



**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

First Regular Session

SENATE
S.B. No. **1440**

'17 MAY -9 P6:24

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Poe

**AN ACT
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE AIRPORTS AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS
POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Explanatory Note

The Philippines has 85 airports nationwide, four (4) of which are regular international airports and five (5) are alternate international airports. These airports are classified under the new system of classification instituted by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) into international airports, principal airports, and community airports. Only airports owned by the national government are classified by the CAAP; the vast majority of minor aerodromes around the country are not owned by the national government and remain unclassified under the new scheme. Under the scheme, all domestic airports in the country are under the operational and supervisory control of CAAP pursuant to Republic Act No. 9497, while the international airports are governed by specific authorities and/or corporation created by law for the purpose.

Among others, the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) was originally created pursuant to Executive Order No. 778, as amended, and exercises jurisdiction over the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The Clark International Airport is operated and managed by the Clark International Airport Corporation created by virtue of Executive Order 193. On the other hand, the Mactan-Cebu

International Airport is under the operational and supervisory control of the Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority in accordance with Republic Act No. 6958.

Currently, there is a need to upgrade existing international and domestic airports, and air navigation facilities in the country to comply with international standards of airport accommodation and services, and to meet the present and future air traffic and aviation services demands in the country. Studies have indicated that the objectives of providing high standards of accommodation and service within the context of a financially viable operation will best be achieved by a separate and autonomous regulatory body.

This bill seeks to ensure an integrated manner of operating international and domestic airport terminals in the country, and to avoid conflicting policies and programs on airport maintenance, operation and development, as well as flight operations, through the creation of a Philippine Airports Authority to handle the operations of all international and domestic airports in the country.

In view of the foregoing, the early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


GRACE POE



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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Airports
2 Authority Act of 2017".

3 **SECTION 2.** *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following
4 shall mean:

5 a) "*Authority*" - shall refer to the Philippine Airports Authority.

6 b) "*Aircraft*" - any machine that can derive support in the atmosphere from
7 the reactions of the air other than the reactions of the air against the earth's
8 surface. The term, when used in this Act, shall refer to a civil aircraft only
9 and will not include State or public aircraft.

10 c) "*Airport*" - shall refer to a defined area on land or water, including any
11 building, installation, facilities and equipment, intended to be used either
12 wholly or in part for the arrival, departure and surface movement of an
13 aircraft. The term, when used in this Act, shall include all domestic and
14 international airports in the country.

1 d) "Board" - shall refer to the Board of Directors of the Authority.

2 **SECTION 3.** *Creation of the Philippine Airports Authority.* - There is hereby
3 established a body corporate to be known as the Philippine Airports Authority,
4 hereinafter referred to as the Authority, which shall be attached to the Department of
5 Transportation (DOTr) and shall be headed by a General Manager as Chief Executive
6 Officer of the Authority. The Authority may establish such offices, branches, agencies
7 or subsidiaries as it may deem proper and necessary to administer and operate all
8 domestic and international airport terminals in the country: *Provided*, That the
9 establishment of a subsidiary shall have the prior approval of the President of the
10 Philippines.

11 **SECTION 4.** *Purposes and Objectives.* - The Authority shall have the
12 following purposes and objectives:

- 13 a) To help encourage and promote domestic and international air traffic in the
14 Philippines as a means of accelerating the development of aviation, as a
15 means of transportation in the country, as well as making the Philippines a
16 center of international trade and tourism;
17 b) To formulate and adopt, for application in all domestic and international
18 airport terminals in the country, internationally acceptable standards of
19 airport accommodation and service; and
20 c) To upgrade and provide safe, efficient, and reliable airport facilities for
21 domestic and international air travel.

22 **SECTION 5.** *Functions, Powers and Duties of the Authority.* - The Authority
23 shall have the following functions, powers and duties:

- 24 a) To formulate, in coordination with the Civil Aviation Authority of the
25 Philippines (CAAP), independent airport authorities and other appropriate
26 government agencies, a comprehensive and integrated policy and program
27 for all domestic and international airport terminals in the country, and to
28 implement, review and update such policy and program periodically;
29 b) To control, supervise, construct, maintain, operate and provide such

1 facilities and services as shall be necessary for the safe and efficient
2 functioning of all domestic and international airport terminals in the
3 country;

4 c) To promulgate rules and regulations governing the planning, development,
5 maintenance, operation and improvement of domestic and international
6 airport terminals in the country, and to control and/or supervise, as may be
7 necessary, the construction of any structure or the rendition of any service
8 within all domestic and international airport terminals;

9 d) To sue and be sued in its corporate name;

10 e) To adopt and use a corporate seal;

11 f) To succeed by its corporate name;

12 g) To adopt its by-laws, and to amend or repeal the same from time to time;

13 h) To execute or enter into contracts of any kind or nature;

14 i) To acquire, purchase, own, administer, lease, mortgage, sell or otherwise
15 dispose of any land, building, airport facility, or property of whatever kind
16 and nature, whether movable or immovable, or any interest therein;

17 j) To exercise the power of eminent domain in the pursuit of its purposes and
18 objectives;

19 k) To levy, and collect dues, charges, fees or assessments for the use of the
20 airport premises, works, appliances, facilities or concessions or for any
21 service provided by the Authority, subject to the approval of the Secretary
22 of Transportation in consultation with the Secretary of Finance;

23 l) To invest its idle funds, as it may deem proper, in government
24 securities and other evidences of indebtedness of the government;

25 m) To provide services, whether on its own or otherwise, within the airports
26 and the approaches thereof, which shall include but not be limited to, the
27 following:

28 1) Aircraft movement and allocation of parking areas of aircraft on the
29 ground,

30 2) Loading or unloading of aircraft;

31 3) Passenger handling and other services directed towards the care,
32 convenience and security of passengers, visitors and other airport users;
33 and

34 4) Sorting, weighing, measuring, warehousing or handling of baggage

1 and goods.

- 2 n) To prescribe and revise, from time to time as necessary, minimum safety
3 standards for the operation of airport facilities in the Philippines;
4 o) To perform such other acts and transact such other business, directly or
5 indirectly as may be necessary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of
6 the purposes and objectives of the Authority, including the adoption of
7 necessary measures to remedy congestion in the airports; and
8 p) To exercise all the powers of a corporation under the Corporation Law,
9 insofar as these powers are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

10 **SECTION 6. *Police Authority.*** - The Authority shall have the power to
11 exercise such police authority, as may be necessary within its premises, to carry out
12 its functions and attain its purposes and objectives. The grant of such powers shall be
13 without prejudice to the exercise of functions within the same premises by other
14 concerned government agencies as provided for by law: *Provided*, That the Authority
15 may request the assistance of law enforcement agencies, including request for
16 deputization as may be required. Such police authority shall be exercised in
17 connection with the following, among others:

- 18 a) Maintenance of security to passengers, cargoes, aircraft, airport equipment,
19 structures, facilities, personnel, funds and documents;
20 b) Regulating the entry to, exit from and movement within the airports;
21 c) Maintenance of peace and order, within the premises of the airports in
22 coordination with local police authorities and other authorized peace-
23 keeping entities within the airports;
24 d) Regulation and supervision of private security agencies operating within
25 the airports; and
26 e) Enforcement of rules and regulations promulgated by the Authority
27 pursuant to law.

28 **SECTION 7. *Airport Operation Certification.*** - Any person desiring to
29 operate a private airport or air navigation facilities may file with the Authority an
30 application for an operating certificate. If the Authority finds, after investigation, that
31 such person is properly and adequately equipped and able to conduct a safe operation

1 in accordance with the requirements of this Act and the rules and regulations, and
2 standards prescribed therein, the Authority shall issue an airport operating certificate
3 to such person. Each airport operating certificate shall prescribe such terms,
4 conditions and limitations as are reasonably necessary to assure safety in air transport.
5 Unless the Authority determines that it would be contrary to public interest, such
6 terms, conditions and limitations, shall include, but not limited to, terms and
7 conditions relating to:

- 8 a) The operation and maintenance of adequate safety equipment, including
9 firefighting and rescue equipment capable of rapid access to any portion of
10 the airport used for landing, take off, or surface maneuvering of aircraft; and
11 b) The condition and maintenance of primary and secondary runways.

12 For this purpose, the Authority shall inspect, classify, and rate any air navigation
13 facilities and airports available for the aircraft as to its suitability for such use.

14 **SECTION 8.** *Board of Directors.* - The corporate powers of the Authority
15 shall be exercised by and vested in a Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the
16 Board. It shall be composed of eleven (11) members, as follows:

- 17 1) Secretary of the DOTr or his representative - Chairperson;
18 2) General Manager of the Authority - Vice-Chairperson;
19 3) Representative from the Office of the President;
20 4) Representative from the Department of Finance;
21 5) Representative from the Department of Tourism;
22 6) Representative from the Department of Justice;
23 7) Representative from the CAAP; and,
24 8) Four (4) representatives from the private sector to be appointed by the
25 President of the Philippines for a term of three (3) years renewable for another
26 term.

27 The Board shall meet at least once a month and as often as the exigencies of
28 the service demand. The presence of at least five (5) members shall constitute a
29 quorum, and the vote of a majority of the members present, there being a quorum,

1 shall be necessary for the adoption of any rule, regulation, resolution, decision or any
2 other act of the Board.

3 The members of the Board shall receive per diems, for every meeting actually
4 attended: *Provided*, that such per diem shall conform to existing guidelines of the
5 Commission on Audit. Members of the Board shall be reimbursed by the Authority
6 for actual expenses, including travelling and subsistence expenses, incurred by them
7 in the performance of their duties.

8 No member of the Board shall have financial or pecuniary interest, directly or
9 indirectly, in any business contract or transaction entered into by the Authority or in
10 any privilege granted by it. Neither shall a member have any interest, financial or
11 otherwise, in any undertaking or business with an inherent conflict of interest with the
12 Authority.

13 **SECTION 9. *Functions, Powers, and Duties of the Board.*** - The Board shall
14 have the following functions, powers and duties:

- 15 a) To define and approve the programs, plans, policies, procedures and
16 guidelines of the Authority for the development and operation of the
17 airports within the context of the overall Government objectives, and to
18 control the management, operation and administration of the Authority;
- 19 b) To recommend to the President of the Philippines, for appointment, a
20 General Manager of the Authority who shall be the Chief Executive Officer
21 of the Authority; and
- 22 c) To approve the Authority's organizational and administrative structure,
23 staffing pattern, operating and capital expenditures, and financial budgets,
24 prepared in accordance with the corporate plan of the Authority, upon
25 recommendation of the General Manager.

26 **SECTION 10. *Development of New Airports.*** - The Board shall be
27 responsible for the planning, development, construction, operation, maintenance or
28 the expansion of airports. In planning and developing new airports, the Board shall
29 consider:

- 1 a) The suitability of a proposed site in terms of terrain and proximity to
- 2 population centers;
- 3 b) The projected size of the market to be served by a proposed airport;
- 4 c) The ability of a proposed airport to generate sufficient revenue to cover
- 5 costs of operation and maintenance;
- 6 d) The availability of funding from both local and foreign sources for the
- 7 construction of a new airport or expansion of an existing one;
- 8 e) The proximity of other airports to a proposed new airport and the capability
- 9 of such other airport to handle traffic projected to be handled by the new
- 10 proposed airport;
- 11 f) The government's public service obligations such as the government's duty
- 12 to ensure the availability of air transport infrastructure for remote areas far
- 13 from major population centers and that are not otherwise easily accessible
- 14 by transportation by land or sea;
- 15 g) International Civil Aviation Organization best practices and
- 16 recommendations concerning the development of airports; and
- 17 h) Such other considerations as the Board, in the exercise of its reasonable
- 18 discretion, may consider relevant or important.

19 **SECTION 11.** *Functions, Powers and Duties of the General Manager.* - The
20 General Manager shall be directly responsible to the Board, and shall have the
21 following functions, powers and duties:

- 22 a) To direct and supervise the management, operation and administration of
- 23 the Authority, and its integral units including its buildings, runways,
- 24 facilities and equipment, so as to provide international standards of service
- 25 to airport users, and to ensure its financial stability in accordance with the
- 26 programs, plans, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Board;
- 27 b) To provide general supervision and overall coordination of all government
- 28 agencies operating in the airports with respect to the allocation and use of
- 29 building space and airport premises;
- 30 c) To undertake researches, studies, investigations, and other activities related
- 31 to the present operations and future development requirements of the
- 32 airports, on his own initiative or upon instructions of the Board, and to

- 1 submit comprehensive reports, and appropriate recommendations to the
2 Board for its information and action;
- 3 d) To appoint, transfer, suspend, remove or otherwise discipline any
4 subordinate officer or employee of the Authority, subject to the approval of
5 the Board and to engage, either on contractual basis or other suitable
6 arrangements, the services of highly qualified professionals, experts,
7 technical advisers or consulting firms and to determine their compensation
8 or fees including other terms and conditions of employment as may be
9 authorized by the Board; To enter into a memorandum of
10 agreement/understanding, contracts or such other arrangements as may be
11 feasible with such government agencies or private entities operating or
12 providing services to the Authority to ensure proper coordination and
13 integration of all activities in the Authority, subject to the approval of the
14 Board or such laws, rules and regulations as are applicable in the exercise
15 of such authority;
- 16 e) To establish and maintain a system, in coordination with the appropriate
17 government offices and agencies, for the regular and prompt dissemination
18 of financial, statistical and other relevant data within the Authority and to
19 the Board;
- 20 f) Within the limits of the authority delegated to him by the Board, to execute
21 contracts, incur obligations, acquire and dispose of assets, and deliver
22 documents, on behalf of the Authority;
- 23 g) To implement and enforce decisions, orders, rules and regulations issued,
24 prescribed or adopted by the Board; and
- 25 h) To perform such other duties as the Board may delegate or assign, and such
26 acts as may be necessary and proper to implement this Act.

27 **SECTION 12. *Capital.*** - The Authority shall have a capital of Fifty Billion
28 Pesos (Php 50,000,000,000.00) which shall be contributed by the National
29 Government and to consist of:

- 30 a) The value of fixed assets (including airport facilities, runways and
31 equipment) and such other properties, movable and immovable, which may
32 be contributed by the National Government or transferred by it from any of

1 its agencies, the valuation of which shall be determined jointly with the
2 Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Commission on
3 Audit (COA) on the date of such contribution or transfer after making due
4 allowances for depreciation and other deductions taking into account the
5 loans and other liabilities of the Authority at the time of the takeover of the
6 assets and other properties;

7 b) The unexpended balances of appropriations in the current General
8 Appropriations Act, and other laws in force upon approval hereof,
9 pertaining to, held or used by, or available to the entities abolished and/ or
10 whose powers, duties and responsibilities have been transferred to the
11 Authority under this Act, including concerned government agencies;

12 c) Any surplus income that may be derived from or shall accrue to the
13 Authority upon its organization and its assumption of the assets and
14 liabilities of the entities abolished and/ or whose powers, duties and
15 responsibilities have been transferred to the Authority under this Act,
16 including concerned government agencies; and

17 d) Such amount as may be appropriated from time to time from the funds of
18 the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated including any outlay from
19 the infrastructure program of the National Government and as may be
20 provided in the annual General Appropriations Act.

21 **SECTION 13.** *Contribution to the General Fund for the Maintenance and*
22 *Operation of Airports.* - Within thirty (30) days after the close of each quarter, twenty
23 per centum (20%) of the gross operating income, excluding payments for utilities of
24 tenants and concessionaires and terminal fee, collections, shall be remitted to the
25 General Fund in the National Treasury to be used for the maintenance and operation
26 of international and domestic airports in the country. Adjustments in the amount paid
27 by the Authority to the National Treasury under this Section shall be made at the end
28 of each year based on the audited financial statements of the Authority.

29 **SECTION 14.** *Auditor.* - The Chairman of the COA shall be the *ex-officio*
30 Auditor of the Authority. For this purpose, he may appoint a representative who shall
31 be the auditor of the Authority, together with the necessary personnel to assist said
32 representative in the performance of his duties. The salary of the auditor and the

1 number and salaries of said personnel shall be determined by the Chairman of the
2 Commission on Audit subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on
3 Audit. Said salaries and all other expenses of maintaining the Auditor's Office shall be
4 paid by the Authority.

5 The Auditor shall, as soon as practicable, but not later than three (3) months
6 after the accounts have been submitted for audit, send an annual report to the Board.
7 The Auditor may also submit such periodic or special reports as the Board may deem
8 necessary.

9 **SECTION 15. *Legal Counsel.*** - The Government Corporate Counsel and/or
10 the Solicitor General shall be the Legal Counsel of the Authority: *Provided*, That the
11 Authority may establish its own legal department to handle the day- to-day legal
12 matters affecting the affairs of the Authority.

13 **SECTION 16. *Annual Report.*** - The Board shall submit to the President of
14 the Philippines through the DOTr, together with the audit report on the relevant
15 accounts an annual report generally dealing with the activities and operations of the
16 Authority.

17 **SECTION 17. *Applicability of Civil Service Laws.*** - The Authority and its
18 officials and employees shall be subject to the Civil Service Law and its rules and
19 regulations.

20 **SECTION 18. *Borrowing Power.*** - The Authority may, after consultation
21 with the Secretary of Finance and with the approval of the President of the
22 Philippines, as recommended by the Secretary of DOTr, raise funds, either from local
23 or international sources, by way of loans, credits or securities, and other borrowing
24 instruments, with the power to create pledges, mortgages and other voluntary liens or
25 encumbrances on any of its assets or properties.

26 All loans contracted by the Authority under this Section, together with all
27 interests and other sums payable in respect thereof, shall constitute a charge upon all
28 the revenues and assets of the Authority and shall rank equally with one another, but

1 shall have priority over any other claim or charge on the revenue and assets of the
2 Authority: Provided, That this provision shall not be construed as a prohibition or
3 restriction on the power of the Authority to create pledges, mortgages and other
4 voluntary liens or encumbrances on any asset or property of the Authority.

5 Except as expressly authorized by the President of the Philippines, the total
6 outstanding indebtedness of the Authority in the principal amount, in local and
7 foreign currency, shall not, at any given time, exceed the net worth of the Authority.

8 The President or his duly authorized representative, after consultation with the
9 Secretary of Finance, may guarantee, in the name and on behalf of the Republic of the
10 Philippines, the payment of the loans or other indebtedness of the Authority up to the
11 amount herein authorized.

12 **SECTION 19.** *Increase or Decrease of Rates.* - The Authority may increase
13 or decrease the rates of the dues, charges, fees or assessments collectible by the
14 Authority to protect the interest of the Government and provide a satisfactory return
15 on the Authority's assets based on the principle of cost recovery at an aggregate level.
16 The Authority may adjust the schedule of such rates so as to reflect the cost of
17 facilities or services provided, or rendered. The Authority may periodically review all
18 dues, charges, fees, or assessments collectible by the Authority, and shall make such
19 adjustments to the schedule of rates as shall adequately reflect any increase in price
20 levels and (in the case of concession rentals) of volume of traffic through the airports,
21 subject to the provisions of Batas Pambansa Blg. 325, whenever practicable.

22 **SECTION 20.** *Remedies for Non-Payment.* - If the owner or agent of any
23 aircraft refuses or neglects to pay on demand any rate or charges made in pursuance
24 of Section 19 hereof, the Authority may, after complying with the required legal
25 formalities provided by law, shall have the power to impose lien on such aircraft
26 equipment or furniture belonging to the owner or agent of said aircraft, until the
27 amounts due have been paid.

28 **SECTION 21.** *Fines and Penalties.* - The Authority shall have the power to
29 exact reasonable administrative fines in such specific amounts and for such specific

1 violations arising out of the use of the airports, as shall be prescribed in rules and
2 regulations which the Authority is hereby authorized to issue for the purpose, which
3 amount of fine shall not be less than One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) nor more
4 than Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00), and shall be subject to review and
5 increase every five (5) years.

6 **SECTION 22. *Competitive Tender.*** - The General Manager shall, as far as
7 practicable, grant permits or concessions to trade or to engage in business within the
8 areas controlled by the Authority to the highest bidder after a competitive public
9 bidding: *Provided*, That the bidding requirements may be waived in the case of banks,
10 branches of post office, National Telecommunications Commission, other government
11 agencies in airline operations or where the fees, rates or assessments to be charged
12 have been fixed by the Board.

13 The General Manager shall require such permittees or concessionaires to
14 provide goods or services acceptable under international standards and at such prices
15 similar to goods or services in Metropolitan Manila or airports in other countries:
16 *Provided*, That such final awards of permits or concessions to successful bidders shall
17 be subject to the approval of the Board.

18 **SECTION 23. *Tax Exemptions.*** - The Authority shall be exempt from realty
19 taxes imposed by the National Government or any of its political subdivisions,
20 agencies and instrumentalities: *Provided*, That no tax exemption herein granted shall
21 extend to any subsidiary which may be organized by the Authority.

22 **SECTION 24. *Transfer of Power and Assets.*** - All powers, duties and rights
23 vested by law and exercised by the CAAP relating to the control, supervision,
24 construction, maintenance, operation, provision of services and facilities and the
25 efficient functioning of all domestic and international airports in the country
26 pursuant to Republic Act No. 9497, are hereby transferred to the Authority. All
27 assets, real and personal properties, contracts, records and documents, funds and
28 revenues owned by or vested in the different offices of CAAP in relation to the
29 powers, duties and rights herein transferred shall also be transferred to the
30 Authority.

1 **SECTION 25. *Projects in Progress.*** - All ongoing projects relating to the
2 construction of airport facilities shall be continued by the agency or agencies involved
3 until completion. Thereafter, such projects shall be transferred to the Authority, in
4 accordance with agreement among agencies concerned. Any disagreement, relating to
5 such transfer, shall be submitted to the President of the Philippines for final decision.

6 **SECTION 26. *Transfer of Liabilities and Debts.*** - Upon the transfer to and
7 acceptance by the Authority of the existing physical facilities, intangible assets and
8 completed projects referred to in the preceding sections, all debts, liabilities, and
9 obligations of the of the entities concerned and other government agencies in respect
10 of such physical facilities, tangible assets and completed projects within the
11 airports, shall likewise be assumed by the Authority.

12 **SECTION 27. *Prohibited Acts and Penalties.*** - The General Manager, after
13 due notice and hearing, is hereby authorized to impose the following fines and
14 penalties for the commission of any of the acts hereunder prohibited:

- 15 a) Any person who destroys or seriously damages the facilities of an airport or
16 disrupts the services of an airport shall be subjected to imprisonment of one
17 (1) year to three (3) years and/or a fine of not less than One hundred
18 thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand
19 pesos (Php 500,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court;
- 20 b) An imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than three (3)
21 years and / or a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (Php
22 100,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (Php
23 500,000.00), at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed upon any
24 person who shall interfere with air navigation, including but not limited to
25 such acts as:
- 26 1) Exhibiting within the Philippines any light or signal in such manner or
27 place that it is likely to be mistaken for a true light or signal in
28 connection with an airport or other navigational facility; or
29 2) Knowingly removes, extinguishes, or interferes with the operation of
30 any true light or signal.

1 **SECTION 28. *Appropriations.*** - To provide for any extraordinary expenses
2 of the Authority upon its organization, the unavailed portion of the excess of actual
3 operating income over the estimated expenses of the entities abolished and/or whose
4 powers, duties and responsibilities have been transferred to the Authority under this
5 Act, if any, at the time of the passage of this Act is hereby appropriated for purposes
6 that the Board may approve. This shall be considered as part of the capital under
7 Section 12 hereof.

8 **SECTION 29. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, letters of
9 instructions, rules and regulations, or provisions thereof, which are inconsistent with
10 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

11 **SECTION 30. *Separability Clause.*** - The provisions of this Act are hereby
12 declared separable. If any portion thereof shall be held invalid unconstitutional, such
13 invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the other provisions which shall
14 remain in full force and effect.

15 **SECTION 31. *Effectivity Clause*** - This Act shall take effect within fifteen
16 (15) after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2)
17 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,