NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE	
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES	
Second Regular Session	



23 JUL 27 A8:27

SENATE

)

s. No. 2368



Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

AN ACT

EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF ESPIONAGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 616, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO PUNISH ESPIONAGE AND OTHER OFFENSES AGAINST THE NATIONAL SECURITY", AND PROVIDING HIGHER PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Espionage is defined as the offense of gathering, transmitting, or losing information respecting the national defense with intent or reason to believe that the information is to be used to the injury of the Republic of the Philippines or to the advantage of any foreign nation¹. It is one of the four crimes against national security under the Revised Penal Code – the other three are treason, conspiracy and proposal to commit treason, and misprision of treason. Espionage is a crime not conditioned by the citizenship of the offender, as in treason. While treason is committed only in time of war, espionage may be committed in time of peace and in time of war².

The Philippines' primary measures on espionage were enacted into law as far back as the 1930s and 1940s, namely Commonwealth Act No. 616 or "An Act to Punish Espionage and Other Offenses Against the National Security" signed in June 1941, and the Revised Penal Code which took effect in 1932, particularly Article 117 thereof.

¹ Reyes, Luis. B. The Revised Penal Code Criminal Law, Book Two, Articles 114-367. 2021 Edition.

² Ibid.

Under prevailing laws, only information, materials, and other concerns pertaining to "national defense" unlawfully obtained and/or disclosed to the injury of the Philippines or to the advantage of any foreign nation constitute espionage with the penalty of imprisonment ranging from not more than ten years to thirty years, and a fine of Two thousand to Thirty thousand pesos. Under the Revised Penal Code, espionage is meted with the penalty of *prision correccional* or imprisonment from six months and one day to six years. This measure proposes stiffer penalties such as life imprisonment and heftier fines (at least one million pesos) for the commission of espionage.

It is imperative to update the provisions of the said laws and increase the penalties thereof to protect government information, including classified matters relevant to the preservation and protection of national security, from theft, wrongful destruction or alteration, misappropriation and conversion by any person including foreign governments and their agents or instrumentalities. In addition, provisions of the law are revised to take into account advancements in technology, to include electronic forms of documents and other information as well as cybersecurity.

Considering the antiquated nature of our espionage laws which were approved more than eight decades ago and the major changes in the national defense and security landscape since then, today is an opportune time to revisit pertinent policies and introduce appropriate amendments therein.

The passage of this legislation is earnestly sought.

JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "An Act Expanding the 1 Coverage of Espionage." 2 Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used this Act, the following terms shall mean: 3 a) Aircraft means any contrivance known or hereafter invented, used, or 4 designed for navigation or flight in the air. The expression "post, camp, or 5 station" as used in this act shall be interpreted to include naval vessels, 6 military and naval aircraft, and any separate military, naval or air command. 7 b) Associate nation shall be deemed to mean any nation at war with any nation 8 9 with which the Philippines is at war. c) Classified matter and/or information includes everything, regardless of its 10 physical character, classified as "top secret", "secret", "confidential", and 11 "restricted". 12 Documents, equipment, projects, books, reports, articles, notes, letters, 13 writings, drawings, sketches, plans, maps, photographs, photographic 14 negative, blueprints, recordings, machinery, models, apparatus, devices, 15

tools, appliance, and all other products or substances which fall within the general term "matter". Information which is transmitted orally is considered as "matter" for purposes of security.

- d) Foreign government shall be deemed to include any government, faction, or body of insurgents within a country with which the Philippines is at peace, which government, faction, or body of insurgents may or may not have been recognized by the Philippines as a government.
- e) *National security* shall include human and political security, health security, economic and financial security, food and water security, military and border security, socio-cultural security, environment and disaster security, energy security, maritime and airspace security, international security, informational and cyber security, transportation and port security.
- f) War or national defense material shall include arms, armament, ammunition, livestock, stores of clothing, food, foodstuffs, or fuel; and shall also include supplies, munitions, and all other articles of whatever description, and any part or ingredient thereof, intended for, adapted to, or suitable for the use of the Philippines or any associate nation, in connection with the conduct of war or national defense.
- g) War or national defense premises shall include all buildings, grounds, mines, or other places wherein such war or national defense material is being produced, manufactured, repaired, stored, mined, extracted, distributed, loaded, unloaded, or transported, together with all machinery and appliances therein contained; and all ports, arsenals, navy yards, prisons, camps, or other military, naval, or air stations of the Philippines or any associate nation.
- h) War or national defense utilities shall include all railroads, railways, electric lines, roads of whatever description, railroad or railway fixture, canal, lock, dam, wharf, pier, dock, bridge, building, structure, engine, machine, mechanical contrivance, car, vehicle, boat, or aircraft, or any other means of transportation whatsoever, whereon or whereby such war or national defense material or any troops of the Philippines or of any associate nation, are being or may be transported either within the limits of the Philippines

or upon the high seas; and all dams, reservoirs, aqueducts, water and gas mains, oil or gasoline stations, pipes, structures, and buildings, whereby or in connection with which water, or gas, or oil, or gasoline, or other fluid is being furnished, or may be furnished to any war or national defense premises or to the military, naval, or air forces of the Philippines or any associate nation, and all electric light and power, steam or pneumatic power, telephone, and telegraph plants, poles, wires, and fixtures and wireless stations, and the buildings connected with the maintenance and operation thereof used to supply water, light, heat, gas, oil, gasoline, fluid, power, or facilities of communication to any war or national defense premises or to the military, naval or air forces of the Philippines or any associate nation.

Sec. 3. Section 1 of Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 1. Unlawfully obtaining or permitting to be obtained CLASSIFIED MATTER AND/OR information affecting national defense OR SECURITY.—

"a) Whoever, for the purposes of obtaining [information respecting the national defense] PERMITTING TO BE OBTAINED CLASSIFIED MATTER OR INFORMATION AFFECTING NATIONAL DEFENSE **OR NATIONAL SECURITY,** with intent or reason to believe that the CLASSIFIED MATTER OR information to be obtained is to be used to the injury of the Philippines For of the United States 1, or to the advantage of any foreign nation, [goes upon, enters, flies over, or otherwise] OR ENEMY OF THE STATE, WHETHER DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN, obtains CLASSIFIED MATTER OR information BY ANY MEANS concerning [any vessel, aircraft, work of defense, navy yard, naval station, submarine base, coaling station, fort, battery, torpedo station, dockyard, canal, railroad, arsenal, camp, factory, mine, telegraph, telephone, wireless, or signal station, building, office, or other place connected with the national defense, owned or constructed, or in progress of construction by the Philippines or by the United States or under the control of the Philippines or of the United States, or any of its officers or agents, or within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Philippines or of the United States, or any place in which any vessel, aircraft, arms, munitions, or other materials or instruments for the use in time of war are being made, prepared, repaired, or stored, under any contract or agreement with the Philippines or the United States, or with any person on behalf of the Philippines or the United States, or otherwise on behalf of the Philippines or the United States, or any prohibited place within the meaning of section six hereof; or NATIONAL SECURITY OR NATIONAL DEFENSE SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN **ONE MILLION PESOS (P1,000,000.00), OR BOTH;**

"b) Whoever, for the purpose aforesaid, and with like intent or reason to believe, INTERCEPTS, RECORDS, copies, takes, makes, or obtains, or attempts, or induces or aids another to INTERCEPT, RECORD, copy, take, make, or obtain any [sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blue print, plan, map, model, instrument, appliance, document, writing, or note of anything connected with the national defense; or] CLASSIFIED MATTER OR INFORMATION AFFECTING NATIONAL DEFENSE OR NATIONAL SECURITY SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY OF TWELVE (12) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY TO TWENTY (20) YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00) OR BOTH;

"c) Whoever, for the purpose aforesaid, receives or obtains or agrees or attempts or induces or aids another to receive or obtain from any person, or from any source whatever, Idocument, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blue print, plan, map, model, instrument, appliance, or note of anything connected with the national defense | CLASSIFIED MATTER OR INFORMATION, IN WHATEVER FORM, knowing or having reason to believe, at the time [he] ONE receives or obtains, or agrees or attempts or induces or aids another to receive or obtain it, that it has been or will be obtained, taken, made, or disposed of by any person contrary to the provisions of this Act Shall Suffer the Penalty of Twelve (12) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY TO TWENTY (20) YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH;

"d) Whoever, lawfully or unlawfully having possession of, access to, control over, or being intrusted with any [document, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blue print, plan, map, model, instrument, appliance, or note] CLASSIFIED MATTER OR INFORMATION relating to the national SECURITY OR NATIONAL defense, IN WHATEVER FORM, willfully communicates or transmits or attempts to communicate or transmit the same to any person not entitled to receive it, or willfully retains the same and fails to deliver it on demand to the officer or employee of the Philippines [or of the United States] entitled to receive it SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY OF TWELVE (12) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY TO TWENTY (20) YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT OR

BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH:

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"e) Whoever, being intrusted with or having lawful possession or control of any Idocument, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blue print, plan, map, model, note or information] CLASSIFIED MATTER OR INFORMATION, WHETHER IT BE IN **PRINTED COPY OR ELECTRONIC FORM,** relating to the national defense **OR SECURITY**, through gross negligence permits the same to be removed from its proper place of custody or delivered to anyone in violation of this trust or to be lost, stolen, abstracted, or destroyed, shall [be punished by imprisonment for not more than ten years and may, in addition thereto, be fined not more than ten thousand pesos] SUFFER THE PENALTY OF TWELVE (12) YEARS AND ONE DAY TO TWENTY (20) YEARS (1) IMPRISONMENT OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH."

Sec. 4. Section 2 of Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 2. Unlawfully disclosing CLASSIFIED MATTER

OR information affecting NATIONAL SECURITY OR

national defense. —

"a) Whoever, with the intent or reason to believe that it is to be used to the injury of the Philippines [or of the United States] or to the advantage of a foreign nation **OR ENEMY OF THE STATE, WHETHER DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN,** communicates, delivers, or transmits, or attempts to, or aids or induces another to, communicate, deliver or transmit to any foreign government or any faction or party or military or naval force within a foreign country, whether recognized or

unrecognized by the Philippines [or by the United States], or to any representative, officer, agent, employee, subject, or citizen thereof, **OR TO ANY ENEMY OF THE STATE**, either directly or indirectly, any [document, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blue print, plan, map, model, instrument, appliance, 1 **CLASSIFIED MATTER** or information, **WHETHER IT BE IN** PRINTED COPY OR ELECTRONIC FORM, OF ANY **CLASSIFIED MATTER AND/OR INFORMATION** relating to the NATIONAL SECURITY AND/OR national defense, shall [be punished by imprisonment for not more than twenty years, if the offense is committed in time of peace, or by death or imprisonment for not more than thirty years, if it is in time of war] SUFFER THE PENALTY OF TWELVE (12) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY TO TWENTY (20) YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH.

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"b) Whoever, in time of war OR DURING THE **DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW**, with intent that the same shall be communicated to the enemy, shall collect, record, publish or communicate, at attempt to elicit any CLASSIFIED MATTER OR information with respect to NATIONAL SECURITY OR NATIONAL DEFENSE, **INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO** the movement. number, description, condition or disposition of any of the [armed_forces] PHILIPPINE FORCES OR ITS ALLIES, ships, aircraft, or war materials of the Philippines for of the United States 1, or with respect to the plans or conduct or supposed plans or conduct of any military, naval or air operations, or with respect to any works or measures undertaken for or connected with, or intended for the fortification or defense **AND SECURITY** of any place, or any other information relating to the public defense **OR NATIONAL SECURITY**, which might be useful to the enemy, shall be punished by [death or by imprisonment for not more than thirty years] **LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN TWO MILLION PESOS** (P2,000,000.00)."

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Sec. 5. Section 3 of Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 3. Disloval acts or words in time of peace. – It shall be unlawful for any person, with intent to interfere with, impair, or influence the loyalty, morale, or discipline of [the military, naval, or air forces of the Philippines or of the United States: ANY MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT WHOSE FUNCTION IS NECESSARY TO THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY OR **NATIONAL DEFENSE**: a) to advise, counsel, urge, **INCITE**, or in any manner cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty by any member of the [military, naval, or air forces of the Philippines or of the United States;] **AFOREMENTIONED**; or b) to distribute any written or printed matter which advises, counsels, INCITES, or urges insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty by any member of the [military, naval, or air forces of the Philippines or of the United States] AFOREMENTIONED. The violation of this section shall be **I**punished by imprisonment for not more than ten years, or by fine not more than ten thousand pesos, or both] IMPOSED WITH THE PENALTY OF TEN (10) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY TO TWELVE (12) YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH."

Sec. 6. Section 4 of Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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"Sec. 4. Disloyal acts or words in time of war. -Whoever, when the Philippines [or the United States] is at war, shall willfully make or convey false reports or false statements with the intent to interfere with the operation or success of the [military, naval, or air forces of the Philippines or of the United States | GOVERNMENT RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY OR DEFENSE or to promote the success of its enemies shall willfully cause or attempt to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty, [in the military, naval, or air forces of the Philippines or the United States OF ANY MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT WHOSE FUNCTION IS NECESSARY TO THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND/OR **NATIONAL DEFENSE**, or shall willfully obstruct the recruiting or enlistment service of the Philippines [or of the United States] to the injury of the service of the Philippines [or of the United States], shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than [twenty] **THIRTY (30)** years, or by a fine of [not more than twenty thousand pesos] NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH."

Sec. 7. Section 5 of the Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 5. Conspiracy to violate preceding sections. – If two or more persons conspire to violate the provisions of [sections one, two, three or four] SECTIONS 3 TO 6 of this Act, and one or more of such persons does any act to effect the object of the conspiracy, EACH OF THE PARTIES TO SUCH CONSPIRACY shall be punished as in said sections

1	provided in the case of the doing of the act the
2	accomplishment of which is the object of such conspiracy."
3	Sec. 8. Section 6 of the Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby amended to read
4	as follows:
5	"Sec. 6. Harboring or concealing violators of the law
6	Whoever harbors or conceals any person who [he] ONE
7	knows, or has reasonable ground to believe or suspect, has
8	committed, or is about to commit, an offense under this Act,
9	shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than Ten (10)
10	years and may, in addition thereto, be fined [not more than
11	ten] NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED thousand pesos
12	(P500,000.00)."
13	Sec. 9. Section 7 of the Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby amended to read
14	as follows:
15	"Sec. 7. Designation of prohibited places by
16	proclamation. – The President of the Philippines in time of war
17	or in case of national emergency may by proclamation
18	designate any place [other than those set forth in subsection
19	(a) of section one hereof] in which anything for the use of the
20	GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY army, navy, air, OR POLICE
21	forces are being prepared or constructed or stored as a
22	prohibited place for the purpose of this Act: Provided, That
23	[he] ONE shall determine that information with respect
24	thereto would be prejudicial to the national defense OR
25	NATIONAL SECURITY."
26	Sec. 10. Section 8 of the Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby amended to
27	read as follows:
28	"Sec. 8. Photographing, etc., defensive installations
29	regulated; penalties Whenever, in the interests of national
30	defense OR NATIONAL SECURITY, the President of the
31	Philippines OR HIS DULY AUTHORIZED
32	REPRESENTATIVE shall define certain vital [military, naval,

or air GOVERNMENT installations or equipment as requiring protection against the general dissemination of information relative thereto, it shall be unlawful to make any photograph, sketch, picture, drawing, map, or graphical representation of such vital [military, naval, and air] GOVERNMENT installations or equipment without first obtaining permission of the [commanding officer of the military, naval, or air post, camp, or station] HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT, OFFICE, UNIT, BUREAU, AGENCY, CAMP, NAVAL STATION OR **AIR POST** concerned or higher authority, and promptly submitting the product obtained to such [commanding officer or higher authority] HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT, OFFICE, UNIT, BUREAU, AGENCY, CAMP, NAVAL **STATION, OR AIR POST** for censorship or such other action as [he] IT may deem necessary. Any person found guilty of a violation of this section shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than I one year, or by a fine of not more than two thousand pesos | SIX (6) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), or both."

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Sec. 11. Section 9 of the Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 9. Photographing, etc. from aircraft, DRONE OR OTHER SIMILAR MACHINES OR DEVICES. — Any person who uses or permits or procures the use of an aircraft, DRONE, OR OTHER SIMILAR MACHINES OR DEVICES for the purpose of making a photograph, sketch, picture, drawing, map, or graphical representation of vital [military, naval, or air] GOVERNMENT installations or equipment, in violation of [section eight] SECTION 10 of this Act, shall be liable to the penalty therein provided."

Sec. 12. Section 10 of the Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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"Sec. 10. Reproducing, publishing, sellina, etc. uncensored copies. – After the President of the Philippines shall have defined any vital [military, naval or air] **GOVERNMENT** installation or equipment as being within the category contemplated under [section eight] SECTION 9 of this Act, it shall be unlawful for any person to reproduce, publish, sell or give away any photograph, sketch, picture, drawing, map or graphical representation of the vital **GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS** OR **EOUIPMENT**, **ESPECIALLY** military, naval or air installations or equipment so defined, without first obtaining permission of the commanding officer of the military, naval, or air post, camp or station] HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT, OFFICE, UNIT, BUREAU, AGENCY, CAMP, NAVAL STATION OR AIR **POST** concerned, or higher authority, unless photograph, sketch, picture, drawing, map or graphical representation has clearly indicated thereon that it has been censored by the proper [military, naval, or air] authority. Any person found quilty of a violation of this section shall be punished as provided in [section eight] **SECTION 10** of this Act."

Sec. 13. Section 11 of the Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 11. Destroying or injuring or attempting to injure or destroy war material in time of war. — When the Philippines [or the United States] is at war **OR DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MARTIAL LAW**, whoever, with intent to injure, interfere with, or obstruct the Philippines [or the United States] or any associate nation in preparing for or carrying on the war, or whoever, with reason to believe that

[his] **THE** act may injure, interfere with, or obstruct the Philippines [or the United States] or any associate nation in preparing for or carrying on the war, [or whoever with reason to believe that his action may injure, interfere with, or obstruct the Philippines or the United States or any associate nation in preparing for or carrying on the war,] shall willfully injure or destroy, or shall attempt to so injure or destroy, any war material, war premises, or war utilities, as herein defined, shall be imprisoned not more than Thirty (30) years or be fined not more than [thirty] **FIVE HUNDRED** thousand pesos (**P500,000.00**), or both."

Sec. 14. Section 12 of the Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 12. Making or causing war material to be made in defective manner. - When the Philippines For the United States] is at war, whoever, with intent to injure, interfere with, or obstruct the Philippines [or the United States] or any associate nation in preparing for or carrying on the war, or whoever, with reason to believe that [his] THE act may injure, interfere with, or obstruct the Philippines for the United States] or any associate nation in preparing for or carrying on the war, shall willfully make or cause to be made in a defective manner, or attempt to make or cause to be made in a defective manner, any war material, as herein defined, or any tool, implement, machine, utensil, or receptacle used or employed in making, producing, manufacturing, or repairing any such war material as herein defined, shall be imprisoned not more than Thirty (30) years or be fined not more than [thirty] FIVE HUNDRED thousand pesos (**P500,000.00**), or both."

Sec. 15. Section 13 of the Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 13. Injuring or destroying national defense **OR NATIONAL SECURITY** material, **DOCUMENTS**, premises, or utilities. – Whoever, with intent to injure, interfere with, or obstruct the national defense **OR NATIONAL SECURITY** of the Philippines [or the United States], shall willfully injure or destroy, or shall attempt to so injure or destroy, any national defense OR **NATIONAL** SECURITY material, **DOCUMENTS,** [national defense] premises, or [national defense] utilities, as herein provided, shall be [imprisoned] **PUNISHED BY IMPRISONMENT FOR** not more than [ten] THIRTY (30) years or be fined not more than [ten] FIVE **HUNDRED** thousand pesos (**P500,000.00**), or both."

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Sec. 16. Section 14 of the Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 14. Making or causing to be made in a defective manner, or attempting to make or cause to be made in a defective manner, national defense **OR NATIONAL SECURITY** material. – Whoever, with intent to injure, interfere with, or obstruct the national defense of the Philippines [or of the United States,] OR ITS ALLIED **NATION** shall willfully make or cause to be made in a defective manner, or attempt to make or cause to be made in a defective manner, or attempt to make or cause to be made in a defective manner, any national defense material **OR** NATIONAL SECURITY MATERIAL, as herein defined, or any tool, implement, machine, utensil, or receptacle used or employed in making, producing, manufacturing, or repairing any such national defense material OR NATIONAL **SECURITY MATERIAL** as herein defined, shall be imprisoned not more than Ten (10) years, or fined not more **FIVE** HUNDRED than [ten] thousand pesos (P500,000.00), or both."

Sec. 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of National Defense and the National Security Council, after public hearings and consultation with concerned sectors, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act to be published in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Sec. 18. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 19. *Repealing Clause*. – Section 15 of Commonwealth Act No. 616 is hereby repealed. Article 117 of the Revised Penal Code, as well as all other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 20. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulations. *Approved,*