

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )**  
**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )**  
*First Special Session )*

**SENATE**

**S. No. 1418**

(In substitution of S.B. No. 1413)

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**Prepared by the Committee on Finance with Senators Sotto  
and Cayetano as authors thereof**

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**AN ACT [TO DECLARE] DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF A NATIONAL  
EMERGENCY ARISING FROM THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-  
19) SITUATION AND A NATIONAL POLICY IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,  
AND AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE  
PHILIPPINES FOR A LIMITED PERIOD AND SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, TO  
EXERCISE POWERS NECESSARY AND PROPER TO CARRY OUT THE  
DECLARED NATIONAL POLICY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1           **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known and cited as “[We]  
2           **BAYANIHAN TO Heal As One Act.**”

3           **Section 2. State of National Emergency.** – Presidential Proclamation No. 922,  
4 s. 2020, was issued declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the  
5 Philippines due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the Code Alert  
6 System for COVID-19 was raised to Code Red Sublevel Two (2) in accordance with  
7 the recommendation of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Inter-Agency Task  
8 Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases. Further, Presidential  
9 Proclamation No. 929, s. 2020, was issued declaring a State of Calamity throughout  
10 the Philippines and imposed an Enhanced Community Quarantine throughout Luzon.

11           In view of the continuing rise of confirmed cases of COVID-19, the serious  
12 threat to the health, safety, security, and lives of our countrymen, the long-term  
13 adverse effects on their means of livelihood, and the severe disruption of economic  
14 activities, a state of national emergency is hereby declared over the entire country.

1           **Section 3. Declaration of Policy.** – The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly  
2 affected nations worldwide, including the Philippines, and has caused and is continuing  
3 to cause loss of lives and disruption to the economy. Thus, there is an urgent need  
4 to: (1) [minimize, if not prevent, further transmission and spread of COVID-19]  
5 **MITIGATE, IF NOT CONTAIN, THE TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19;** (2)  
6 immediately mobilize assistance in the provision of basic necessities to families and  
7 individuals affected by the imposition of Community Quarantine, especially indigents  
8 and their families; (3) undertake measures that will prevent the overburdening of the  
9 healthcare system; (4) immediately and amply provide healthcare, including medical  
10 tests and treatments, to COVID-19 patients, persons under investigation [(PUI)]  
11 **(PUIs),** or persons under monitoring [(PUM)] **(PUMs);** (5) undertake a program for  
12 recovery and rehabilitation, including a social amelioration program and provision of  
13 safety nets to all affected sectors; (6) ensure that there is sufficient, adequate and  
14 readily available funding to undertake the foregoing; and (7) promote and protect the  
15 collective interests of all Filipinos in these challenging times. By reason thereof, and  
16 in order to optimize the efforts of the President to carry out the tasks needed to  
17 implement the aforementioned policy, it is imperative to grant him authority subject  
18 to such limitations as hereinafter provided.

19           **Section 4. Authorized Powers.** - [Pursuant to Article VI, Section 23 (2) of  
20 the Constitution, and to implement the declared national policy, the President is  
21 hereby authorized to issue such rules, regulations and directives as may be necessary  
22 to carry out any or all of the following powers:] **PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VI,**  
23 **SECTION 23 (2) OF THE CONSTITUTION, THE PRESIDENT IS HEREBY**  
24 **AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE POWERS THAT ARE NECESSARY AND PROPER**  
25 **TO CARRY OUT THE DECLARED NATIONAL POLICY. THE PRESIDENT SHALL**  
26 **HAVE THE POWER TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TEMPORARY EMERGENCY**  
27 **MEASURES TO RESPOND TO CRISIS BROUGHT BY THE PANDEMIC:**

28           (1) Adopt and implement measures to prevent or [minimize] **SUPPRESS**  
29           further transmission and spread of **COVID-19 THROUGH EFFECTIVE**  
30           **EDUCATION, DETECTION, PROTECTION, AND TREATMENT;**

31           (2) [Expedite the medical testing and observation of PUIs and PUMs and the  
32           immediate treatment of patients suffering from COVID-19] **EXPEDITE**  
33           **AND STREAMLINE THE ACCREDITATION OF TESTING KITS AND**  
34           **FACILITATE PROMPT TESTING BY PUBLIC AND DESIGNATED**  
35           **PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF PUIs AND PUMs AND**  
36           **COMPULSORY AND IMMEDIATE ISOLATION AND TREATMENT**  
37           **OF PATIENTS;**

38           (3) Ensure that all Local Government Units (LGUs) are acting in line with the  
39           rules, regulations and directives issued by the National Government  
40           pursuant to this Act; are implementing standards of community

1 quarantine consistent with what the National Government has laid down  
2 for the subject area, while allowing LGUs to continue exercising their  
3 autonomy in matters undefined by the National Government or are  
4 within the parameters it has set; and are fully cooperating towards a  
5 unified, cohesive and orderly implementation of the national policy to  
6 address COVID-19;

7 (4) **CONSISTENT WITH SEC. 17, ART. XII OF THE CONSTITUTION,**  
8 **[W]** when the public interest so requires, direct the operation of any  
9 privately-owned hospitals and medical and health facilities **INCLUDING**  
10 **PASSENGER VESSELS AND**, other establishments, to house health  
11 workers, serve as quarantine areas, quarantine centers, medical relief  
12 and aid distribution locations, or other temporary medical facilities; and  
13 public transportation to ferry health, emergency, and frontline personnel  
14 and other persons; *Provided*, however, That the management and  
15 operation of the foregoing enterprises shall be retained by the owners  
16 of the enterprise, who shall render a full accounting to the President or  
17 his duly authorized representative of the operations of the utility or  
18 business as basis for appropriate compensation; *Provided*, further, That  
19 reasonable compensation for any additional damage or costs incurred  
20 by the owner or the possessor of the subject property solely on account  
21 of complying with the directive shall be given to the person entitled to  
22 the possession of such private properties or businesses after the  
23 situation has stabilized or at the soonest time practicable; *Provided*,  
24 finally, that if the foregoing enterprises unjustifiably refuse or signified  
25 that they are no longer capable of operating their enterprises for the  
26 purpose stated herein, the President may take over their operations  
27 subject to the limits and safeguards enshrined in the Constitution;

28 (5) Continue to [adopt] **ENFORCE** measures to protect the people from  
29 hoarding, profiteering, injurious speculations, manipulation of prices,  
30 product deceptions, and cartels, monopolies or other combinations in  
31 restraint of trade, or other pernicious practices affecting the supply,  
32 distribution and movement of food, clothing, **HYGIENE AND**  
33 **SANITATION PRODUCTS**, medicine and medical supplies, fuel,  
34 fertilizers, chemicals, building materials, implements, machinery  
35 equipment and spare parts required in agriculture, industry and other  
36 essential services, and other articles of prime necessity, whether  
37 imported or locally produced or manufactured;

38 (6) **ENSURE THAT DONATION ACCEPTANCE AND DISTRIBUTION**  
39 **OF HEALTH PRODUCTS INTENDED TO ADDRESS THE COVID-19**  
40 **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ARE NOT UNNECESSARILY**  
41 **DELAYED;**

1            ~~[(6)]~~ **(7)** Undertake the procurement of the following as the need arises,  
2            in the most expeditious manner, as exemptions from the provisions of  
3            Republic Act No. 9184 **OR THE "GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT**  
4            **REFORM ACT"** and other relevant laws:

5            (a) Goods, which may include personal protective equipment such as gloves,  
6            gowns, masks, goggles, face shields; surgical equipment and supplies;  
7            laboratory equipment and its reagents; medical equipment and devices;  
8            support and maintenance for laboratory and medical equipment, surgical  
9            equipment and supplies; medical supplies, tools, and consumables such  
10           as alcohol, sanitizers, tissue, thermometers, hand soap, detergent, sodium  
11           hydrochloride, cleaning materials, povidone iodine, common medicines  
12           (e.g., paracetamol tablet and suspension, mefenamic acid, vitamins tablet  
13           and suspension, hyoscine tablet and suspension, oral rehydration solution,  
14           and cetirizine tablet and suspension); testing kits, and such other supplies  
15           or equipment as may be determined by the DOH and other relevant  
16           government agencies[.]: **PROVIDED, THAT THE DOH SHALL**  
17           **PRIORITIZE THE ALLOCATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE**  
18           **AFORESAID GOODS, SUPPLIES AND OTHER RESOURCES TO THE**  
19           **FOLLOWING:**

20  
21                    **1. PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES IN THE REGIONS,**  
22                    **PROVINCES, OR CITIES, THAT ARE DESIGNATED AS**  
23                    **COVID-19 REFERRAL HOSPITALS, SUCH AS BUT NOT**  
24                    **LIMITED TO PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL, LUNG**  
25                    **CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND DR. JOSE N.**  
26                    **RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL;**

27                    **2. PRIVATE HOSPITALS WHICH HAVE EXISTING**  
28                    **CAPACITIES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT CARE AND**  
29                    **TREATMENT TO COVID-19 PATIENTS; AND**

30                    **3. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LABORATORIES THAT HAVE**  
31                    **EXISTING CAPACITIES TO TEST SUSPECTED COVID-19**  
32                    **PATIENTS.**

33            (b) Goods and services for social amelioration measures in favour of affected  
34            communities;

35            (c) Lease of real property or venue for use to house health workers or serve  
36            as quarantine centers, medical relief and aid distribution locations, or  
37            temporary medical facilities;

38            (d) Establishment, construction, and operation of temporary medical  
39            facilities; [and]

1 (e) Utilities, telecommunications, and other critical services in relation to  
2 operation of quarantine centers, medical relief and aid distribution  
3 centers and temporary medical facilities; **AND**

4 (f) Ancillary services related to the foregoing.

5 **(8) MAY ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF THE PHILIPPINE RED CROSS,**  
6 **AS THE PRIMARY HUMANITARIAN AGENCY THAT IS**  
7 **AUXILIARY TO THE GOVERNMENT IN GIVING AID TO THE**  
8 **PEOPLE, SUBJECT TO REIMBURSEMENT, IN THE**  
9 **DISTRIBUTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES INCIDENTAL IN THE**  
10 **FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19;**

11 **(9) ENGAGE TEMPORARY HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH (HRH)**  
12 **SUCH AS MEDICAL AND ALLIED MEDICAL STAFF TO**  
13 **COMPLEMENT OR SUPPLEMENT THE CURRENT HEALTH**  
14 **WORKFORCE OR TO MAN THE TEMPORARY MEDICAL**  
15 **FACILITIES TO BE ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
16 **SECTION 4 7(D) OF THIS ACT: *PROVIDED*, THAT HRH TO BE**  
17 **HIRED ON TEMPORARY BASIS SHALL RECEIVE THE**  
18 **APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION AND ALLOWANCES:**  
19 ***PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT ALL HRH SERVING IN THE FRONT**  
20 **LINE DURING THE STATE OF CALAMITY DUE TO COVID-19,**  
21 **SHALL RECEIVE AN ACTUAL HAZARD DUTY PAY FROM THE**  
22 **GOVERNMENT;**

23 **[(7)] (10)** Ensure the availability of credit to the productive sectors of the  
24 economy especially in the countryside through measures such as, but  
25 not limited to, lowering the effective lending rates of interest and reserve  
26 requirements of lending institutions;

27 **[(8)] (11)** Liberalize the grant of incentives for the manufacture or  
28 importation of critical or needed equipment or supplies for the carrying-  
29 out of the policy declared herein, including healthcare equipment and  
30 supplies, **PROVIDED, THAT IMPORTATION OF THESE**  
31 **EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM IMPORT**  
32 **DUTIES, TAXES OTHER FEES;**

33 **[(9)] (12)** Require businesses to prioritize and accept contracts, subject to  
34 fair and reasonable terms, for materials and services necessary to  
35 promote the herein declared national policy;

36 **[(10)] (13)** Regulate and limit the operation of all sectors of transportation  
37 through land, sea or air, whether private or public;

1 [(11)] (14) Regulate traffic on all roads, streets, and bridges, and access  
2 thereto; prohibit putting up of encroachments or obstacles; authorize  
3 the removal of encroachments and illegal constructions in public places;  
4 and perform all other related acts;

5 [(12)] (15) Continue to authorize alternative working arrangements for  
6 employees and workers in the Executive Branch, and whenever it  
7 becomes necessary, in other independent branches of government and  
8 constitutional bodies, and the private sector;

9 [(13)] (16) Conserve and regulate the distribution and use of power, fuel,  
10 energy and water, and ensure adequate supply of the same;

11 [(14)] (17) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, direct the [cancellation]  
12 **DISCONTINUANCE** of appropriated programs, projects or activities  
13 (P/A/P) of any agency of the Executive Department, including  
14 government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCC), in the FYs 2019  
15 and 2020 General Appropriations Act (GAA), **WHETHER RELEASED**  
16 **OR UNRELEASED THE ALLOTMENTS FOR WHICH REMAIN**  
17 **UNOBLIGATED**, and utilize the savings generated therefrom to  
18 augment the allocation for any item [for] **DIRECTLY RELATED TO**  
19 support operations, response measures, and other such P/A/P in the FY  
20 2020 GAA [as the President may deem] **WHICH ARE** necessary **OR [,]**  
21 beneficial [or desirable] in order to address the COVID-19 emergency,  
22 consistent with the herein declared national policy; **PROVIDED**  
23 **HOWEVER, THAT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN THE BUDGET**  
24 **SHALL BE PRIORITIZED FOR AUGMENTATION:**

25 **(A) UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - OPERATIONAL**  
26 **BUDGETS OF GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, PRIMARILY THOSE**  
27 **IDENTIFIED FOR TREATMENT OF COVID-19; PREVENTION AND**  
28 **CONTROL OF OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES; EMERGENCY**  
29 **PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE; QUICK RESPONSE FUND;**

30 **(B) UNDER THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES - THE**  
31 **OPERATIONAL BUDGET OF THE PHILIPPINE GENERAL**  
32 **HOSPITAL;**

33 **(C) THE NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FUND OR**  
34 **CALAMITY FUND;**

35 **(D) PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND**  
36 **EMPLOYMENT, SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO TULONG**  
37 **PANGHANAPBUHAY SA ATING DISADVANTAGED/DISPLACED**  
38 **WORKERS AND COVID-19 ADJUSTMENT MEASURES PROGRAM**

1 (CAMP);

2 (E) UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY -  
3 LIVELIHOOD SEEDING PROGRAM AND NEGOSYO SERBISYO SA  
4 BARANGAY;

5 (F) UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - RICE  
6 FARMERS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

7 (G) UNDER VARIOUS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND  
8 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO  
9 ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS (AICS),  
10 DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AND NON-FOOD ITEMS, AND  
11 LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE GRANTS;

12 (H) UNDER ALLOCATIONS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS;

13 (I) QUICK RESPONSE FUNDS LODGED IN THE VARIOUS  
14 RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE  
15 DOH AND DSWD.

16 NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, THE  
17 DISCONTINUED PROGRAM, ACTIVITY OR PROJECT MAY BE  
18 REVIVED AT ANY TIME AFTER THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY HAS  
19 CEASED, AND NOTWITHSTANDING SEC. 67 OF REPUBLIC ACT  
20 NO. 11465 OR THE "GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2020",  
21 MAY BE REVIVED AND PROPOSED FOR FUNDING WITHIN THE  
22 NEXT TWO (2) FISCAL YEARS;

23 [(15)] (18) Any unutilized or unreleased balance in a special purpose fund,  
24 as of the date of declaration of State of Emergency, shall be considered  
25 to have their purpose abandoned for the duration of the State of  
26 Emergency. All such unspent, unutilized or unreleased money or funds  
27 sourced from collections or receipts, including future collections and  
28 receipts, shall be utilized and are hereby appropriated for such measures  
29 to address the COVID-19 situation and accomplish the declared national  
30 policy herein;

31 [(16)] (19) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, reprogram, reallocate,  
32 and realign **FROM SAVINGS ON OTHER ITEMS OF** [any]  
33 appropriationS in the FY 2020 GAA [for whatever purpose the President  
34 may deem] **IN THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, AS MAY BE**  
35 necessary and **BENEFICIAL** [desirable] to fund measures [to] **THAT**  
36 address and respond to the COVID-19 emergency, including social  
37 amelioration for affected communities, and the recovery [and  
38 rehabilitation of areas] **OF AREAS, SECTORS AND INDUSTRIES**

1 **SEVERELY AFFECTED**[, where the emergency is subsiding]. All  
2 amounts so reprogrammed, reallocated or realigned shall be deemed  
3 automatically appropriated for such measures to address the COVID-19  
4 situation **WITHIN THE PERIOD SPECIFIED UNDER SECTION 9**  
5 **HEREOF;**

6 **[(17)] (20)** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the President is hereby  
7 authorized to allocate cash, funds, investments, including unutilized or  
8 unreleased subsidies and transfers, held by any GOCC or any national  
9 government agency [for whatever purpose the President may deem  
10 necessary and desirable] in order to address the COVID-19 emergency,  
11 **AS DECLARED IN SECTION 3;**

12 **[(18)] (21)** Move statutory deadlines and timelines for the filing and  
13 submission of any document, the payment of taxes, fees, and other  
14 charges required by law, and the grant of any benefit, in order to ease  
15 the burden on individuals under Community Quarantine;

16 **(22) DIRECT ALL BANKS, QUASI-BANKS, FINANCING COMPANIES,**  
17 **LENDING COMPANIES, AND OTHER FINANCIAL**  
18 **INSTITUTIONS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, INCLUDING THE**  
19 **GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM, SOCIAL**  
20 **SECURITY SYSTEM AND PAG-IBIG FUND, TO IMPLEMENT A**  
21 **MINIMUM OF A THIRTY (30)-DAY GRACE PERIOD FOR THE**  
22 **PAYMENT OF ALL LOANS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO**  
23 **SALARY, PERSONAL, HOUSING, AND MOTOR VEHICLE LOANS,**  
24 **AS WELL AS CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS, FALLING DUE WITHIN**  
25 **THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 16 TO APRIL 15, 2020, WITHOUT**  
26 **INCURRING INTERESTS, PENALTIES, FEES, OR OTHER**  
27 **CHARGES. PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE LOANS SHALL LIKEWISE**  
28 **BE GIVEN THE MINIMUM THIRTY (30)-DAY GRACE PERIOD**  
29 **FOR EVERY LOAN;**

30 **(23) PROVIDE FOR A THIRTY (30) DAY GRACE PERIOD ON**  
31 **RESIDENTIAL RENTS FALLING DUE WITHIN THE PERIOD FROM**  
32 **MARCH 16 TO APRIL 15, 2020, WITHOUT INCURRING**  
33 **INTERESTS, PENALTIES, FEES, AND OTHER CHARGES;**

34 **(24) IMPLEMENT AN EXPANDED AND ENHANCED PANTAWID**  
35 **PAMILYA PROGRAM RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS POSED BY**  
36 **THE CRISIS, AND PROVISION OF COMMODITY ASSISTANCE**  
37 **PROGRAM WHERE THE SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF**  
38 **SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT MAY PURCHASE**  
39 **COMMODITIES FOR EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION TO THE**  
40 **MEMBERS OF THE INFORMAL AND MARGINALIZED SECTOR**



1                   **DURING THE DURATION OF QUARANTINE. THE SECRETARY OF**  
2                   **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT MAY**  
3                   **APPROVE THE TEMPORARY EMERGENCY STANDARDS OF**  
4                   **ELIGIBILITY AND LEVELS OF BENEFITS.**

5                   [(19)] (25) Undertake such other measures as may be reasonable and  
6                   necessary to enable the President to carry out the declared national  
7                   policy subject to the Bill of Rights and other constitutional guarantees.

8                   **Section 5. Reports to Congress and Creation of an Oversight**  
9                   **Committee.** – The President, during Monday of every week, shall submit a weekly  
10                  report to Congress of all acts performed pursuant to this Act during the immediately  
11                  preceding week. **THE REPORT SHALL LIKEWISE INCLUDE THE AMOUNT AND**  
12                  **CORRESPONDING UTILIZATION OF THE FUNDS USED, AUGMENTED,**  
13                  **REPROGRAMMED, REALLOCATED AND REALIGNED PURSUANT THIS ACT.**

14                  For this purpose, the Congress shall establish a Joint Congressional Oversight  
15                  Committee composed of four (4) members of each house to be appointed by the  
16                  Senate President and the House Speaker, respectively. This Committee shall  
17                  determine whether such acts, orders, rules and regulations are within the restrictions  
18                  provided herein. [This Committee can override any acts, orders, rules and regulations  
19                  determined to be exercised in excess of the restrictions provided herein.]

20                  **Section 6. Penalties. - IN ADDITION TO ACTS OR OMISSIONS**  
21                  **PENALIZED BY EXISTING LAWS, VIOLATIONS OF THE PROVISIONS OF**  
22                  **THIS ACT** [Any violation of the rules, regulations and directives of the National  
23                  Government issued pursuant hereto], shall be punishable with imprisonment of two  
24                  (2) months or a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos but not more than One  
25                  Million Pesos, or both such imprisonment and fine at the discretion of the court,  
26                  without prejudice to prosecution under other applicable laws with heavier penalties:  
27                  *Provided*, however, That if the offender is a corporation, association, partnership or  
28                  any other juridical person, the penalty shall be imposed upon the president, directors,  
29                  managers, managing partners, as the case may be, who participated in the  
30                  commission of the offense or who shall have knowingly permitted or failed to prevent  
31                  the commission of the same. If the offender is an alien, he shall, in addition to the  
32                  penalties herein prescribed, be deported without further proceedings; *Provided*,  
33                  *further*, that if the offender is a public official or employee, he shall, in addition to the  
34                  penalties prescribed herein, suffer perpetual or temporary absolute disqualification  
35                  from office, as the case may be.

36                  **Section 7. Construction or Interpretation.** - [Nothing in this Act shall be  
37                  construed or interpreted as a restriction of the Bill of Rights or of the Constitution. In  
38                  case the exercise of the powers herein granted conflicts with other laws, this Act shall  
39                  prevail.] **NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS AN IMPAIRMENT,**

1 **RESTRICTION OR MODIFICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE**  
2 **CONSTITUTION. IN CASE THE EXERCISE OF THE POWERS HEREIN**  
3 **GRANTED CONFLICTS WITH OTHER STATUTES, ORDERS, RULES OR**  
4 **REGULATIONS, THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT SHALL PREVAIL.**

5 **Section 8. Separability.** - If any provision of this Act or the application of  
6 such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid, the remainder of this  
7 Act or the application of such provision to any other person or circumstances shall not  
8 be affected by such declaration.

9 **Section 9. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its  
10 publication in a newspaper of general circulation or in the Official Gazette and shall be  
11 in full force and effect only for [two (2) months or longer if the calamity persist, as  
12 may be determined by the President,] **THREE MONTHS, UNLESS EXTENDED BY**  
13 **CONGRESS** [, without prejudice to the powers that the President may continue to  
14 exercise under the Constitution or other laws.] *Provided*, That the powers granted  
15 under this Act may be withdrawn sooner by means of a concurrent resolution of  
16 Congress or ended by Presidential Proclamation. [*Provided*, further, that the  
17 implementation of all P/A/Ps that were cancelled pursuant to this Act may resume any  
18 time after the effectivity of this Act, notwithstanding provisions of law to the contrary.]

Approved,