


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

7 OCT 16 25:20

SENATE
 S. No. 1740

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

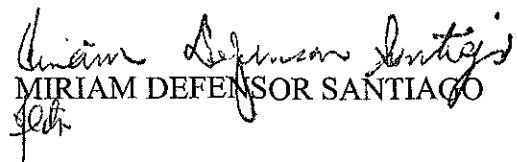
The fire that struck Great Eastern Hotel and claimed the life of the DILG Provincial Director of Ilocos Sur last 3 May 2007 showed once again the negligence and imprudence of government officials and owners of the burned establishment. It is evident that we have never learned from the lessons of the very recent years. The following are gruesome examples of such instances: 1) The Ozone disco fire in 1996 that killed one hundred sixty-two (162); 2) the settlement house in fire in Paco and the Lung Center fire in Quezon City both in 1998, which killed twenty-eight (28) and twenty-five (25) people, respectively; 3) the Manor Hotel fire in 18 August 2001 which claimed the lives of at least seventy-four (74) people; 4) the fire that gutted Li Seng Giap Building in Binondo, Manila in 24 December 2002 killing two persons; and 5) the Popong's Suerte Mart fire in 2 October 2004 at San Fernando, Pampanga that killed eight (8) persons.

Investigations and reports revealed that the primary reason for the above mentioned fire tragedies were caused by the laxity in the enforcement of the building safety and fire laws, particularly the Fire Code of the Philippines and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and related ordinances. It is claimed that this laxity and indifference of the public officers in the enforcement of the fire laws is due to the lesser degree of their accountability, as provided in the aforesaid laws.

Considering that the Fire Code does not provide for penalties against erring and negligent public officers, the sanctions that could be meted to them would be at most administrative, even though their negligence has resulted to death or destruction of properties. To prosecute them under the Penal Code would be like rolling a boulder using a bamboo stick.

It is imperative then, that Congress institute measures which shall strengthen the accountability of the public officers entrusted with the duty of implementing the Fire Code. Public interest demands that stricter penalties shall be imposed, not only upon the owner, administrator, occupant and other persons responsible for the condition of the building, structure and their premises or facilities but also the public officers concerned. The country can never afford to experience the same fatal tragedy on account of a public officer's negligence, malfeasance or misfeasance to his duties.

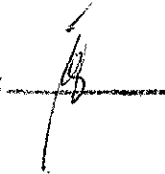
This bill proposes to amend the Fire Code of the Philippines by providing not only administrative sanctions, but criminal penalties as well, to the acts or omissions of a public officer, when the same, either through negligence or malice resulted to, or failed to prevent the loss of life and/ or damage to property. In addition, it provides for a stringent measure against the owner, administrator, occupant or persons responsible for the condition of the building structure and their premises or facilities who violate the code, its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other related laws, to ensure the safety and security of the public.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
SdS

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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1 AN ACT
2 AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1185, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
3 "FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES", PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE
4 IMPLEMENTATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

7 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This act shall be known as the "Revised Fire Code of the
8 Philippines Act of 2007".

9 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to ensure public
10 safety and promote economic development through the prevention and suppression of all
11 kinds of destructive fires. Towards to this end, the State shall enforce all laws, rules and
12 regulations to ensure adherence to standard fire prevention and safety measures, and
13 promote accountability for the fire safety in the fire protection service and in the
14 community.

15 SECTION 3. Sections 6, 10 and 12 of Presidential Decree No. 1185 otherwise
16 known as the Fire Code of the Philippines are hereby amended to read as follows:

17 SECTION 6. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THIS CODE
18 – THIS CODE SHALL BE ADMINISTERED AND ENFORCED BY THE BUREAU
19 OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND
20 CONTROL OF THE BUREAU DIRECTOR, HEREINAFTER REFERED TO AS THE
21 "DIRECTOR", THROUGH THE HEIRARCHY OF ORGANIZATION DOWN TO
22 THE LOCAL FIRE CHIEF AS PROVIDED FOR IN CHAPTER VI OF REPUBLIC
23 ACT NO. 6975. WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY OF THE

1 DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), THE
2 DIRECTOR IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO:

3 [The Fire Service, under the direct supervision and control of the Director General
4 of the Integrated National Police, hereinafter referred to as the “Director General” shall
5 be responsible for the enforcement of this Code, as well as pertinent provisions of other
6 laws pertaining to fire protection or fire safety with the approval of the Secretary of
7 National Defense, the Director General is hereby authorized to:]

8 a. Issue implementing rules and regulations, and prescribe administrative
9 penalties therefore ;

10 b. Reorganize the BFP (fire service of the Integrated National Police) as may be
11 necessary and appropriate;

12 c. Enter into long term agreement, either through public biddings or negotiations
13 to include advance payments therefore, for the acquisition of fire prevention,
14 fire protection and fire fighting equipment, supplies and materials and related
15 technical services necessary for the Fire Service; [and]

16 d. Enter to the Memoranda of Agreement with other departments, bureaus,
17 agencies, offices and corporations of the government, as well as private
18 institutions, in order to define areas of cooperation and delineate responsibility
19 on fire prevention education, fire safety, fire prevention, fire suppression and
20 other matters of common concern.

21 E. CALL ON THE POLICE AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
22 TO RENDER NECESSARY ASSISTANCE IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF
23 THIS CODE;

24 F. INSPECT AT REASONABLE TIME, ANY BUILDING, STRUCTURE,
25 INSTALLATION OR PREMISES FOR DANGEROUS OR HAZARDOUS
26 CONDITIONS OR MATERIALS AS SET FORTH IN THIS CODE:
27 PROVIDED THAT IN CASE OF RESIDENTIAL HOUSES, AN
28 INSPECTION MUST BE UPON THE CONSENT OF THE OCCUPANT OR
29 UPON LAWFUL ORDER FROM THE PROPER COURT. THE DIRECTOR

1 OR HIS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE SHALL ORDER THE
2 OWNER/OCCUPANT TO REMOVE HAZARDOUS MATERIAL IN
3 ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARDS SET BY THIS CODE OR ITS
4 IMPLEMENTING RULES OR REGULATIONS OR OTHER PERTINENT
5 LAWS;

6 G. WHERE CONDITIONS EXIST AND ARE DEEMED HAZARDOUS TO
7 LIFE AND PROPERTY, TO ORDER THE OWNER/OCCUPANT OF ANY
8 BUILDING OR STRUCTURE TO SUMMARILY ABATE SUCH
9 HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS;

10 H. ISSUE A WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE OWNER AND OR CONTRACTOR
11 TO STOP WORK ON PORTION OF ANY WORK WHICH IS IN
12 VIOLATION OF THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AS APPROVED
13 BY THE DIRECTOR OR HIS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE. THE
14 NOTICE SHALL STATE THE NATURE OF THE VIOLATION AND NO
15 WORK SHALL BE CONTINUED ON THAT PORTION UNTIL THE
16 VIOLATION HAD BEEN CORRECTED; AND

17 I. DESIGNATE THE FIRE INSPECTOR WHO SHALL CONDUCT AN
18 INSPECTION OF EVERY BUILDING OR STRUCTURE AT LEAST
19 ONCE EVERY SIX (6) MONTHS AND EVERY TIME THE OWNER,
20 ADMINISTRATOR OR OCCUPANT SHALL RENEW HIS OR HER
21 OCCUPANCY PERMIT OR PERMIT TO OPERATE.

22 NO OCCUPANCY PERMIT OR PERMIT TO OPERATE SHALL BE
23 ISSUED WITHOUT SECURING A FIRE INSPECTION CERTIFICATE
24 (FSIC) FROM THE DIRECTOR OR HIS AUTHORIZED
25 REPRESENTATIVE.

26 SECTION 10. VIOLATIONS, PENALTIES AND ABATEMENT OF FIRE
27 HAZARDS. -- Fire hazards shall be abated immediately. The DIRECTOR [Director
28 General] or his authorized representative, UPON THE REPORT FROM THE FIRE

1 INSPECTOR/S THAT A VIOLATION OF THIS CODE OR OTHER PERTINENT
2 LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS IS BEING COMMITTED, SHALL ISSUE
3 NOTICE/ORDER TO COMPLY TO THE OWNER, ADMINISTRATOR, OCCUPANT
4 OR OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDITION OF THE BUILDING
5 OR STRUCTURE, INDICATING AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE PERIOD WITHIN
6 WHICH COMPLIANCE SHALL BE EFFECTED, WHICH SHALL BE WITHIN TEN
7 (10) TO FIFTEEN (15) DAYS AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE/ORDER,
8 DEPENDING ON THE REASONABLENESS TO ADEQUATELY COMPLY WITH
9 THE SAME.

10 IF AFTER THE LAPSE OF THE AFORESAID PERIOD, THE OWNER,
11 ADMINISTRATOR, OCCUPANT OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE PERSONS FAILED
12 TO COMPLY, THE DIRECTOR OR HIS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE SHALL
13 PUT UP A SIGN IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING OR STRUCTURE IS A FIRE
14 HAZARD, SPECIFICALLY, THE NOTICE SHALL BEAR THE WORDS “
15 WARNING: THIS BUILDING/STRUCTURE IS A FIRE HAZARD”, WHICH SHALL
16 REMAIN POSTED UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT THE OWNER, ADMINISTRATOR,
17 OCCUPANT OR OTHER PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDITION OF
18 THE BUILDING, STRUCTURE AND THEIR PREMISES OR FACILITIES ABATE
19 THE SAME, BUT SUCH PERIOD SHALL NOT EXCEED FIFTEEN (15) DAYS
20 FROM THE LAPSE OF THE INITIAL PERIOD GIVEN IN THE NOTICE/ORDER TO
21 COMPLY.

22 FINALLY, THE FAILURE OF THE OWNER, ADMINISTRATOR,
23 OCCUPANT OR OTHER PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDITION OF
24 THE BUILDING, STRUCTURE AND THEIR PREMISES OR FACILITIES, TO
25 COMPLY WITHIN THE PERIOD SPECIFIED ABOVE IS CAUSE FOR THE
26 ISSUANCE OF AN ORDER FOR SUCH ABATEMENT. If the owner, administrator or
27 occupant of buildings, structure and their premises or facilities does not abate the same
28 within the period fixed in the said order, the occupancy to operate shall be cancelled.

1 Any building or structure ASSESSED AND declared BY THE DIRECTOR OR
2 HIS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE as a fire trap ON ACCOUNT OF THE
3 GROSSNESS OR PALPABILITY OF THE VIOLATION or is causing clear and present
4 IMMINENT danger to adjoining establishments and habitations shall be declared a
5 public nuisance as defined by the Civil Code of the Philippines IN A NOTICE TO BE
6 ISSUED TO THE OWNER, ADMINISTRATOR, OCCUPANT OR OTHER PERSON
7 RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDITION OF THE BUILDING, STRUCTURE AND
8 THEIR PREMISES OR FACILITIES, If the assessed value OF THE NUISANCE OR
9 THE AMOUNT TO BE SPENT IN ABATING THE SAME [of the building or structure
10 is not more than ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) [twenty
11 thousand pesos (P20,000.00)], the owner, administrator or occupant thereof shall abate
12 the hazard within FIFTEEN (15) [thirty (30)] days, or; if the assessed value is more than
13 ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), [twenty thousand pesos (P
14 20,000.00)] within THIRTY (30) [sixty (60)] days from the receipt of the order declaring
15 said building or structure a public nuisance; otherwise, the DIRECTOR [Director
16 General] or his authorized representative shall forthwith cause its summary abatement.
17 FAILURE TO COMPLY WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS FROM THE RECEIPT OF THE
18 NOTICE SHALL CAUSE THE DIRECTOR OR HIS AUTHORIZED
19 REPRESENTATIVE TO PUT UP A SIGN IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING OR
20 STRUCTURE, AT OR NEAR THE ENTRANCE OF SUCH PREMISES, NOTIFYING
21 THE PUBLIC THAT SUCH BUILDING OR STRUCTURE IS A "FIRE TRAP",
22 WHICH SHALL REMAIN UNTIL THE OWNER, ADMINISTRATOR, OCCUPANT
23 OR OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDITION OF THE BUILDING,
24 STRUCTURE AND THEIR PREMISES OR FACILITIES ABATE THE SAME
25 WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

26 Summary abatement as used herein shall mean all corrective measures undertaken
27 to abate hazards which shall include but it not limited to remodeling, repairing,
28 strengthening, reconstructing, removal and demolition, either partial or total, of the
29 building or structure. The expenses incurred by the government for such summary

1 abatement shall be borne by the owner, administrator or occupant. These expenses shall
2 constitute a prior lien upon such property.

3 SECTION. 12. – *Penalties.* –

4 1. AGAINST THE PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL

5 a.) Administrative fine- Any person who violates any provision of this Fire
6 Code or any of the rules and regulations promulgated under section 6
7 hereof shall be penalized by an administrative fine of not exceeding
8 FIFTY THOUSAND (P50,000.00) [TWELVE THOUSAND (P
9 12,000.00)] pesos or in the proper case, by stoppage of operations or by
10 closure of such buildings, structures and their premises or facilities which
11 do not comply with the requirements or by both such administrative and
12 closure/stoppage of operation to be imposed by the DIRECTOR [Director
13 General], Provided that the payment of the fine, stoppage of operations
14 and/or closure of such buildings, structures, and their premises or facilities
15 shall not absolve the violator for correcting the deficiency or abating the
16 fire hazard. The decision of the DIRECTOR [Director General], under his
17 subsection, maybe appealed to the SECRETARY of THE INTERIOR
18 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT [National Defense], within fifteen (15)
19 days from the date of receipt of the order imposing the administrative fine,
20 stopping the operations and/or closure. THE APPEAL SHALL NOT
21 STAY THE EXECUTION OF THE ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR. The
22 decision of the Secretary of THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL
23 GOVERNMENT [National Defense] shall be final and executory.

24 b.) Punitive – In case of willful failure to correct the deficiency or abate the
25 fire hazard as provided in the preceding subsection, the violator shall,
26 upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment of not less than six (6)
27 months nor more than six (6) years, or by a fine of not more than ONE
28 HUNDRED THOUSAND (P100,000.00) [twenty thousand (P20,000.00)]
29 pesos or both fine and imprisonment; Provided, however, that in the case

1 of a corporation, firm, partnership or association, the fine and/or
2 imprisonment shall be imposed upon its officials responsible for such
3 violation, and case the guilty party is an alien, in addition to the penalties
4 herein prescribe, he shall immediately be deported; Provided, finally, that
5 where the violation is attended by loss of life and/or damage to property,
6 the violator shall be PUNISHED BY IMPRISONMENT OF ONE (1)
7 YEAR TO SIX (6) YEARS IN THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT, IN
8 ADDITION TO THE GRANT OF DAMAGES TO VICTIMS WHEN
9 APPLICABLE. [Proceeded against under the applicable provisions of the
10 Revised Penal Code].

11 ANY PERSON WHO, WITHOUT AUTHORITY,
12 MALICIOUSLY REMOVES THE SIGN THAT A BUILDING OR
13 STRUCTURE IS A FIRE HAZARD/FIRE TRAP IN PLACE BY THE
14 AUTHORIZED PERSON IN THIS CODE SHALL BE LIABLE FOR
15 IMPRISONMENT FOR THIRTY (30) DAYS OR FINE NOT
16 EXCEEDING ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100, 000.00)
17 OR BOTH IN THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.

18 2. AGAINST THE PUBLIC OFFICER

19 a.) ADMINISTRATIVE -- THE FOLLOWING ACTS OR OMISSIONS
20 SHALL RENDER THE PUBLIC OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE
21 ENFORCEMENT OF THIS CODE, ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES
22 AND REGULATION AND OTHER PERTINENT LAWS,
23 ADMINISTRATIVELY LIABLE, AND SHALL BE PUNISHED BY
24 REPRIMAND, SUSPENSION OR REMOVAL IN THE DESCRIPTION
25 OF THE DISCIPLINING AUTHORITY, DEPENDING ON THE
26 GRAVITY OF THE OFFENSE AND WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE
27 PROVISIONS OF OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS:

- 1 (1) FAILURE OF THE PUBLIC OFFICER TO CONDUCT
2 INSPECTION OF BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES ONCE
3 EVERY SIX (6) MONTHS;
- 4 (2) FAILURE TO PUT UP A SIGN INFRONT OF THE
5 BUILDING OR STRUCTURE FOUND TO BE VIOLATING
6 THIS CODE, ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND
7 REGULATIONS AND OTHER PERTINENT LAWS, THAT
8 THE SAME IS A "FIRE HAZARD" OR A "FIRE TRAP"
- 9 (3) ENDORSING TO THE DIRECTOR FOR THE
10 CERTIFICATION, OR SUBMITTING A REPORT THAT
11 THE BUILDING OR STRUCTURE COMPLIES WITH THE
12 STANDARDS SET BY THIS CODE, ITS IMPLEMENTING
13 RULES OR REGULATIONS OR OTHER PERTINENT
14 LAWS WHEN THE SAME IS CONTRARY TO FACT, OR
- 15 (4) ISSUANCE OR RENEWAL OF OCCUPANCY OR
16 BUSINESS PERMIT WITHOUT THE CERTIFICATE OF
17 COMPLIANCE ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
18 OR HIS DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE;
- 19 (5) FAILURE TO CANCEL THE OCCUPANCY OR BUSINESS
20 PERMIT AFTER THE OWNER, ADMINISTRATOR,
21 OCCUPANT OR OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR
22 THE CONDITION OF THE BUILDING, STRUCTURE AND
23 OTHER PREMISES FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE
24 NOTICE/ORDER FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE
25 STANDARDS SET BY THIS CODE, ITS IMPLEMENTING
26 RULES AND REGULATIONS AND OTHER PERTINENT
27 LAWS, WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD;
- 28 (6) FAILURE TO ABATE A PUBLIC NUISANCE WITHIN
29 FIFTEEN (15) DAYS AFTER THE OWNER,

1 ADMINISTRATOR, OCCUPANT OR OTHER
2 RESPONSIBLE PERSON FAILED TO ABATE THE SAME
3 WITHIN THE PERIOD CONTAINED IN THE NOTICE TO
4 ABATE;

5 (7) ABUSING HIS AUTHORITY IN THE PERFORMANCE OF
6 HIS DUTY THROUGH ACTS OF CORRUPTION AND
7 OTHER UNETHICAL PRACTICES; OR

8 (8) OTHER WILLFULL OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE IN THE
9 PERFORMANCE OF AN ACT SPECIFICALLY ENJOINED
10 AS A DUTY BY THIS ACT OR ITS IMPLEMENTING
11 RULES AND REGULATIONS; OR IN ANY MANNER
12 IMPROPERLY PERFORMS HIS DUTIED UNDER THIS
13 ACT OR ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND
14 REGULATIONS.

15 b.) PUNITIVE- THE ABOVEMENTIONED ACTS OR OMMISSIONS OF
16 THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL, EITHER THROUGH WILLFUL OR GROSS
17 NEGLIGENCE OR THROUGH MALICE, SHALL CONSTITUTE A
18 CRIMINAL OFFENSE WITH THE SAME RESULTED TO OR FAILED
19 TO PREVENT LOSS OF LIFE AND/OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY,
20 AND THE PUBLIC OFFICER SHALL BE PUNISHED BY ONE (1)
21 YEAR TO FIVE (5) YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND/ OR FINE NOT
22 EXCEEDING FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND (P500,000.00) IN THE
23 DISCRETION OF THE COURT, IN ADDITION TO HIS
24 ADMINISTRATIVE LIABILITY.

25 SECTION 4. New sections to be denominated as Section 13-A and Section 13-B
26 is hereby inserted between Sections 13 and 14 to read as follows:

27 SECTION 13-A. ASSESMENT OF FIRE CODE TAXES, FEES AND FINES. –

1 THE ASSESSMENT OF FIRE CODE TAXES, FEES, AND FINES IS VESTED
2 UPON THE BFP. THE BFP SHALL, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE
3 DILG, PRESCRIBE THE PROCEDURAL RULES FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

4 SECTION 13-B. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRE
5 CODE AND THE AMOUNT OF THE FEES COLLECTED, THE CHIEF BFP
6 SHALL, WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS
7 CODE, SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE
8 INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR HIS APPROVAL, A
9 MANAGEMENT TOOL OR MECHANISM THAT WOULD ENSURE
10 THROUGH MONITORING OF THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE FIRE CODE
11 TO INCLUDE THE AMOUNT OF FIRE CODE FEES COLLECTED.

12 SECTION 5. Section 14 of the same Decree is hereby amended to read as
13 follows:

14 SECTION 14. COLLECTION OF TAXES, FEES AND FINES- ALL
15 taxes, fees and fines provided in Section 13 hereof, shall be collected by the [city
16 or Municipal Treasurer] BFP for remittance to the National Treasury UNDER A
17 TRUST FUND ASSIGNED FOR THE PURPOSE.

18 SECTION 6. A new section to be denominated as Section 14-A is hereby inserted
19 between Sections 14 and 15 to read as follows:

20 "SEC 14-A. USE OF INCOME GENERATED FROM ENFORCEMENT
21 OF THE FIRE CODE. – THE CHIEF, BFP IS AUTHORIZED, SUBJECT TO
22 THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY OF THE DILG, TO USE THE
23 INCOME GENERATED UNDER SECTION 11 HEREOF FOR
24 PROCUREMENT OF FIRE PROTECTION, RESCUE AND PARAMEDIC
25 EQUIPMENT, IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES AND SALARY
26 ADJUSTMENTS OF BFP UNIFORMED PERSONNEL PURSUANT TO RA
27 9263.

1 SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from
2 the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DILG shall issue the rules and regulations
3 for its effective implementation.

4 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
5 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to,
6 or in consistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
7 accordingly.

8 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
9 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and
10 subsisting.

11 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) day
12 following its complete publication in any newspaper of general circulation or in the
13 Official Gazzete.

14 Approved,