



23 JAN 12 P5:46

SENATE  
S. No. 1667

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL PUBLIC PARKS SYSTEM, AND**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS, THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Access to nature has been associated with a range of benefits to health and well-being, including physical activity and mental health. In fact, studies show that people who have access to parks and green spaces are less likely to suffer from depression, anxiety and stress.

Parks can also provide a variety of ecosystem services by improving air quality, and regulating temperature, thereby benefitting our health and well-being as well especially in urban areas where inhaling fresh air has become a luxury.

Further, since parks and green spaces are generally free and publicly accessible, they provide a cost-effective alternative to conventional health promotion strategies for the government. More important is that Filipinos from all walks of life will be able to enjoy the said benefits.

This bill will establish a national public parks system that will be mandated to conserve and provide the enjoyment of identified and established parks, and leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. The participation of Local Government Units shall likewise be highlighted in identifying urban parks and open spaces within their jurisdictions to be converted to parks for this purpose.

For this reason, I recommend the approval of this bill.


  
**MARK A. VILLAR**

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL PUBLIC PARKS SYSTEM, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS, THEREFOR**

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

Chapter 1  
Introductory Sections

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “National Parks of  
2 2023”.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby the policy of the State to protect  
4 and maintain the health and well-being of the Filipino people through the  
5 establishment and preservation of parks and open spaces. To this end, the State  
6 recognizes parks and open spaces as valuable assets, and as such:

7 a) Shall establish the Philippine National Public Parks System aimed to  
8 conserve the scenery, natural and historical objects, and to provide for  
9 their enjoyment in such manner and by such means as will leave them  
10 unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

11 b) Shall recognize that parks and open spaces contribute to human health  
12 and well-being, social cohesion/identity, tourism, biodiversity, air quality,  
13 carbon sequestration, water management, and cooling of the  
14 environment.

15 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following words shall  
16 mean:

- 1 a) Administrator – refers to the Chief Executive Officer and Head of the  
2 National and Local Public Parks Authority (NALPA) Secretariat as defined in  
3 Sec. 9 of this Act.
- 4 b) Board – refers to the NALPA Board as defined in Sec. 5 of this Act.
- 5 c) National and Local Public Parks – refer to any land laid out as a public  
6 garden and/or used for public recreation. This does not refer to national  
7 shrines administered by the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office.
- 8 d) National and Local Public Parks System or the System – refers to the  
9 system of parks and open spaces as defined under Chapter 4 of this Act.
- 10 e) NIPAS – refers to the National Integrated Protected Areas System as  
11 defined in Republic Act No. 7586, as amended or the NIPAS Act.
- 12 f) NPDC – refers to the National Parks Development Committee created by  
13 Executive Order 30 series of 1963.
- 14 g) NPF or NPFI – refers to the Nayong Pilipino Foundation Inc., a  
15 government-owned and controlled corporation registered with the  
16 Securities and Exchange Commission on May 7, 1969, as a non-stock,  
17 non-profit corporation. Presidential Decree No. 37 established the Nayong  
18 Pilipino Foundation on November 6, 1972.
- 19 h) Protected Areas – refers to the Protected Areas as defined under the  
20 NIPAS Act.
- 21 i) Secretariat – refers to the NALPA Secretariat as defined under Sec. 7 of  
22 this Act.

## 23 Chapter 2

### 24 Establishment of the National and Local Public Parks Authority

25 Sec. 4. *Composition of the Authority.* – The Authority shall be composed of  
26 the Board and the Secretariat.

27 Sec. 5. *Composition of the Board.* – The NALPA Board shall be composed of  
28 the representatives of the following:

- 29 1. Secretary of Tourism as Chairperson;
- 30 2. Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Co-Chairperson (who  
31 shall be officially represented by the Director of the Biodiversity  
32 Management Bureau);

- 1 3. Secretary of Public Works and Highways as Member;
- 2 4. Secretary of Agriculture as Member;
- 3 5. Secretary of Interior and Local Government as Member;
- 4 6. Chairperson of the Commission of Higher Education as Member;
- 5 7. Director-General of the TESDA Secretariat.

6 In addition, the President of the Philippines shall appoint the following  
7 members from the private sector:

- 8 1. Two representatives, from a recognized professional architectural  
9 organization; and
- 10 2. Two representatives, from the academe, preferably in urban planning and  
11 development.

12 As soon as all the members of the private sector are appointed, they shall so  
13 organize themselves that the term of office of one-third (1/3) of their number shall  
14 expire every year. The member from the private sector appointed thereafter to fill  
15 vacancies caused by the expiration of terms shall hold office for three (3) years.

16 The President of the Philippines may, however, revise the membership of the  
17 NALPA Board, whenever the President deems it necessary for the effective  
18 performance of the Board's functions through an administrative order.

19 The NALPA Board shall meet at least twice a year, or as frequently as may be  
20 deemed necessary by its Chairperson. In the absence of the Chairperson, a Co-  
21 Chairperson shall preside. The internal rules of the NALPA Board shall be  
22 promulgated during its first organizational meeting.

23 The benefits, privileges, and emoluments of the Board shall be consistent with  
24 the existing laws and rules.

25 *Sec. 6. Powers and Functions of the Board.* – The Authority shall primarily be  
26 responsible for the National and Local Public Parks System including the  
27 establishment of policies, plans, and programs taking into consideration the  
28 following:

- 29 a) The State policy declared herein giving due consideration to the  
30 establishment and maintenance of national and urban parks, open and  
31 green spaces, and recreational facilities;

- 1           b) The implementation of the above-mentioned policy requires the  
2           coordination and cooperation of policies, plans, and programs of different  
3           concerned sectors of Philippine society; and  
4           c) Equal and active participation of the national government and its  
5           appropriate agencies, the LGUs, the academe, and the private sector shall  
6           be made the rule in order to ensure that the National and Local Public  
7           Parks System shall be fully established and maintained.

8           The Board, shall have the following powers:

- 9           a) Establish minimum quotas for all LGUs for the designation of  
10           municipal and city lands for public parks, where applicable;  
11           b) Manage the country's National and Local Public Parks System, and in  
12           doing so shall guide and assist other government agencies and  
13           entities, and the LGUs in the planning, establishment, and  
14           management of parks that will be included in the System;  
15           c) Promulgate, after due consultation with concerned groups and  
16           entities, policies, plans, programs, and guidelines as may be  
17           necessary for the effective implementation, of this Act and the  
18           establishment of the National and Local Public Parks System;  
19           d) Establish and manage the National and Local Public Parks Institute,  
20           which shall serve as the national center for park administration,  
21           management, and maintenance training, research, and  
22           development;  
23           e) In coordination with the Biodiversity Management Bureau, shall  
24           make Protected Areas accessible to the public for recreational  
25           purposes;  
26           f) Organize and constitute standing committees, subsidiary groups, or  
27           technical working groups for the efficient integration and  
28           coordination of local open spaces and urban parks;  
29           g) Exact reasonable fees and charges for such services provided and  
30           training conducted and retain such earnings for its own use, subject  
31           to guidelines promulgated by the Authority;

- 1 h) Create, when deemed necessary, an Advisory Committee which shall  
2 provide expert and technical advice to the Board to be chosen from  
3 the academe and the private sector: *Provided*, That in case the  
4 Advisory Committee is created, the Board is hereby authorized to  
5 set aside a portion of its appropriation for its operation; and  
6 i) Carry out any and all other functions characteristic of public  
7 institutions of similar mandate and national scope, in line with  
8 prevailing international principles and best practices.

9 *Sec. 7. The NALPA Secretariat.* – The NALPA Secretariat, an independent  
10 agency of the executive department, shall have the primary mission of providing  
11 pro-active leadership in the continuous development of systematic approaches as  
12 well as measures to maintain and manage the National and Local Public Parks  
13 System, and shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- 14 a) To establish and maintain a planning process and formulate a national  
15 parks development plan in which all concerned groups and entities at  
16 various levels participate;  
17 b) To provide analytical inputs to policy decision-making of the Authority on  
18 the allocation of resources and institutional roles and responsibilities as  
19 shall be embodied in the annual national parks plans;  
20 c) To recommend measures, and implement the same upon approval by the  
21 Authority, for the effective and efficient implementation of the national  
22 parks development plan;  
23 d) To propose to the Authority the specific allocation of resources for the  
24 programs and projects it shall undertake pursuant to the approved  
25 national parks development plan;  
26 e) To submit to the Authority periodic reports on the progress and  
27 accomplishment of work programs of implementation of plans and  
28 policies; and  
29 f) To perform such other functions and duties as may be assigned by the  
30 Board.

31 *Sec. 8. The Dissolution of NPDC and NPF and Transfer to NALPA Secretariat.*  
32 – The NPDC and NPF are hereby dissolved and all their powers, functions,

1 responsibilities, all applicable funds and appropriations, records, assets, and  
2 properties are hereby transferred to the NALPA Secretariat.

3       *Sec. 9. The NALPA Administrator and Chief Executive Officer.* – The NALPA  
4 Secretariat shall be headed by an Administrator, who shall likewise be a member of  
5 the Board. The Administrator shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines  
6 and shall enjoy the benefits, privileges and emoluments equivalent to the rank of  
7 Undersecretary.

8       As Chief Executive Officer of the Secretariat, the Administrator shall exercise  
9 general supervision and control over its technical and administrative personnel. The  
10 Administrator shall have the power to recommend to the Authority the structural  
11 organization and the personnel complement of the Secretariat. Furthermore, the  
12 Administrator shall appoint such personnel necessary to carry out the objectives,  
13 policies, and functions of the Authority subject to Civil Service laws, rules and  
14 regulations.

15       The administrator may call upon other instrumentalities or entities of the  
16 government, non-government, and civic organizations for assistance in terms of the  
17 use of their facilities and resources for the management and administration of any  
18 park in the System. This authority includes the power to call on the Philippine  
19 National Police to maintain peace and order in any park in the System.

20       The performance of the functions of the Administrator under this Act shall, in  
21 no case, result in the diminution of the powers of the LGUs to establish their own  
22 parks or develop their own open or green spaces.

23       *Sec. 10. Deputy Administrators.* – The Administrator shall be assisted by four  
24 (4) Deputy Administrators for (i) Research and Development, (ii) National and Local  
25 Public Parks Operations, (iii) Local Public Parks Operations, and (iv) Park Architecture  
26 & Planning.

27       The Deputy Administrators shall enjoy the benefits, privileges, and  
28 emoluments equivalent to the rank of Assistant Secretary.

29       *Sec. 11. Regional Administrators.* – The Regional Administrators shall be  
30 under the direct control of the Administrator and shall oversee the operations of  
31 National and Local Public Parks at the regional level.

1 The Regional Administrators shall enjoy the benefit, privileges, and  
2 emoluments equivalent to the rank of a Regional Director, and shall provide  
3 technical assistance, particularly to local government units for effective supervision,  
4 coordination, and monitoring of national and local parks within their localities, and  
5 their integration to the National Public Parks System.

6 Sec. 12. *Organization Divisions.* – The Secretariat shall have the following  
7 Divisions which shall be headed by Division Chiefs:

- 8 a) Administrative Division;
- 9 b) Finance Division;
- 10 c) Programs and Public Affairs Division;
- 11 d) Internal Audit Division;
- 12 e) Security and Safety Division;
- 13 f) Information and Communications Technology Division; and
- 14 g) Cultural & Heritage Preservation Division.

15 The following Divisions shall be headed by the Deputies Administrators:

- 16 a) National Public Parks Operations & Management ;
- 17 b) Local Public Park Operations & Management;
- 18 c) Research & Development; and
- 19 d) Park Architecture & Planning.

20 Sec. 13. *Personnel Training, Development and Performance incentives.* – The  
21 Authority shall undertake training and development programs to upgrade the  
22 capabilities of its personnel in its various functions. Personnel shall be allowed to  
23 train or study outside the Institute, in the Philippines, or abroad, on official time,  
24 subject to the needs of the service, upon approval of the Administrator.

25 A system of monetary incentives shall be established to reward the superior  
26 performance and milestones of professional development on the part of  
27 management and administrative and technical personnel, subject to the approval of  
28 the Department of Budget and Management and, where applicable, to the Civil  
29 Service Commission.

30 Sec. 14. *Consultants and Technical Assistance, Publication, and Research.* –  
31 In pursuing its objectives, the Authority is hereby authorized to set aside a portion of  
32 its appropriation for the hiring of services of qualified consultants, and private



1 organizations for research work and publication in the field of national and urban  
2 parks, and open and green spaces. It shall avail itself of the services of other  
3 agencies of the Government as may be required.

4 *Sec. 15. Privileges of the Authority.* – In line with the declared policy and the  
5 avowed purposes of this Act, and to ensure its independence and autonomy, the  
6 NALPA Secretariat shall be attached solely for budgetary coordination and related  
7 purposes to the Office of the President. The Secretariat shall:

8 a) Be classified as a National Government Agency, primarily for  
9 administrative purposes, including receiving its annual budget from the  
10 general appropriations of the National Government to cover appropriately  
11 the entirety of its mandated operations and activities;

12 b) Be considered as higher in level than a Bureau or Bureau-level agency but  
13 beneath that of a Department or Department-level agency, primarily for  
14 administrative purposes as to staffing pattern and compensation scales;  
15 and

16 c) Enjoy such privileges and special rules characteristics of both a  
17 Government-Owned or Controlled Corporation and a State University or  
18 College wherever possible and which, in any and all cases, promote the  
19 objectives of this Act; and that special rules as may be necessary to this  
20 effect be formulated and appropriately promulgated by the NALPA, the  
21 Department of Budget and Management, the Commission on Audit, and  
22 other concerned agencies.

### 23 Chapter 3

#### 24 The National Parks Institute

25 *Sec. 16. The Creation of the National Parks Institute.* – There is hereby  
26 created the National Parks Institute of the Philippines which shall be under the  
27 supervision of the Board. The Institute shall serve as the training and development  
28 arm of the Authority. The Institute shall be headed by a Director.

29 In coordination with CHED and state universities and colleges, and other  
30 private universities and institutions, the Institute shall establish a unique training  
31 course aimed at supporting the purposes of this Act, and shall:

- 1 a) Formulate and implement training programs for all personnel of NALPA  
2 and LGUs, other agencies, and private entities and institutions who wish to  
3 train with the Institute;
- 4 b) Formulate and implement select mandatory and specialized courses, and  
5 for that purpose shall be allowed to issue diplomas and technical  
6 certificates under such rules as will be coordinated with CHED and TESDA;
- 7 c) Develop and implement research and development to support NALPA and  
8 for educational training programs; and
- 9 d) Perform such other related functions as may be prescribed by NALPA and  
10 the Board.

#### 11 Chapter 4

#### 12 The National Parks System

13 *Sec. 17. Study and Planning of National Parks, Urban Parks, Open Spaces,*  
14 *and Recreational-Area Facilities.* – Within 3 years from the effectivity of this Act, the  
15 Authority shall make a comprehensive study of the National Parks, Urban Parks,  
16 Open Spaces, and Recreational-Area Facilities programs of the national government  
17 and the LGUs and of areas of land throughout the Philippines that are or may be  
18 chiefly valuable to National Parks, Urban Parks, Open Spaces, and Recreational-Area  
19 Facilities.

20 The report shall be submitted to the Board who shall be empowered to  
21 declare specifically identified areas as either National Parks, Urban Parks, Open  
22 Spaces, or Recreational-Area Facilities.

23 *Sec. 18. Identification of National Parks.* – Notwithstanding any law or  
24 proclamation to the contrary, the following parks are hereby considered National  
25 Parks and shall be under the authority of the Authority: (1) Rizal Park, and (2) Paco  
26 Park.

27 Their Administrator and Provincial Administrators are strictly mandated to  
28 investigate, study, and continually monitor areas whose over-all circumstances  
29 exhibit qualities of national significance and that may have the potential to become a  
30 NALPA Park.

31 *Sec. 19. Acquisition of Land.* – In the exercise of its power under this Act, the  
32 Authority through the Administrator shall have the power to acquire land and

1 interests in land within the boundary of any NALPA Park. In the same manner and  
2 for the establishment of an identified National Park, the power of eminent domain  
3 shall be established through the Administrator, or by any of its Deputies or Provincial  
4 Administrators.

5       Sec. 20. *Creation of Urban Parks and Open Spaces in LGUs.* – Within the  
6 period provided by the Authority, LGUs shall be obliged to identify Urban Parks and  
7 Open Spaces within their jurisdictions.

8       Identified areas may either become NALPA Administered Parks or maintain  
9 their nature as Local Parks at the discretion of the LGU.

10       The Authority is hereby mandated to enter into cooperative agreement with  
11 colleges and universities, in partnership with LGUs and other agencies, to establish  
12 cooperative study units to conduct multi-disciplinary research and develop integrated  
13 information products on the resources in the NALPA Parks or the LGU of which the  
14 NALPA Park is located for possible commercial production or utilization.

15       Sec. 21. *Delineation of Authority and Coverage.* – Subject to the IRR and  
16 dependent on the categorization of the land or an area, a nature reserve or a  
17 declared protected area under the NIPAS shall continue to be under the jurisdiction  
18 of the DENR. All other parks established or may be established may be covered  
19 under this Act.

20       Sec. 22. *Administration, Management, and Funding of NALPA Parks.* – Subject  
21 to reasonable restrictions under the IRR, the general public is hereby to be granted  
22 free admission to all NALPA Parks. However, the Authority may levy appropriate fees  
23 for special activities or programs.

24       Sec. 23. *Retention of Income.* – The Authority is hereby authorized to retain  
25 the entirety of its income from all sources of its operations nationwide and to spend  
26 the same for any purpose.

27       Sec. 24. *The NALPA Fund.* – The NALPA Fund is hereby established to be  
28 managed/administered by the Authority, the income from which shall be utilized  
29 exclusively in awarding grants and providing assistance to park development  
30 programs, local government units for upgrading their capabilities, and to develop  
31 and implement training and training-related activities for park development. The  
32 contribution to the fund shall be the following:

- 1 a) a one-time lump sum appropriation from the national government in the  
2 amount of P100,000,000.00;  
3 b) donations, grants, endowments, and other bequests or gifts of which the  
4 Authority is hereby authorized to accept; and  
5 c) any other income generated by the Authority.

6 The Authority shall be the administrator of the fund, and as such, shall  
7 formulate the necessary implementing guidelines for the management of the fund,  
8 subject to the following: a) unless otherwise stipulated by the private donor, only  
9 earning of private contributions shall be used; b) no part of the seed capital of the  
10 fund, including earning, thereof, shall be used to underwrite expenses for  
11 administration.

12 The Board shall appoint a reputable government-accredited investment  
13 institution as a fund manager, subject to guidelines promulgated by the Board.

14 *Sec. 25. Incentive Schemes.* – The Authority shall develop and administer  
15 appropriate incentives schemes to encourage the LGUs and private industries and  
16 institutions to participate in the development of the National Parks System.

17 *Sec. 26. Parks and Green Spaces Awards.* – To promote park development in  
18 the country and with the view of participating in international park development  
19 competitions, the Authority, with the active participation of private industries, shall  
20 organize and conduct an annual Parks and Green Spaces Awards. The Authority,  
21 through the Secretariat, shall promulgate the necessary rules and guidelines for the  
22 effective and efficient conduct of the Annual National Parks and Green Spaces  
23 Competition among the LGUs and for the country's participation in international park  
24 development competitions.

25 *Sec. 27. Exemption from Taxes, Duties, Fees, and Charges.* – The Authority  
26 shall be exempt from the payment of taxes, fees, and charges imposed by the  
27 National Government and its political subdivisions, agencies, and instrumentalities  
28 regardless of the nature of its activity.

29 All donations in any form shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same  
30 shall be considered as an allowable deduction from the gross income in the  
31 computation of the income in the computation of the income tax of the donor, in

1 accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 8424, otherwise known as the  
2 National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

3 Furthermore, the importation of supplies and materials for the use of the  
4 Authority shall be exempt from customs duties.

5 *Sec. 28. Commercial Operations of and inside of NALPA Parks.* – The  
6 Authority shall be authorized to undertake commercial operations, the proceeds of  
7 which shall be credited to the NALPA Fund:

- 8 a) The rental of dedicated areas for external events, functions, and similar  
9 activities;
- 10 b) The lease of dedicated areas for the erection and operation of commercial  
11 establishments inside NALPA Parks, which NALPA shall be allowed to  
12 award, through public bidding, and giving preference to nonprofit  
13 organizations of a nature related to or supportive of its mandate, for a  
14 term up to five (5) years per contract;
- 15 c) The production and/or licensing of official merchandise; and
- 16 d) The award of concession contracts is when the Authority shall utilize  
17 concession contracts to authorize a person, corporation, or other entity to  
18 provide accommodations, facilities, and services to visitors or users of  
19 NALPA Parks.

20 *Sec. 29. Contracted Services.* – The Authority is authorized to contract out  
21 services for Park Management and Safety and Security Services.

## 22 Chapter 5

### 23 Miscellaneous Provisions

24 *Sec. 30. NALPA Budget.* – The amount necessary to finance the initial  
25 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the existing appropriations of the  
26 NPDC and the NPF, and shall be supported by funds coming from the Office of the  
27 President. Thereafter, such funds as may be necessary for the continued  
28 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations  
29 Act.

30 *Sec. 31. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within 180 days from the  
31 effectivity of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Board the implementing

1 rules and regulations of this Act upon prior consultation with all concerned groups  
2 and entities.

3 *Sec. 32. Transitory Provisions. –*

4 a) Within two (2) months after the approval of this Act, the President shall, in  
5 consultation with the Secretary of Tourism, appoint the private sector  
6 representative of the Board.

7 b) Within three (3) months after the appointment of the private sector  
8 representatives, the President shall, upon the recommendation of the  
9 Board, appoint the Administrator.

10 c) Within four (4) months after the appointment of the Administrator, the  
11 Board shall convene to determine the organizational structure and staffing  
12 pattern of the Authority.

13 d) Within one (1) year after the organization of the Authority, the Board shall  
14 convene to determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of  
15 the Authority.

16 e) Upon the effectivity of this Act, and prior to the appointment of the Board  
17 and the Administrator, the heads and personnel of both NPDC and NPF  
18 shall continue to exercise their functions and duties, in a holdover  
19 capacity, and shall ensure the smooth transition to the Board and the  
20 Administrator.

21 f) All personnel of the NPDC and NPF are hereby deemed retired from  
22 service. Retirement and separation benefits shall be paid under existing  
23 rules and regulations.

24 g) The Authority may at its discretion retain any personnel of NPDC and NPF  
25 it deems necessary to carry out its purpose and function.

26 h) The ownership and title to the properties now actually occupied by the  
27 NPF and NPDC are hereby transferred in fee simple to the Authority,  
28 subject to the following conditions:

29 a. The titles to the land conveyed by this Act shall not be  
30 transferred by the Authority to another person or entity without  
31 previous authorization by the President of the Philippines.

1                   b. The Authority is hereby authorized to mortgage any properties  
2                   referred to above for the purpose for carrying out its objectives  
3                   and purposes only; and

4                   c. In case the Authority is dissolved or ceases, for any reason, to  
5                   undertake its objectives, or ceases to need any of the lands for  
6                   any reason, said land shall *ipso facto* revert to the National  
7                   Government without compensation.

8                   Sec. 33. *Automatic Review.* – Every five (5) years, after the effectivity of this  
9                   Act, an independent review panel composed of three (3) persons appointed by the  
10                  President shall review the performance of the Authority and shall make  
11                  recommendations, based on its finding to the President and to both House of  
12                  Congress.

13                  Sec. 34. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees or issuance,  
14                  executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules or regulations  
15                  inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
16                  accordingly.

17                  Sec. 35. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared  
18                  unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall  
19                  remain in full force and effect.

20                  Sec. 36. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the  
21                  publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*