. *Conditions for Adjustment of Status of Foreign Nationals.*** - The status of a  
35 foreign national admitted into the Philippines as non-immigrant may be adjusted by the  
36 Board to that of a foreigner lawfully admitted as a permanent resident if: (a) the foreigner  
37 makes an application for such adjustment; (b) the foreigner is eligible to receive a quota or  
38 non-quota immigrant visa and is admissible to the Philippines as a permanent resident: and  
39 (c) a quota immigrant visa, if such is the case, is immediately available to him/her at the time  
40 of his/her application, without the need of first departing from the Philippines. In all such  
41 cases, the personal appearance of the foreigner shall be required during the  
42 consideration of his/her application.  
43

44 **SEC 40. *Effect of Approval of Application for Adjustment.*** - Upon the approval of  
45 an application for adjustment of status under the preceding section, the Commissioner  
46 shall record the foreign national's lawful admission as a permanent resident as of the date  
47 of the approval of the application and shall be included as part of the quota for the calendar  
48 year in accordance with Section 34 of this Act. .  
49

1       **SEC 41. *Adjustment of Status, When Not Allowed.*** - Adjustment of status under  
2 Section 39 of this Act shall not be applicable to (a) a foreign crewmember, (b) a foreign  
3 national who has violated or is in violation of immigration laws, rules and regulations unless  
4 the same is through no fault of his/her own or for purely technical reasons, (c) a foreign  
5 national admitted as a temporary visitor without visa, and (d) transients.

6  
7  
8                                   **CHAPTER 4**  
9                   **DOCUMENTATION AND ADMISSION OF NON-IMMIGRANTS**

10  
11       **SEC. 42. *Documentary Requirements of Non-immigrants.*** - Non-immigrants must  
12 present for admission into the Philippines valid passports issued by the governments of the  
13 countries to which they owe allegiance to or other travel documents showing their nationality  
14 and identity as prescribed by regulations and a valid visa granted by the Philippine Consular  
15 Officer, if required under existing laws, rules, regulations, or multi-lateral or bilateral  
16 agreements.

17  
18       **SEC. 43. *Conditions and Period of Authorized Stay of Temporary Visitors.*** -The  
19 initial period of authorized stay of a foreign national admitted as a temporary visitor under  
20 Section 33 of this Act shall not exceed two (2) months from the date of arrival. Extensions of  
21 authorized stay may be granted under terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the  
22 Commissioner; *Provided*, That the total period of authorized stay shall not exceed twenty-  
23 four (24) months; *Provided, Further*, That during the foreign national's authorized stay; (a)  
24 he/she shall not take any employment, whether paid or unpaid; (b) he/she shall not establish  
25 or join in any business; or (c) he/she shall not enroll and become a student at a school,  
26 college, university, academy, or other educational institution, unless he/she is granted,  
27 upon proper application, a conversion to another immigration status provided under this  
28 Act.

29  
30       **SEC. 44. *Conditions for Issuance of Pre-arranged Visas.*** - A foreigner who is  
31 coming to the Philippines for prearranged employment shall not be issued a non-immigrant  
32 visa referred to in Section 33 (g) until the Consular Officer shall have received authorization  
33 for the issuance of the same. Such authorization shall be given only upon the filing of a  
34 petition with the Board establishing, among others, that no person can be found in the  
35 Philippines willing and competent to perform the work or service for which the foreigner is  
36 desired and that his/her admission would be beneficial to the public interest. The petition  
37 shall be under oath by the prospective Employer or his/her representative in the form and  
38 manner prescribed by the Board. If the Board finds that the petition complies with the  
39 requirements of the preceding paragraph and of other regulations, it shall grant the petition  
40 and shall promptly transmit the authorization to the Department of Foreign Affairs and/  
41 or the Consular Office concerned.

42  
43       **SEC. 45. *Submission of Crew List and Passenger Manifest to the Commission.*** -  
44 Simultaneous to the vessel's departure from the port of origin, the master, captain, agent,  
45 owner or consignee of any commercial vessel arriving to the Philippines shall submit  
46 to the Commission, within a reasonable time prior to such arrival, the crew lists, passenger  
47 manifests and such other information concerning the persons arriving on such a vessel. In the  
48 same manner and condition, the master, captain, agent, owner or consignee of any  
49 commercial vessel departing from any port in the Philippines shall submit to the Commission,  
50 within a reasonable time prior to such departure, the crew list, passenger manifest and such

1 other information concerning the persons departing on such vessel. The crew list of an  
2 incoming sea craft shall be duly vessel's by the appropriate Consular Officer.

3  
4 **SEC. 46. *Inspection of Crewmembers.*** - It shall be the duty of the master, captain,  
5 agent, owner or consignee of any vessel arriving in the Philippines to have available on  
6 board, for inspection by the Immigration Officer, any foreign crewmember employed on such  
7 vessel and to detain such crewmember on board after inspection and to remove such  
8 crewmember when required by the immigration authorities. No crewmember on board such  
9 vessel shall be discharged while the vessel is in port, without the permission of the  
10 Commissioner.

11  
12 **SEC. 47. *Permission for Temporary Landing of a Foreign Crewmember.*** - A  
13 foreign crewmember on a vessel arriving in the Philippines may be permitted to land  
14 temporarily under such conditions as may be prescribed by the Commissioner. All expenses  
15 incurred by the Commission while the crewmember is on land shall be borne by the master,  
16 captain, agent, owner or consignee of the carrying vessel.

## 17 18 19 **CHAPTERS 5** 20 **REFUGEE STATUS** 21

22 **SEC. 48. *Grant of Refugee Status.*** - Persons seeking refugee status may apply for  
23 recognition as a refugee upon seeking admission at any port of entry or within a reasonable  
24 time thereafter. Refugee status shall be granted after a determination by the Board that an  
25 applicant meets the qualifications of a refugee as defined in Section 3(z) hereof. Refugee  
26 status shall not be granted to an applicant if he/she:

- 27  
28 A) Has committed a crime against peace, a war crime, crime against humanity or  
29 any other crime under international law;  
30 B) Has committed a serious non-political crime outside the Philippines prior to its  
31 admission as a refugee; or  
32 C) Has been guilty of an act contrary to the purposes and principles of the United  
33 Nations.  
34

35 **SEC. 49. *Cessation of Refugee Status.*** - Refugee status granted under the previous  
36 section shall cease if a refugee:

- 37  
38 A) Voluntarily repatriates himself/herself or has re-established himself/herself in  
39 another State;  
40 B) Acquired a new nationality and enjoys the protection of such a State; or  
41 C) Can no longer continue to refuse to avail the protection of the country of  
42 his/her nationality or, not having a nationality, is able to return to the  
43 country of former habitual residence in view of the cessation of the reasons  
44 that resulted to his/her being refugee: *Provided*, That this ground shall not  
45 apply if a refugee is able to invoke compelling reasons arising out of the  
46 previous persecution.  
47

48 **SEC 50. *Effect of Grant of Refugee Status to Refugee Dependents.*** - A spouse,  
49 minor child, and other dependents of a foreigner who is granted a refugee status may, if not

1 otherwise eligible under Section 48, be granted the same status as the refugee to assure family  
2 unity or when it is in the public interest.  
3

4 **SEC 51. Confidentiality of Information.** - In proceedings for the recognition of  
5 refugee status, the confidentiality of information shall be respected and no information  
6 relating to the refugee shall be shared with the country of origin or country of former habitual  
7 residence, directly or indirectly.  
8

9 **SEC 52. Burden of Proof.** - In proceedings for the recognition of refugee status, the  
10 burden of proof lies with the applicant, subject to the principle of non-refoulement.  
11

12 **SEC 53. Stay of Exclusion or Deportation.** - Notwithstanding the provisions of  
13 Sections 78 and 86, the exclusion from entry and deportation of a foreigner shall be stayed  
14 during the pendency of an application for refugee status. Where grounds under Section 78 are  
15 present, the refugee shall be allowed entry and the application shall be immediately  
16 referred by the Immigration Officer to the Board.  
17

18 **SEC 54. Detention of Refugee.** - Detention of applicants for refugee status shall only  
19 be resorted to in cases arising out of illegal entry or unauthorized stay after consideration of  
20 other alternatives, as may be determined by the Commissioner.  
21  
22

## 23 **CHAPTER 6** 24 **DOCUMENTATION AND ADMISSION OF IMMIGRANTS** 25

26 **SEC 55. Documentary Requirements of Immigrants; Instances When Not**  
27 **Required.** - Immigrants must present for admission into the Philippines valid passports or  
28 travel documents issued by the government of the country to which they owe allegiance,  
29 showing their nationality and identity and valid visas issued by the Consular Officer  
30 indicating the date of issue and the period of validity thereof. Immigrant visas shall not be  
31 required of the following:  
32

- 33 A) A child born subsequent to the issuance of a valid immigrant visa to  
34 the accompanying parent;
- 35 B) A child born during the temporary visit abroad of the mother who is a  
36 lawful permanent resident of the Philippines and a holder of a valid reentry  
37 permit, if the child is accompanied by either parent within five (5) years from  
38 the date of the child's birth; and
- 39 C) A foreigner who is returning to an unrelinquished lawful permanent residence  
40 in the Philippines after a temporary residence abroad and presents for  
41 admission a valid re-entry permit.  
42  
43

## 44 **CHAPTER 7** 45 **VISA ISSUANCE** 46

47 **SEC. 56. Nature of Visa.** - Nothing in this Act shall be construed to automatically  
48 entitle any foreign national to whom a visa or other travel document has been issued to enter  
49 the Philippines if, upon arrival at a port of entry, he/she is found to be inadmissible under this  
50 Act or any other law.

1  
2       **SEC. 57. Requirement of Issuance of Visa.** - Under the conditions and subject to the  
3 limitations prescribed in this Act or regulations issued hereunder, the Commissioner may  
4 approve the issuance of an immigrant visa upon the recommendation of a Consular  
5 Officer in the following manner:  
6

- 7       A)     An immigrant visa may only be issued to a foreign national who has made a  
8 proper application therefor, which shall specify the foreign country, if any, to  
9 which the quota the number is assigned, the immigrant's particular status in  
10 such country, the preference to which the foreigner is classified, the date on  
11 which the validity of the visa shall expire, and such additional information as  
12 may be required;  
13       B)     The Department of Foreign Affairs, through its Consular Office abroad and  
14 through the Office of the Visa Director, shall approve the issuance of a non-  
15 immigrant visa to a foreign national who has made a proper application  
16 therefor in accordance with Section 33 of this Act.  
17

18       All diplomatic visas under Section 33 (e) of this Act shall be exclusively  
19 issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs in accordance with the Vienna Convention  
20 on Diplomatic Relations. All other non-immigrant visas under Section 33 shall be issued  
21 by the Consular Officer, when the application is made abroad, or may be issued by the Office  
22 of the Visa Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs, when the application is made in  
23 the Philippines for conversion or renewal. The issuance of special non-immigrant visas  
24 falling under the jurisdiction of a particular government office or agency can only be done in  
25 coordination with and upon recommendation of the government agency or office concerned.  
26

27       **SEC. 58. Requirements for Physical and/or Mental Examination Prior to Issuance**  
28 **of Immigrant Visa.** - Prior to the issuance of an immigrant visa to any foreign national, the  
29 Consular Officer shall require such person to submit to a physical and mental examination in  
30 accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed by the Commissioner. In addition,  
31 said foreign national shall be required to personally plant fifty (50) trees, except when he/she  
32 is physically incapable of doing so, in which case, he/she may cause another person to plant  
33 the trees.  
34

35       **SEC. 59. Validity of Visa.** - A non-immigrant or immigrant visa issued by a Consular  
36 Officer abroad pursuant to Section 57 of this Act shall be valid for a period not exceeding six  
37 (6) months. In prescribing the period of validity of a non-immigrant visa, the Consular  
38 Officer shall, insofar as practicable, accord to such nationals the same treatment on a  
39 reciprocal basis as such foreign country accords to citizens of the Philippines who are  
40 within a similar class. An immigrant visa may be replaced under the original number  
41 during the calendar year in which the original visa was issued for a foreigner who establishes  
42 to the satisfaction of the Consular Officer that he/she was unable to use the original  
43 immigrant visa during the period of its validity for reasons beyond his/her control: *Provided,*  
44 That the foreign national is found by the Consular Officer to be eligible for another  
45 immigrant visa and has paid all the fees.  
46

47       **SEC. 60. Denial of Visa, Grounds Thereof.** - The Consular Officer may deny the  
48 Application for visa (a) if it appears from the statements in the application or in the  
49 documents submitted the applicant is not entitled to a visa under this Act; or (b) if he/she fails  
50 to comply with the requirements of the provisions of this Act.

1       **SEC. 61. *Revocation of Visa Issued by Consular Officer.*** - The Commissioner may,  
2 for valid cause and upon confirmation of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, revoke the visa  
3 issued by any Philippine Consular Office. If the notice of revocation is not received and the  
4 visa holder applies for admission into the Philippines, his/her admission or entry shall be  
5 determined by the Immigration Officer upon his/her arrival' at the port of entry.  
6  
7

8                                   **CHAPTERS 8**  
9                                   **RE-ENTRY AND EMIGRATION CLEARANCE**  
10

11       **SEC. 62. *Re-entry.*** - Every time a registered foreign national, except a temporary  
12 visitor, departs or is about to depart temporarily from the Philippines with the intention to  
13 return, he/she must pay a re-entry fee, emigration clearance fee and head fee: *Provided*, That  
14 said foreign national returns to the Philippines within a period of one (1) year from his/her  
15 departure in order to maintain his/her visa category. Otherwise, he/she shall apply for an  
16 extension of the period within which to return prior to its expiration and pay the prescribed  
17 fees and charges therefor: *Provided, further*, That if his/her authorized stay is less than one (1)  
18 year, he/she shall pay a special return fee, emigration clearance fee and head fee for every  
19 departure: *Provided, finally*, That in both cases, if the registered foreign national  
20 departs permanently from the Philippines, he/she shall surrender all his/her Philippine  
21 immigration documents to the Commission and apply for and be issued an Emigration  
22 Clearance Certificate upon payment of the prescribed fees and charges therefor, subject to the  
23 following conditions:

- 24       A)    He/she has no pending obligation with the government or any of its agencies  
25              or instrumentalities;  
26       B)    He/she has no pending criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding which  
27              requires his continued presence in the country; and  
28       C)    There is no ongoing legislative inquiry where he/she is called upon to testify  
29              as a witness.  
30

31       **SEC. 63. *Emigration Clearance.*** - Any temporary visitor departing from the  
32 Philippines shall, after the expiration of his/her initial authorized stay, apply for emigration  
33 clearance with the Commission and pay the prescribed fees and charges therefor.  
34  
35

36                                   **CHAPTER 9**  
37                                   **PRESIDENTIAL PREROGATIVES**  
38

39       **SEC. 64. *Presidential Prerogatives.*** - Any provision of this Act to the contrary  
40 notwithstanding, the President may:  
41

- 42       A)    Deny the entry and admission into the Philippines of any foreign national or a  
43              class of foreign nationals whenever the President finds that the entry would be  
44              detrimental to the interest of the Philippines or impose such restrictions  
45              as he/she may deem appropriate;  
46       B)    Waive passport and/or documentary requirements for non-immigrants and  
47              immigrants under such terms and conditions as he/she may prescribe;  
48       C)    Change the status of non-immigrants by allowing them to acquire  
49              permanent residence status without necessity of a visa;  
50       D)    Deport any foreign national, subject to the requirement of due process;

- 1 E) Admit non-immigrants not otherwise provided for in this Act for  
2 Humanitarian considerations and when not detrimental to public interest,  
3 under such terms and conditions as he/she may prescribe;  
4 F) Prohibit the departure from the Philippines of any person who is likely to  
5 disclose national security information, or who is likely to organize a rebellion  
6 abroad against the Philippines, or whose presence in the country is necessary  
7 to face, or be a witness in, criminal proceedings; and  
8 G) Exercise, with respect to foreign nationals in the Philippines, such powers as  
9 are recognized by the generally accepted principles of international law.  
10  
11

12 **TITLE IV**  
13 **PROVISIONS RELATING TO ENTRY**  
14 **CHAPTER 1**  
15 **CLASSIFICATION OF PORTS OF ENTRY**  
16

17 **SEC. 65. *Authority to Classify Ports.*** - The Commissioner shall classify and  
18 designate, from among the ports of entry established by law for immigration purposes,  
19 limited or unlimited ports of entry through which foreigners may be admitted into the  
20 Philippines. Only such classes of foreigners as provided under the rules and regulations  
21 prescribed by the Commissioner may be admitted at limited ports of entry. The  
22 Commissioner may, after due notice to the public, close designated ports of entry in the  
23 interest of national security or public safety.  
24  
25

26 **CHAPTER 2**  
27 **PROCEDURES ON ARRIVAL**  
28

29 **SEC. 66. *Inspection by Immigration Officer.*** - A foreigner seeking admission or  
30 readmission shall present his/her valid passport and visa, if required, to the immigration  
31 officer at the port of entry and shall be subject to primary inspection. The decision of the  
32 examining Immigration Officer, if favorable to the admission of any foreigner, may be  
33 challenged by another Immigration Officer. The final determination of admissibility of such  
34 foreigner shall be determined by the Commissioner in case no resolution is reached between  
35 the Immigration Officers on the challenged admission. In case of admission, the Immigration  
36 Officer shall indicate in the passport the date, the port of entry and the identity of the vessel  
37 boarded.  
38

39 **SEC. 67. *Detention or Quarantine for Examination.*** - For the purpose of  
40 determining whether a foreigner arriving at any port in the Philippines belongs to any of the  
41 classes excludable under this Act by reason of being afflicted with any of the contagious or  
42 communicable disease or mental disorder set forth under Section 78 (a) of this Act or  
43 whenever the Commissioner has received information showing that foreigners are coming  
44 from a country or a place where any of such diseases are prevalent or widespread, the  
45 foreigner shall be detained or quarantined for a reasonable period of time to enable the  
46 immigration and medical officers to subject such person to observation and examination.  
47

48 **SEC. 68. *Medical Examination Requirement.*** - Any arriving foreign national whom  
49 the examining Immigration Officer believes to belong under the class of excludable foreign  
50 nationals specified in Section 78(a) herein shall be referred to designated medical officers for

1 physical and mental examination. Such medical officer shall certify his/her findings for the  
2 information of the Immigration Officer.  
3

4 **SEC. 69. Arrival Notice Requirements of Vessel.** - The immigration authorities shall  
5 be given prior notice of the arrival of any civilian vessel before such vessel comes into any  
6 area in the Philippines from any place outside thereof. Such prior notice shall not be required  
7 in the case of vessels with scheduled arrivals filed with the Immigration Officer in charge at  
8 the international port of entry. If, upon arrival in any area other than the designated port and  
9 there is no available Immigration Officer therein, the master, pilot, captain, agent or  
10 consignee shall not allow the passengers and crew members to disembark or leave the  
11 primary inspection area until the immigration officer shall have conducted the primary  
12 inspection formalities.  
13

14 **SEC. 70. Contents of Notice of Arrival.** - The advance notice of arrival required in  
15 the preceding section shall specify the following:

- 16 A) Type of vessel and registration marks;
- 17 B) Visaed crewlist;
- 18 C) Passenger manifest;
- 19 D) Port of last departure;
- 20 E) International port of intended destination, or other place authorized by  
21 the Commissioner;
- 22 F) Estimated time of arrival; and
- 23 G) Authorized agent or representative at the place of arrival.  
24  
25

### 26 CHAPTER 3 27 FOREIGN CREWMEMBER 28

29 **SEC. 71. Conditional Permit to Disembark.** - A foreign crewmember of a vessel  
30 under Section 33 (c) of this Act may be granted a conditional permit, in a form prescribed by  
31 regulations, to disembark temporarily from the vessel on which he/she arrived while such  
32 vessel remains in port under such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the  
33 Commissioner.  
34

35 **SEC. 72. Confiscation and Cancellation of Permit; Deportation from the**  
36 **Philippines.** - Upon the determination that the foreigner is not a Bona Fide crewmember or  
37 does not intend to depart on the vessel that brought him, the Commissioner shall cancel  
38 and confiscate the conditional permit already issued, take such foreigner into custody,  
39 and require the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee of the vessel on  
40 which the foreigner arrived to receive and detain him/her on board. The expenses for his/her  
41 removal, including the cost of detention and other expenses incidental thereto, shall be borne  
42 by the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee of such vessel.  
43

44 **SEC. 73. Liability for Overstaying Foreign Crewmen.** - A foreign crewmember who  
45 remains in the Philippines in excess of the period allowed in the conditional permit issued to  
46 him shall be solidarity liable with the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or  
47 consignee of the vessel to pay the penalties prescribed in Section 126 of this Act.  
48

49 **SEC. 74. Liability for Unauthorized Discharge of Foreign Crewmember.** - It may  
50 be prescribed under this Act. No such vessel shall be granted clearance from any port in the



Philippines while such fines remain unpaid or while the validity thereof is being determined: *Provided*, That a clearance may be granted prior to such determination upon deposit of a sum or cash bond sufficient to cover such fines as approved by the Commissioner.

**SEC. 75. Duty to Report Desertion or Illegal Landing of Foreign Crewmember.** - The owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee of any vessel shall immediately report, in writing, to the immigration officer all cases of desertion or illegal disembarkation in the Philippines from the vessel, together with a description of such foreigners and any information that shall result in their apprehension.

**SEC 76. Requirement for Submission of List of Newly Employed, Discharged and Illegally Landed Foreign Crewmember.** - Prior to the departure of any vessel from the last port in the Philippines destined to any place outside thereof, the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee thereof shall deliver to the Immigration Officer at that port a list containing: (a) the names of crewmembers who were not employed thereon at the time of the vessel's arrival on such port but will depart thereat on the same vessel; (b) the names of those, if any, who have been discharged; (c) the names of those who have deserted or illegally landed at that port, if any; and (d) such other additional information as the Commissioner deems necessary.

**SEC 77. Liability for Failure to Submit Complete, True and Correct Report.** - In case the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent, or consignee, fails to submit a true and complete list or report of foreigners, or to report cases of desertion or illegal landing, he/she shall pay to the Commission such sum as may be prescribed under this Act. No such vessel shall be granted clearance from any port in the Philippines while such fines remain unpaid or while the validity thereof is being determined: *Provided*, That clearance may be granted prior to such determination upon deposit of a sum or cash bond sufficient to cover such fines as approved by the Commissioner.

#### CHAPTER 4 EXCLUSIONS

**SEC 78. Exclusion Grounds.** -The following classes of foreign nationals shall not be allowed entry and shall be excluded from the Philippines:

A) Health Related Grounds

- 1) Those who are found to be suffering from a communicable, dangerous or contagious disease;
- 2) Those who are found to be suffering from mental disorder or associated behavior that may pose threat to persons or danger to property;
- 3) Those who are found to be suffering from addiction to prohibited or regulated substance;

B) Economic Grounds

- 1) Those likely to become a public charge;
- 2) Those seeking entry for the purpose of performing skilled or unskilled labor, without a permit from the Secretary of the Department of Labor and employment as required by law;

C) Moral Grounds

- 1) Those coming to the Philippines to practice polygamy or who advocate the practice of polygamy unless his/her religion allows such practices;
  - 2) Those who are pedophiles, sexual perverts or those coming to the Philippines for immoral purposes;
  - 3) Those who are engaged or who seek to engage in prostitution or to procure or attempt to procure prostitutes, or who receives in whole or in part the proceeds of prostitution;
  - 4) Those who, at the time of primary inspection, by the Immigration Officer exhibit any obnoxious behavior, contempt or disrespect for the said officer or any government official or Commission;
- D) Criminal and Security Grounds
- 1) Those who have been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude or who admit to the Immigration Officer having committed such crime, or who attempt and conspire to commit the crime;
  - 2) Those who have been convicted, or who admit having committed, or are committing acts which constitute the elements of a violation or conspiracy to violate any law or regulation of the Philippines or a foreign country relating to a controlled, regulated or prohibited substance, or who attempt or conspire to commit the crime;
  - 3) Those that the Philippine Government knows or has reason to believe is a trafficker of any controlled, regulated. or prohibited substance or knows or has reason to believe is or has been an accomplice, accessory, abettor, or co-conspirator in the illicit trafficking of any controlled, regulated or prohibited substance;
  - 4) Those who are fugitives from justice;
  - 5) Those who seek to enter the Philippines to engage in:
    - a. Espionage or sabotage, or a violation or evasion of any laws prohibiting export of goods, technology or sensitive information;
    - b. Any activity aimed to promote membership in an organization of syndicated criminal activities;
    - c. Any activity, the purpose of which is to overthrow the Philippine government by force, violence or other unlawful means; and
    - d. Any other unlawful activity.
  - 6) Those who are engaged or believed to be engaged or likely to engage in, aid, abet or finance any terrorist activity and members or representatives of a foreign terrorist organization;
  - 7) Those who have been identified by competent authorities, local or foreign, as having engaged or are engaging in human trafficking and smuggling;
  - 8) Those who are under fifteen (15) years of age and unaccompanied by or not coming to a parent, except that they may be admitted in the discretion of the Commissioner, if otherwise admissible; and
  - 9) Those who have been identified by competent authorities, local and foreign, as having engaged or are engaging in importation of contra bands and other prohibited articles into the country.

**SEC. 7S-A. *Minor Persons/ Minority.*** - Persons under fifteen (15) years of age, and not accompanied by or not coming to a parent, may be admitted: *Provided*, That the written

1 consent of either parent allowing them to travel is presented. The written consent must cite  
2 the purpose of the travel and must be affirmed by the Philippine Consular post in the minor's  
3 country of origin.  
4

5 **SEC. 79. *Temporary Detention of Excludable Foreigners.*** - For the purpose of  
6 ascertaining whether a foreigner arriving in the Philippines belongs to any of the excludable  
7 classes of foreigners provided for in this Act or related laws, the Immigration Officer,  
8 for a period not exceeding seventy-two (72) hours, may temporarily detain for  
9 investigation such foreigner either on board the vessel or at a place designated for the purpose  
10 at the expense of the master, captain, agent, owner or consignee of the carrying vessel.  
11

12 **SEC. 80. *Finality of Exclusion Order.*** - An order by the Immigration Officer to  
13 exclude a foreign national who is excludable under Section 78 hereof is final and executory  
14 unless revoked by the Commissioner upon a timely appeal prior to the implementation of the  
15 exclusion order.  
16

17 **SEC. 81. *Authority to Waive Grounds for Exclusion.*** - Except for grounds of  
18 exclusion under Section 78(d), subparagraphs 1 to 8 and subparagraph 9, the Commissioner  
19 may waive any of the grounds for exclusion mentioned therein.  
20

21 **SEC. 82. *Procedure of Removal and Cost Thereof.*** - Any foreign national arriving in  
22 the Philippines who is ordered excluded shall be immediately removed in the same arrived,  
23 unless the Commissioner determines that immediate removal is not proper and practicable.  
24 The cost of detention and other expenses incidental thereto shall be borne by the owner,  
25 operator, master, pilot, captain, agent or consignee of the vessel on which he/she arrived.  
26

27 **SEC. 83. *Country Where Removal is to be Directed.*** - If the government of the  
28 country designated in the preceding section will not accept the foreign national into its  
29 territory, his/her removal shall be directed by the Commissioner in his/her discretion and  
30 without necessarily giving preference, either to:  
31

- 32 A) The country which he/she is a citizen or national;  
33 B) The country of birth;  
34 C) The country of his/her habitual residence; or  
35 D) The country willing to accept the foreign national into its territory, if removal  
36 to any of the foregoing countries is impractical or impossible.  
37

38 **SEC. 84. *Obligation of Owner, Operator, Master, Captain, Pilot, Agent or***  
39 ***Consignee.*** - It shall be unlawful for an owner, operator, master, captain, pilot, agent, or  
40 consignee of a vessel to refuse or fail to:  
41

- 42 A) Board a foreigner, ordered, excluded and removed under Section 78 hereof in  
43 the same vessel or another vessel owned or operated by the same company;  
44 B) Detain a foreign national on board any such vessel at the port of arrival when  
45 required by this Act or when so ordered by an Immigration Officer;  
46 C) Deliver a foreign national for medical or other examinations when so ordered  
47 by such officer;  
48 D) Remove a foreign national from the Philippines to the country to which his/  
49 her removal has been directed; or

- 1 E) Pay the cost of detention and other expenses incidental thereto of a foreign  
2 national incurred while being detained as required by Section 82 of this  
3 Act or other costs necessary or incidental to his removal as provided in this  
4 Act.  
5

6 **SEC. 85. *Penalty for Non-compliance of Obligation.*** - The owner, operator,  
7 master, captain, pilot, agent, or consignee of a vessel who violated Section 84 hereof shall  
8 pay the fines prescribed under this Act. No such vessel shall be granted clearance from any  
9 port in the Philippines while such fines remain unpaid or while the validity thereof is being  
10 determined: *Provided*, That clearance may be granted prior to such determination upon  
11 deposit of a sum or cash bond sufficient to cover such fines as approved by the  
12 Commissioner.  
13  
14

15 **TITLE V**  
16 **DEPORTATION**  
17 **CHAPTER 1**  
18

19 **SEC. 86. *Classes of Deportable Foreigners.*** - The following foreigners shall be  
20 arrested upon the order of the Commissioner and deported upon recommendation by the  
21 Board of Special Inquiry and approval by the Board:  
22

- 23 A) Those that entered the Philippines by means of false and misleading  
24 statements or documents, misrepresentations or without inspection and  
25 admission by the immigration authorities;  
26 B) Those that entered the Philippines who were not lawfully admissible at the  
27 time of entry;  
28 C) Those who engage, abet or aid in the practice of prostitution including the  
29 owner, manager or inmates of a house of prostitution or are procurers,  
30 pedophiles or sexual perverts;  
31 D) Those who, at any time after the date of entry, have become a public charge;  
32 E) Those who remain in the Philippines in violation of any period of  
33 limitation or condition under which they were admitted;  
34 F) Those who believe in, advise, advocate or teach the overthrowing by force  
35 and violence of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, or  
36 duly constituted authority, or those who do not believe in or are opposed to  
37 organized governments, or those who advise, advocate or teach the assault or  
38 assassination of public officials by Reason of their office, or those who advise,  
39 advocate or teach the unlawful destruction of property, or those who are  
40 members of or affiliated with any organization entertaining, advocating or  
41 teaching such doctrines, or those who in any manner whatsoever extend  
42 assistance, financial or otherwise, in the dissemination of such doctrines;  
43 G) Those who, at any time after entry, engage in, abet, aid or finance any  
44 terrorist activity;  
45 H) Those who commit any violation of the provisions of this Act, independent of  
46 any criminal action which may be brought against them: *Provided, however*,  
47 that in the case of a foreigner who, for any reason, is convicted and  
48 sentenced to suffer both imprisonment and deportation, said foreigner shall  
49 first serve the entire period of his/her sentence before being deported:  
50 *Provided, further*, That the penalty of imprisonment may be waived by the

1 President upon payment by the foreigner concerned of such costs, fines and/ or  
2 damages, if any, awarded to the government or any aggrieved party; (i) Those  
3 who, at any time after entry, are engaged in acts or omissions punishable  
4 under Philippine penal laws cognizable by the Regional Trial Courts and the  
5 Sandiganbayan;

- 6 I) Those who, at any time after entry, are convicted by final judgment of a  
7 crime punishable under Philippine penal laws cognizable by the first level  
8 courts;
- 9 J) Those who are guilty of any offense penalized under the naturalization laws of  
10 the Philippines or any law relating to the acquisition of Philippine citizenship;
- 11 K) Those who defraud their creditors by absconding or alienating properties to  
12 prevent their attachment or execution;
- 13 L) Those who were admitted as non-immigrants and who obtained an adjustment  
14 of their admission status for convenience, or through fraud, falsification of  
15 documents, misrepresentations or concealment of material facts;
- 16 M) Those who violated Philippine labor and taxation laws, rules and regulations;
- 17 N) Those who, upon prior investigation and hearing, are found to be undesirable  
18 and whose further stay in the Philippines is inimical to public welfare and  
19 interest, or the dignity of the Filipinos, or the Republic of the Philippines as a  
20 sovereign nation;
- 21 O) Those who forge, counterfeit, alter or falsely make any document; or use,  
22 attempt to use, possess, obtain, accept or receive or provide any forged,  
23 counterfeit, altered or falsely made document; or use, attempt to use, provide,  
24 attempt to provide, accept or receive a genuine document, even of another  
25 person, without authority to do so for the purpose of satisfying or complying  
26 with the requirements for his/her stay in the Philippines; and
- 27 P) Those whose presence or activities in the country may result in adverse  
28 consequences to Philippine foreign policies as determined by the Secretary of  
29 Foreign Affairs,  
30

31 **SEC. 87. *Non-Prescription of Deportation Cases.*** - The right of the State to initiate  
32 at any time deportation proceedings shall not prescribe: *Provided, that* no deportation  
33 proceedings and orders shall be had against foreigners facing preliminary investigation,  
34 prosecution and trial before competent authorities.  
35  
36

## 37 **CHAPTER 2**

### 38 **DETENTION AND DEPORTATION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS**

39

40 **SEC. 88. *Issuance of Summons.*** - If the Commissioner determines that there exists a  
41 reasonable ground to deport a foreigner pursuant to Section 86 of this Act, he/she may issue  
42 summons requiring the foreigner to appear in person before the designated investigating  
43 officer at the time, date and place stated therein.  
44

45 **SEC. 89. *Authority to Issue Letter Order.*** - The Commissioner may issue a letter  
46 order for the detention of a foreigner if he/she determines that a probable cause exists for the  
47 filing of deportation charges against a foreigner for violation of immigration and other related  
48 laws, rules and regulations or there is a strong probability that a deportable foreigner may flee  
49 from his/her place of abode, go into hiding or surreptitiously leave the country.  
50

1       **SEC. 90. Formal Charge of Deportation.** - A formal charge for deportation shall be  
2 issued upon determination of the existence of a prima facie case against the foreigner.  
3 Pending final determination of his/her deportation case, the foreigner shall, upon the  
4 discretion of the Commissioner: (a) remain under detention; or (b) be released on bail or  
5 recognizance. The bail may be revoked and confiscated in favor of the government if there is  
6 sufficient evidence that the foreigner is evading the proceedings or is attempting to abscond,  
7 in which case he/she shall be taken into custody and placed under detention by order of the  
8 Commissioner.  
9

10       **SEC. 91. Detention of a Foreigner Convicted of a Felony or an Offense.** - After  
11 service of his/her sentence or compliance with the conditions of his/her parole or probation,  
12 as the case may be, the foreigner shall be taken into custody and placed under detention by  
13 order of the Commissioner. Pending final determination of the deportation case, the foreigner  
14 may be ordered released under such terms and conditions prescribed by the Commissioner.  
15

16       **SEC. 92. Voluntary Deportation, When Authorized.** - In case the foreigner does not  
17 contest the formal charge against him/her and opts to voluntarily leave the country at his/her  
18 own expense, the Commissioner may waive the deportation proceedings and order the  
19 departure within the period specified in the voluntary deportation order, except in cases of  
20 violations of laws such as Republic Act No. 8042 otherwise known as the "Migrant Workers  
21 and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995": *Provided*, That he/she has not committed any criminal  
22 offense or has no pending case in court: *Provided, further*, that the said foreigner so deported  
23 shall be barred from re-entering the country without prior written authorization from the  
24 Commissioner.  
25

26       **SEC. 93. Contents of an Order or Warrant of Deportation.** - The order or warrant of  
27 deportation shall be in the form prescribed by the Commissioner and shall state the grounds  
28 therefor, the specific place where the foreigner is to be deported and the period within which  
29 to execute such order.  
30

31       **SEC. 94. Period to Enforce Order of Deportation.** - The order of deportation shall  
32 be enforced immediately but in no case shall exceed three (3) months from the date it has  
33 become final and executory. If deportation is not enforced within the prescribed period for  
34 reasons beyond the control of the Commissioner, the foreigner shall remain in custody.  
35

36       **SEC. 95. Suspension of Deportation Order.** - Upon application and payment of the  
37 prescribed fees by the concerned foreigner, the Commissioner may suspend the  
38 implementation of the deportation order and order his/her release for good cause, taking  
39 into account the following factors:  
40

- 41       A) Age, health, family or conduct;
- 42       B) Period of detention;
- 43       C) Impact on national security and public welfare;
- 44       D) Unavailability of travel documents;
- 45       E) Existence of an application for refugee status; or
- 46       F) Other humanitarian considerations.  
47

48       **SEC. 96. Reinstatement of a Deportation Order.** - A deportation order previously  
49 implemented against a foreigner who unlawfully re-entered the Philippines shall be deemed

1 automatically reinstated and shall be implemented in accordance with this Act. This provision  
2 shall also apply to a foreigner who departed voluntarily under Section 92 hereof.

3  
4 **SEC. 97. *Country of Destination of a Deportee.*** - Except as provided for under  
5 existing treaty or international agreement, a foreigner shall be deported to the country of  
6 which he/she is a citizen or national, or to the country of his/her birth, or to the country of  
7 which he/she is a resident, or to the country from which he/she embarked for the Philippines,  
8 subject to the acceptance by the receiving country.

9  
10 **SEC. 98. *Existence of Danger in the Country Where a Foreigner is to be Deported.***  
11 - No foreigner shall be deported to a country where there exists a danger to his/her life or  
12 freedom on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a  
13 particular political or social group, except in the following circumstances:

- 14  
15 A) The foreigner participated, induced or cooperated in the persecution of any  
16 person on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or  
17 membership in a particular political or social group in the country where  
18 he/she is to be deported;  
19 B) The foreigner is a fugitive from justice in the country where he/she is to be  
20 deported;  
21 C) The foreigner committed a serious non-political crime in the country where  
22 he/she is to be deported; or  
23 D) The foreigner is undesirable in and/or a danger to the national security of the  
24 Philippines.

25  
26 **SEC. 99. *Cost of Deportation.*** - The cost of deportation shall be borne by the owner,  
27 operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee of a vessel in case its foreign crewmember  
28 is to be deported for violation of Section 100 of this Act. In all other cases, the Cost of  
29 deportation shall be borne by the deportee himself/herself, the concerned consular office,  
30 nongovernment organizations or people's organizations with which the Commission has an  
31 agreement on this matter, or from the appropriations for the enforcement of this Act.

32  
33 **SEC. 100. *Liability of Owner, Operator, Captain, Master, Pilot, Agent or***  
34 ***Consignee of a Vessel.*** - Failure or refusal on the part of the owner, operator, captain, master,  
35 pilot, agent or consignee of a vessel to take on board, guard safely and transport the deportee  
36 to his/her country of destination, or to shoulder the cost of deportation of the foreign crew  
37 member as provided in Section 99 hereof, shall be punished by an administrative penalty  
38 prescribed under this Act.

39  
40 **SEC. 101. *Expenses of Accompanying Person.*** - The Commissioner may, by reason  
41 of the mental or physical condition of the deportee, direct an employee of the Commission  
42 to accompany such deportee to the country of his/her destination, subject to the provisions of  
43 the immediately preceding sections.

44  
45  
46 **CHAPTER 3**  
47 **INDIGENT FOREIGNERS**  
48

49 **SEC. 102. *Deportation of Indigent Foreigners.*** - At any time after entry, the  
50 Commissioner may deport indigent foreigners from the Philippines to the country of which

1 they are citizens or nationals, or country of birth, or country of residence, as the case may be.  
2 The cost of deportation may be charged against the available funds of the Commission. Any  
3 foreigner deported under this section shall be barred re-admission except upon written  
4 authorization of the Commissioner.

5  
6 This provision shall not apply to a foreigner declared as an indigent by any Philippine  
7 court for purposes of filing a case or to pursue a cause of action which resulted in his/her  
8 indigency until such action is resolved with finality: *Provided*, that no other grounds  
9 for deportation exist during the pendency of the same.

10  
11  
12 **TITLE VI**  
13 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**  
14 **CHAPTER 1**  
15 **REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS**  
16

17 **SEC. 103. *Requirement of Registration.*** - A temporary foreign visitor must register  
18 with the Commission or any Immigration Office nearest his/her place of residence on or  
19 before the sixtieth (60th) day of his/her arrival in the Philippines.  
20

21 **SEC. 104. *Registration Form and Oath.*** - Applications for registration shall be  
22 under oath and in such form as prescribed by the Commission. Upon registration, a certificate  
23 of registration shall be issued by the Commission to the registrant. In case of loss or  
24 destruction of the certificate, a replacement thereof may be issued by the Commission upon  
25 proper application and payment of prescribed fees.  
26

27 **SEC. 105. *Amendment of Registration.*** - A registered foreign national shall notify  
28 the Commission in writing of any change of information in his/her registration documents not  
29 later than seven (7) days thereof.  
30

31 **SEC. 106. *Presentation of Certificate of Registration.*** - Every foreigner required to  
32 register under this Act or the parent or guardian of such foreigner shall, upon demand of any  
33 authorized immigration official, present his/her certificate of registration, and failure to do  
34 so without justifiable cause shall be dealt in accordance with the provisions of this Act.  
35

36 **SEC. 107. *Reportorial Requirements.*** - Every foreigner registered under this Act  
37 shall, within the first sixty (60) days of every calendar year, report in person to the  
38 Commission subject to the payment of prescribed fees. The parent or legal guardian of  
39 foreigners below fourteen (14) years of age shall have the duty to comply with the  
40 requirements prescribed under this Act.  
41

42 **SEC. 108. *Failure to Comply with Requirements.*** - A foreigner, or his/her parent or  
43 guardian, as the case may be, who, without justifiable reason, fails to comply with all the  
44 requirements under this Act, or who files an application for registration containing statements  
45 known by him/her to be false, or who utilizes registration documents other than his/her own,  
46 shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this Act and other existing laws.  
47

48 **SEC. 109. *Cancellation of Registration of Foreign National.*** - In case of death of a  
49 foreigner registered under the provisions of this Act, his/ her legal heir, representative  
50 or administrator must inform the Commission within sixty (60) days from death and



1 the Commission shall cancel such registration. The Local Civil Registrar or other civil  
2 registry officer of the locality where said foreigner died shall furnish the Commission with a  
3 copy of the Certificate of Death within thirty (30) days from issuance thereof. Failure on the  
4 part of the persons concerned to comply with the requirements of this section shall be dealt  
5 with pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

## 6 7 8 **CHAPTER 2** 9 **BONDS AND DEPOSITS**

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11 **SEC. 110. *Bonds, When Required.*** - The Commission shall have the authority to  
12 require cash bonds in such amounts and under such conditions as it may prescribe:

- 13  
14 A) To control and regulate the admission into, and departure from, the Philippines  
15 of foreigners applying for temporary admission;  
16 B) To insure against foreign passengers liable to be excluded as likely to become  
17 public Charges; and  
18 C) To insure the appearance of foreigners released from custody during the  
19 course of deportation proceedings instituted against them.  
20

21 **SEC 111. *Requirement of Cash Deposits for Overtime Services.*** - The Commission  
22 shall likewise have the authority to require cash deposits in such amounts as may be  
23 necessary from vessel's owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent, or consignee or other  
24 persons served to cover payments for overtime services to be performed by officers and  
25 employees of the Commission.  
26

27 **SEC 112. *Cancellation and Forfeiture of Bonds.*** - When the conditions of the bond  
28 are fulfilled, or in case of a bond posted to insure against a foreigner becoming a public  
29 charge, when the Commissioner decides that the likelihood no longer exists, or death of the  
30 foreigner in whose behalf the bond is posted, the bond shall be cancelled and released to the  
31 depositor or his/her legal representative. In case of violation of the conditions of the bond, the  
32 same shall be forfeited and deposited in a trust fund account which may be utilized for the  
33 purchase of passage tickets of indigent deportees and to cover the costs of operations in the  
34 arrest of a deportee who jumps bail.  
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## 37 **CHAPTER 3** 38 **RECOGNIZANCE**

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40 **SEC 113. *Petitions for Recognizance, Sanction for Breach of Conditions.*** -The  
41 Commissioner may order the release of a foreigner upon recognizance of his/her lawyer or a  
42 person who is of good standing in the community, under such terms and conditions as he/ she  
43 may prescribe. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the recognizance shall  
44 subject said lawyer or person to a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P 50,000.00) but  
45 not more than One hundred thousand pesos (P 100,000.00), without prejudice to other  
46 administrative sanctions and/ or proceedings against the erring party.

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**CHAPTER 4**  
**COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER OFFICES**

**SEC. 114. *Working Cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs.*** - For purposes of efficient implementation and administration of this Act, the Commission shall maintain a working cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

**SEC. 115. *Working Cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education.*** - The Commission shall maintain a working cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education with respect to accreditation of schools and learning centers for enrolment of foreign students as authorized under this Act.

**SEC. 116. *Coordination with Law Enforcement, Security and Other Offices.*** - The Commissioner shall have authority to maintain coordination with the National Security Council, the Philippine National Police, and other law enforcement agencies of the government.

**CHAPTERS 5**  
**FEES AND CHARGES**

**SEC. 117. *Authority of the Commissioner to Prescribe, Impose and Collect Fees and Charges.*** - The Commissioner is authorized to prescribe, impose and collect fees and charges for services rendered pursuant to the provisions of this Act, which shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the last publication thereof for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

**SEC. 118. *Head Fee.*** - Every foreign national who is at least fourteen (14) years of age and admitted to the Philippines for a temporary stay exceeding sixty (60) days shall pay a head fee in an amount to be fixed by the Board.

**CHAPTER 6**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE FINES AGAINST VESSELS**

**SEC 119. *Fine for Failure to Submit Crew List or Passenger Manifest, or Failure to Account Every Passenger and Crew.*** - Any pilot, master, agent, owner or consignee of a vessel arriving at any port in the Philippines from a place outside thereof who fails to submit to the immigration authorities a complete and accurate crew list or passenger manifest, or fails to produce or account every crewmember or passenger whose name appears in said list or manifest shall be subject to fines of One hundred thousand pesos (P 100,00.00) and Fifty thousand pesos (P 50,000.00) for each unaccounted person, respectively.

**SEC 120. *Fine for Violation of Obligation on the Landing or Removal of Foreigners.*** - A pilot, master, agent, owner or consignee of any vessel arriving at a port of the Philippines from a place outside thereof in violation of this Act shall be fined not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P 50,000.00) but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) for each violation.

**SEC 121. *Fine for Bringing Undocumented Foreigner, or Foreigner Afflicted with Communicable or Contagious Disease, or Suffering from Mental Disorder.*** - The pilot, master, agent, owner or consignee of the vessel arriving at a port in the Philippines from a place outside thereof bringing on board an undocumented foreigner shall be fined One hundred thousand pesos (P 100,000.00) for each foreigner. If the foreigner is afflicted with a communicable or contagious disease or is suffering from mental disorder, the fine shall be not less than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) but not more than Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) for each foreigner.

**SEC. 122. *Fine for Bringing a Foreigner to Assist His Illegal Entry or Misrepresenting a Foreigner as a Member of the Crew.*** - The pilot, master, agent. Owner or consignee of the vessel arriving at any port in the Philippines from a place outside thereof bringing on board a foreigner bound for the Philippines to assist his/her illegal entry, or misrepresenting the foreigner to the immigration officer at the port of arrival as a bona fide member of the crew, shall be fined not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) for each foreigner.

**SEC. 123. *Fine for Violation of Other Provisions of this Act.*** - The pilot, master, agent, owner or consignee of any vessel arriving at any port of the Philippines from a place outside thereof who violates any other provision of this Act not specifically provided in this Chapter shall be fined not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) for each violation.

## CHAPTER 7

### OTHER PENAL PROVISIONS

**SEC. 124. *Other Prohibited Acts and Penalties Thereof.*** - Any person who shall commit any of the acts specified hereunder shall, upon conviction, suffer the penalty of prison correctional in its maximum period to prison mayor in its minimum period or a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100, 000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500, 000.00) or both, at the discretion of the court:

- A) Impersonates another individual, or falsely appears in the name of a deceased. Individual, or evades the immigration laws by using an assumed or fictitious name when applying for an immigration document;
- B) Issues or otherwise disposes of an immigration document or an immigration accountable form, to any person not authorized by law to receive such documents;
- C) Obtains, manufactures, prints, accepts or uses any immigration or travel document knowing it to be false or uses immigration accountable form that is not Legally issued;
- D) Enters the Philippines without inspection and admission by the immigration authorities, or obtains entry into the Philippines by fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment of material facts;
- E) Misrepresents himself/herself to be a Philippine citizen;
- F) Knowingly makes under oath any false statement regarding any immigration matter; or
- G) Brings into, or lands in the Philippines, or conceals, harbors, employs, or gives comfort to any person not duly admitted by any immigration officer or not

1 lawfully entitled to enter into or resides within the Philippines, or attempts,  
2 conspires with, or aids another to commit any such acts.  
3

4 Where the offender of any acts specified in paragraph (g) of this section is a  
5 corporation, company, partnership or other juridical entity, the president, general manager,  
6 managing partner, or chief executive officer thereof shall be held liable. Dismissal of the  
7 employee by the employer before or after apprehension shall not relieve such employer from  
8 any liability arising from the offense: *Provided*, That if the offender is the pilot, master,  
9 agent, owner, consignee, or other person in charge of the vessel which brought the foreigner  
10 into the Philippines from any place outside thereof, the fine imposed under this section shall  
11 constitute a lieu against the vessel which may be enforced in the same manner as fines are  
12 collected and enforced under existing laws. Such vessel shall not be allowed to depart  
13 without prior clearance issued by the Commission. Where forfeiture is justified under the  
14 particular circumstances of the case, the forfeiture of the vessel in favor of the government in  
15 lieu of the fine shall be decreed.  
16

17 Conviction by final judgment of any offense punishable under this Act or other  
18 related laws shall result in the automatic revocation or cancellation of any immigration  
19 document issued to the offender, inducing that of his/her spouse and unmarried children, if  
20 applicable.  
21

22 **SEC. 125. *Penalty for Non-compliance of Subpoena.*** - Any person who, having been  
23 duly served with a subpoena, fails to comply without valid and justifiable reasons shall, upon  
24 conviction, suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not more than fifteen (15) days or a fine of  
25 not more than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.  
26

27 **SEC. 126. *Penalty for an Overstaying Crewmember.*** - Any foreign crewmember  
28 who wilfully remains in the Philippines beyond the period allowed him/her for temporary  
29 landing shall, upon conviction, suffer the penalty of imprisonment of six (6) months or fine of  
30 not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand  
31 pesos (P100,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.  
32

33 **SEC. 127. *Imposition of Maximum Penalty, When Applicable.*** - A person convicted  
34 under Republic Act No. 3019, as amended, otherwise known as the "Anti-Graft and Corrupt  
35 Practices Act", or other laws against corruption and bribery who shall violate or circumvent  
36 any provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction, suffer the maximum penalty for such  
37 offense as provided under this Act.  
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## 40 **CHAPTER 8**

### 41 **FUNDING**

42

43 **SEC. 128. *Funding.*** - In addition to its annual budget under the General  
44 Appropriations Act, the Commission is hereby authorized to retain and use fifty percent  
45 (50%) of its income derived from collection of immigration fees, fines, penalties and charges  
46 to pay hazard pay, subsistence allowance and other monetary benefits at rates fixed by the  
47 Commissioner and for maintenance and other operating expenses, intelligence and law  
48 enforcement, information and communication technology infrastructure, transportation  
49 facilities and other capital outlay expenditures. The Commission is likewise hereby  
50 authorized to retain and use its income in excess of the prescribed collection target.

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## CHAPTER 9

**SEC. 129. *Staffing Pattern and Salary Schedule.*** - To carry out the provisions of this Act, the Commissioner shall submit a new staffing pattern and salary schedule for personnel services to the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management for approval, which shall be in accordance with the Salary Standardization Law and other applicable laws under the National Compensation and Classification Plan.

**SEC. 130. *Reorganization of the Commission.*** - Upon approval of this Act, all employees of the Bureau of Immigration covered by the civil service law and regulations shall continue to hold their present positions pending the reorganization of the Commission in accordance with the new staffing pattern: *Provided*, That the salaries, wages, allowances and other benefits of incumbent officers and employees of the Commission shall not be subject to diminution: *Provided, further*, That in the event that the positions are abolished in accordance with the reorganization, the affected employees shall be retained. *Provided, finally*, That employees who have been dismissed for cause shall no longer qualify for any position in the Commission.

**SEC. 131. *Inventory and Transfer of Properties, Accounts, Assets, Liabilities and Obligations to the Commission.*** - All buildings, properties, equipment, facilities, accounts, other assets, liabilities and other obligations as well as records of the Bureau of Immigration shall be properly inventoried and transferred to the Commission.

**SEC. 132. *Treaty or Agreement.*** - Any treaty or agreement entered into between the Philippines and any foreign state before the effectivity of this Act shall remain in force and effect.

**SEC. 133. *Pending Cases.*** - Any prosecution, suit, action, proceeding, or any act or matter, civil or criminal, pending at the time of the effectivity of this Act shall not be affected by the provision of this Act unless otherwise applicable.

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## CHAPTER 10

### ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

**SEC. 134. *Administration and Implementation Abroad.*** - The administration and implementation of this Act abroad, including the rules and regulations as well as policies arising from it shall be the responsibility of the Department of Foreign Affairs through Philippine diplomatic and consular establishments.

**SEC. 135. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Commission, upon consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and other concerned government agencies or offices and subject to the approval by the Secretary, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act within one hundred twenty (120) days from its effectivity.

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**CHAPTER 10**  
**FINAL PROVISIONS**

**SEC. 136. *Separability Clause.*** - If any of the provisions of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

**SEC. 137. *Repealing Clauses.*** - (a) Commonwealth Act No. 613, otherwise known as the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, as amended, is hereby repealed; (b) All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, memorandum orders, instructions, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 138. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*