

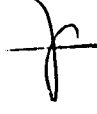


Senate  
Office of the Secretary

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION )

'16 JUL 26 19:36

SENATE  
S. B. NO. 885

RECEIVED BY: 

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Over the years the Philippine political party system has been the subject of numerous studies, deliberations and debates. It has been characterized as patronage and personality oriented instead of interest articulation and aggregation, leadership formation, socialization and mobilization. There has been a clamor to institute reforms in the Philippine political parties however the bills have never ripened into a law. By this end, there is a continuing necessity to pass a legislative measure to restructure and reform the political parties to resolve the issues of campaign financing, state subsidy to political parties, ban on party switching and turn-coatism, and strengthening citizen-parties linkages, to attain a mature and stable democracy.

This proposed measure seeks to systematize and regulate the financing of electoral campaigns by setting the limits of voluntary contributions to any political party, strict registration, accreditation and membership in political parties, to promote transparency and fairness. Furthermore, it introduces the State Subsidy Fund, which will be used exclusively for party development and campaign expenditures of the accredited political parties. This bill also seeks to punish political butterflies and turncoats to espouse party allegiance and integrity. Particularly, it gives any citizen of voting age to institute a disqualification case against turncoats.

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

**JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**  
Senator



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**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**CHAPTER 1**

**DECLARATION OF POLICY, PURPOSES AND COVERAGE**

1 **SECTION 1. Title.**- This Act shall be known as "*The Political Party Development*  
2 *Act of 2016*",

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared a policy of the State to  
4 institutionalize and strengthen political parties as vital pillars of the country's  
5 democratic system. Towards this end, the State shall institute reforms in campaign  
6 financing through effective and transparent mechanisms designed to level the  
7 playing field among all candidates and political parties during elections and reduce  
8 opportunities for graft and corruption. As part of the State's thrust to strengthen the  
9 political party system, it shall uphold party loyalty and adherence to the party's  
10 ideological principles, platform and programs. The State shall also institute  
11 measures to professionalize political parties and make them viable instruments of  
12 development and good governance.

13 **SECTION 3. Purposes.** - This Act aims to:

14 (a) Institutionalize reforms in the financing of electoral campaigns, so as to  
15 promote accountability and transparency;

16 (b) Provide financial subsidies to political parties, to augment their  
17 expenditures for campaign purposes and for party development;

18 (c) Promote party loyalty and discipline; and

19 (d) Encourage and support continuing voter's education and civic literacy  
20 programs through the political parties.

1 **SECTION 4. Coverage..** - This Act shall apply to political parties duly registered  
2 with and certified to as such by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

3 **SECTION 5. Definition of Terms.** - The following terms as used in this Act shall be  
4 defined as follows:

5 (a) Accredited political party refers to a political party qualified to receive  
6 subsidy for party development and campaign purposes, accredited for this  
7 purpose by the COMELEC based on a set of criteria provided for under this  
8 Act.

9 (b) Candidate refers to any person aspiring for or seeking an elective public  
10 office, duly nominated by a political party, aggrupation or coalition thereof,  
11 and who has filed a certificate of candidacy with the COMELEC.

12 (c) Commission refers to the COMELEC.

13 (d) Campaign contribution refers to any form of donation to any candidate,  
14 political party, aggrupation or coalition thereof given before, during or after  
15 the holding of elections. It includes any gift, donation, subscription, loan,  
16 advance or deposit of money or anything of value, or those arising from a  
17 contract, pledge or agreement to contribute, made for the purpose of  
18 influencing the results of the elections, but shall not include services rendered  
19 without compensation by individuals volunteering a portion or all of their  
20 time In behalf of a candidate or political party. It also includes the use of office  
21 space, facilities, equipment, office supplies and other materials and fictures  
22 voluntarily donated by other persons or who allowed their use for free, the  
23 monetary value of which shall be assessed based on market rates prevailing in  
24 a particular area.

25 (e) Campaign expenditure refers to any type of expense incurred, regardless  
26 of source, amount and purpose that relates, directly or indirectly, to the  
27 conduct of an electoral campaign. It includes all payments of money or  
28 anything of value, or a contract, promise or agreement to spend, for the  
29 purpose of influencing the results of the elections. It includes the use of office  
30 space and facilities personally owned by the candidate, the monetary value of  
31 which shall be assessed based on the market rates prevailing in a particular  
32 area.

33 (f) COA refers to the Commission on Audit.

34 (g) Disclosure requirement refers to the duty of all candidates and political  
35 parties, aggrupations or coalitions thereof to reveal the details of campaign  
36 contributions received by them and the expenditures made on account  
37 thereof. For accredited political parties, it includes expenditures and  
38 destinations of party development and campaign monies given to them as  
39 their share in the State Subsidy Fund established under this Act.

1 (h) Donor refers to any person, natural or juridical, who contributes money,  
2 property or any other form of material contribution to a candidate, political  
3 party, aggrupation or coalition thereof.

4 (i) Donee refers to any candidate, political party, aggrupation or coalition  
5 thereof or any representative acting on their behalf or interest, to whom  
6 money, property or any other form of contributions were made.

7 (j) Fund refers to the State Subsidy Fund established under this Act.

8 (k) Member of a party is a natural person of good standing in a political party  
9 who complied with the requirements of party membership, including the  
10 payment of membership dues.

11 (l) Political party refers to a political party, party-list or an organized group of  
12 persons duly registered with the Commission, pursuing or advocating  
13 platform, principles and policies for the general conduct of government and  
14 which nominates and supports its members as candidates for public office.

15 (m) Political turncoatism refers to the change of political party affiliation by  
16 an elected official during one's term, except within six (6) months prior to the  
17 end of the term: Provided, that political turncoatism shall not apply in any of  
18 the following instances:

19 (1) Abolition, merger or coalition of political parties where a candidate  
20 is a registered member thereof; and

21 (2) Expulsion of the elected official in writing from one's political party:  
22 Provided, that the cause for such does not constitute political  
23 opportunism. Political opportunism includes any act of a party  
24 member constituting disloyalty to the party or regular non-adherence  
25 to the party's ideological principles, platform and programs, as  
26 determined by the party in accordance with its constitution and  
27 bylaws.

28 (n) State Subsidy Fund refers to the fund for party development and  
29 campaign activities of accredited political parties under this Act.

30 (o) Voluntary contributions refer to the contributions to candidates or political  
31 parties, aggrupations or coalitions thereof from persons, natural or juridical,  
32 allowed under existing laws.

## 33 CHAPTER II

### 34 INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

35 SECTION 6. *Registration as a Political Party.* Any organized group of persons  
36 seeking registration as a political party may file with the Commission a verified  
37 petition attaching thereto its constitution and bylaws, platform, principles, policies  
38 and general program of government, a verified list of its national officials, members

1 of the executive board, or its equivalent, and the heads of its regional, provincial and  
2 city chapters, and such other relevant information as may be required by the  
3 Commission.

4 The Commission shall, after due notice and hearing, resolve the petition  
5 within ten (10) days from the date it is submitted for decision.

6 Political parties already registered as such with the Commission prior to the  
7 effectivity of this Act are not required to register anew but are required to submit  
8 their intent to continue participating in elections within a period of six (6) months  
9 after the enactment of this law.

10 **SECTION 7. *Policy Agenda and Program of Governance.*** - Political parties are  
11 mandated to craft a clear policy agenda and program of governance consistent with  
12 their party philosophy and ideals. The members of the political party shall endeavor  
13 to act in accordance with the defined party platform and pursue programs to fulfill  
14 party commitments.

15 **SECTION 8. *Membership in a Political Party.*** - A person becomes a member of a  
16 political party upon application duly signed, filed and accepted by the party, and  
17 upon compliance with the basic membership requirements of the party, including  
18 the regular payment of membership dues.

19 **SECTION 9. *Selection of Candidates.*** - The selection process for candidates of  
20 political parties shall be democratized through the adoption of a process that is fair,  
21 open and transparent. Every political party is mandated to formulate a system on  
22 the nomination and selection of candidates, in which all party members are  
23 involved.

24 Every political party shall submit to the Commission its rules governing the  
25 system on the nomination and selection of candidates not later than one hundred  
26 eighty (180) days before the election day following the effectivity of this Act.

27 Any aggrieved member of an accredited political party may file a verified  
28 complaint to its Grievance and Arbitration Committee not later than ten (10) days  
29 after the party convention, for violation of the rules governing the system on the  
30 nomination and selection of candidates. The aggrieved party has the right to appeal  
31 to the Commission. Upon finding violation of the system, the Commission shall  
32 revert the grievance to the concerned political party. If the political party does not  
33 comply with the order of the Commission, the said party shall be disqualified from  
34 participating in the elections.

35 Every political party must hold conventions to nominate their official  
36 candidates not earlier than sixty (60) days before the start of the campaign period  
37 and shall submit to the Commission not later than the start of the election period the  
38 names of the officials of the party authorized to nominate their official candidates.

39 No political party shall nominate more candidates than the number of person  
40 required to be voted for in an elective position nor shall any candidate be allowed to

1 accept nominations from more than one (1) registered political party, except in cases  
2 of aggrupations or coalitions thereof. Nominations made in violation hereof shall be  
3 denied due course by the Commission and the candidates concerned shall be  
4 considered independent candidates. The nominations of candidates of politic8l  
5 parties shall be filed not later than the last day for filing of the certificates of  
6 candidacy as determined by the Commission.

7 **SECTION 10. *Contents of Certificate of Nomination.*** - The certificate of nomination  
8 shall state that the person issuing the nomination is the duly authorized  
9 representative of the political party as provided for in its constitution and bylaws;  
10 that the person named therein is the official candidate of the party for the elective  
11 position stated; and that he has accepted the said nomination. The certificate of  
12 nomination shall be subscribed under oath by the duly authorized representative of  
13 the political party.

14 **SECTION 11. *Limits on Voluntary Contributions.*** - Voluntary contributions to any  
15 political party shall be limited to the following maximum amounts:

16 (a) Up to One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) from a natural person and up  
17 to Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00) from a juridical person is allowed  
18 to make a voluntary contribution under existing laws; and

19 (b) Any contribution in cash or in kind to any political party for campaign  
20 purposes, duly reported to the Commission in accordance with Section 13 of  
21 Republic Act No. 7166, shall be exempt from the donor's tax.

22 No foreign national or entity shall be allowed to give contributions to any  
23 political party.

24 **SECTION 12. *Voluntary Contributions to Party; How Made.*** - Voluntary  
25 contributions to a political party shall be deposited by the contributor to the account  
26 of the party with any reputable bank accredited by the Commission at any time but  
27 not later than fifteen (15) days before the day of election. The accredited banks shall  
28 issue a corresponding receipt to the contributor on the amount deposited, and shall  
29 submit to the Commission a statement of account of every political party with  
30 deposits. The Commission shall cause the pUblcation of the account of all political  
31 parties in any newspaper of general circulation within five (5) days before the  
32 elections.

33 **SECTION 13. *Political Turncoatism.*** - Any elected official of a political party who  
34 changes party affiliation, after being nominated by the party, shall be deemed to  
35 have committed political turncoatism, except within six (6) months prior to elections.

36 **SECTION 14. *Penalties for Political Turn coatism.***- Political turncoats shall be:

37 (a) Deemed to have forfeited their elective office, if they change their political  
38 party affiliation, except within six (6) months prior to elections;

39 (b) Disqualified from running for any elective position in the next succeeding  
40 election immediately following the act of changing political party affiliation;

1 (c) Prohibited from being appointed or from holding any position in any  
2 public or government office for three (3) years after the expiration of the  
3 current term/ office;

4 (d) Prohibited from assuming any executive or administrative position in the  
5 new political party; and

6 (e) Directed to refund any and all amounts received from one's former  
7 political party, plus a twenty-five percent (25%) surcharge thereon.

8 **SECTION 15. *Petition for Disqualification.*** - Any citizen of voting age, or any  
9 candidate, political party, aggrupation or coalition thereof, may file with the  
10 Commission, within fifteen (15) days from the filing of the certificate of candidacy  
11 and before proclamation, a petition to disqualify a candidate on the ground of  
12 political turncoatism as defined in this Act.

13 **SECTION 16. *Authorized Expenses of National Political Parties and Candidates.*** -  
14 The amount that a political party and a candidate may spend for every election  
15 campaign shall be Twenty pesos (P20.00) for every voter currently registered in the  
16 constituency or constituencies of candidacy. The Commission shall adjust the  
17 authorized amount based on the consumer price index (CPI) every three (3) years  
18 following the effectivity of this Act.

### 19 CHAPTER III

#### 20 STATE SUBSIDY FUND

21 **SECTION 17. *Establishment of a State Subsidy Fund.*** - There is hereby established a  
22 State Subsidy Fund which shall be used to augment the operating funds of the  
23 accredited national political parties. The fund shall be used directly and exclusively  
24 for the following purposes:

25 (a) Party development; and

26 (b) Campaign expenditures.

27 **SECTION 18. *Allowable Party Development Activities.*** - Due to the vital role played  
28 by the political parties in the country's political development and in order to  
29 promote professionalism and accountability among members of the parties, the  
30 following party development activities shall be allowed to be funded out of the State  
31 Subsidy Fund: and

32 (a) Party administration, recruitment and civic education;

33 (b) Research and policy development;

34 (c) Education and training of members;

35 (d) Institution building and constituent outreach program;

1 (e) Other reasonable logistical and operational expenses those are essential in  
2 strengthening the party.

3 **SECTION 19. Allowable Campaign Expenditures.** - The accredited political parties  
4 are authorized to use the subsidy given to them only for the following campaign  
5 activities:

6 (a) Operating expenses of the party which may include the hiring of  
7 personnel, professional secretariat, setting up of headquarters and other  
8 relevant electoral expenditures;

9 (b) Traveling expenses of the candidates and support personnel in the course  
10 of the campaigns, and for personal expenses incident thereto;

11 (c) Information dissemination and advocacy campaigns of the political party;

12 (d) Production and distribution of electoral paraphernalia and other  
13 propaganda materials; and

14 (e) Other expenditures as allowed under Section 102 on Lawful Expenditures  
15 of the Omnibus Election Code.

16 **SECTION 20. Accreditation.** - A political party eligible in accordance with Section  
17 21 hereof, and which desires to be entitled to the rights and privileges as recipient of  
18 the subsidy provided for under this Act, may apply for accreditation by the  
19 Commission, under such rules and regulations as the Commission shall prescribe  
20 consistent with the provisions of this Act.

21 **SECTION 21. Criteria for Eligibility** -The Commission shall accredit political  
22 parties eligible to receive subsidy from the State Subsidy Fund based on the  
23 following general criteria:

24 (a) Political representation, consisting of the incumbent President, Vice  
25 President, Members of Congress, Governors and City Mayors;

26 (b) Organizational strength and mobilization capability, which may include  
27 the number of political chapters, organizations nationwide and number of  
28 permanent members of the party paying their dues; and

29 (c) Performance and track record of the party, which may include its  
30 performance in the past elections and its ability to field candidates in the  
31 coming elections.

32 **SECTION 22. Effects of Accreditation.**- A duly accredited political party shall be  
33 entitled to the rights and privileges accorded under this Act. Likewise, the accredited  
34 national political party shall be subject to the regulations set forth in this Act and its  
35 implementing rules as prescribed by the Commission.

36 **SECTION 23. Distribution of the Fund.** - The total amount of the State Subsidy Fund  
37 released annually shall be distributed as follows:



1 (a) Five percent (5%) of the fund shall accrue to the Commission, to be used  
2 exclusively for monitoring purposes and the conduct of information  
3 dissemination campaigns and voters' education;

4 (b) Thirty percent (30%) of the fund shall be proportionately and ratably  
5 distributed to accredited political parties represented in the Senate based on  
6 the number of seats obtained in the most recent general elections; and

7 (c) Sixty five percent (65%) of the fund shall be proportionately and ratably  
8 distributed to accredited political parties represented in the House of  
9 Representatives based on the number of seats obtained in the most recent  
10 general elections. The share of each of the accredited political parties in the  
11 State Subsidy Fund shall be released only upon proof that the concerned  
12 party has raised an amount equal to its share in the fund from membership  
13 dues and voluntary contributions: Provided, That the party concerned that  
14 fails to raise an amount equal to its share in the fund shall only receive an  
15 amount raised from its share in the fund equal to the amount raised from  
16 membership dues and voluntary contributions: Provided, further, That the  
17 balance, if any, from the share in the fund of the party concerned shall be  
18 forfeited and reverted to the general fund of the government.

19 **SECTION 24. *Schedule of Releases from the Fund.***- For purposes of this Act, all  
20 releases from the State Subsidy Fund during a nonelection year shall be used  
21 exclusively for party development activities. Funds released during an election year  
22 shall be divided as follows: seventy-five percent (75%) shall be used for campaign  
23 expenditures, and twenty five percent (25%) for party development activities. The  
24 Commission shall inform the accredited political parties of the schedule of releases  
25 as well as the amount of the subsidy allocated at the start of every fiscal year.

26 **SECTION 25. *Management of the Subsidy.*** - The accredited political parties availing  
27 of the subsidy shall maintain a separate financial account for the funds used to  
28 finance campaign activities and party development, respectively. Every accredited  
29 political party shall submit to the Commission a detailed program of activities as  
30 well as the breakdown of expenditures drawn from the fund by the end of December  
31 of every fiscal year. No accredited political party shall be allowed to use the subsidy  
32 for purposes other than those indicated in this Act.

33  
34 **CHAPTER IV**

35 **DISCLOSURES AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

36 **SECTION 26. *Audit of the State Subsidy Fund.***-The COA shall examine the financial  
37 reports of the accredited political parties on their use of the State Subsidy Fund.  
38 Membership dues and voluntary contributions to any accredited political party shall  
39 be accounted for separately under a different set of books of accounts, which shall be  
40 open to inspection by the COA.

1 **SECTION 27. *Party Ethics.***-Accredited political parties shall institute internal  
2 control mechanisms to promote accountability and transparency. Accredited  
3 political parties shall likewise develop and enforce an internal code of conduct and  
4 ethical standards for its party members to uphold the values and standards of public  
5 life, and to formulate and implement disciplinary procedures for party members:  
6 Provided, That the said program for internal controls, ethical standards and  
7 disciplinary procedures shall be duly submitted to the Commission and made  
8 available to the public. No political party shall select and nominate a candidate who  
9 has been convicted by final judgment for any criminal offense.

10 **SECTION 28. *Full Disclosure.***- The officials of every accredited political party shall  
11 submit a sworn statement of their assets and liabilities to the Commission which  
12 shall be made available to the public at least six (6) months before elections. All  
13 accredited political parties and their candidates shall also be required to submit with  
14 the Commission and make a public disclosure of all contributions as well as  
15 expenditures incurred for the use of the State Subsidy Fund thirty (30) days after the  
16 elections. All these disclosures shall be made through the official website of the  
17 Commission and published in a newspaper of general circulation.

18 **SECTION 29. *Other Reports.*** " The following shall be reported by the accredited  
19 political parties and their candidates:

20 (a) The amount of contributions for the elections, the date of receipt by the  
21 bank or by the duly authorized representative of the party and the full name  
22 and exact address of the person, whether natural or juridical, from whom the  
23 contribution was received;

24 (b) A full report of expenditures and receipts incurred during the campaign,  
25 including those which were drawn from the State Subsidy Fund, if any;

26 (c) Post election disclosure statements as required under existing laws, which  
27 must be submitted to the Commission within thirty (30) days after election  
28 day. Late submissions shall be penalized with a fine in such amounts as may  
29 be determined by the Commission; and

30 (d) Detailed breakdown of expenditures for the party development activities  
31 charged against the State Subsidy Fund. The financial report covering the  
32 party development activities shall be submitted annually, at the end of every  
33 fiscal year. The subsidy for the succeeding year will not be released without  
34 the submission of the said report covering the preceding year.

35 **SECTION 30. *Failure to Comply with Disclosure and Reporting Requirements.*** -  
36 Failure of the accredited political party to comply with the provisions of this Act will  
37 result in its disqualification from receiving its share in the State Subsidy Fund. The  
38 said unused funds shall revert to the General Fund of the National Treasury, and all  
39 the rights and privileges to which the party would have been entitled under this Act  
40 shall be forfeited.

1 **SECTION 31. *Performance Monitoring and Reporting System.***- The Commission  
2 and the COA shall jointly design and implement, in consultation with political  
3 parties, aggregations or coalitions thereof, accredited citizens' arms, the private  
4 sector and nongovernmental organizations, and government agencies, an integrated  
5 political party development and campaign subsidy performance monitoring and  
6 reporting system. The performance and monitoring system shall identify, define and  
7 operationalize a system of performance indicators and measures for party  
8 development and campaign subsidy deployment. The Commission and the COA  
9 shall, based on the results of the system, publish and disseminate annual reports on  
10 the development of political parties that have received subsidies and on the  
11 distribution, use and results of the campaign subsidies provided to political parties.

12 **SECTION 32. *Publication and Dissemination of the Political Party Development***  
13 ***and Campaign Subsidy Performance Reports.*** - The political party development and  
14 campaign subsidy performance reports shall be submitted to both the Senate and the  
15 House of Representatives of the Congress of the Philippines not later than June 30 of  
16 every year, and shall be made available to the public via the internet and mass media  
17 as a guide for the citizenry in evaluating political parties for the purpose of  
18 participating in their program of activities, and in supporting, affiliating with, or  
19 joining them.

20

21

## CHAPTER V

22

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

23

**SECTION 33. *Punishable Acts.***- The following acts shall be

24

(a) Misuse of funds received by political parties, both from the State Subsidy  
25 Fund and from voluntary contributions;

26

(b) Giving of voluntary contributions that goes beyond the allowable limits  
27 set under this Act and other existing laws;

28

(c) Inability to account for all incoming contributions from whatever source;

29

(d) Failure to submit pre-election as well as post-election disclosure  
30 statements to the Commission; and

31

(e) False reporting or any misrepresentation in the financial statement reports.

32

**SECTION 34. *Penalties.*** - (a) Any candidate or official of any political party who  
33 violates any provision of this Act shall be punished with imprisonment of not less  
34 than six (6) years but not more than twelve (12) years or a fine ranging from One  
35 hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to Five hundred thousand pesos  
36 (P500,000.00), or both. He shall likewise be disqualified to hold public office. Any  
37 political party that violates any provision of this Act shall pay a fine of not less than  
38 Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) but not more than Five million pesos  
39 (P5,000,000.00). (b) Any political party that fails to comply with any of the

1 documentary requirements set forth in this Act shall be subject to administrative  
2 sanctions by the Commission, which shall include temporary or permanent  
3 cancellation of the party's registration as well as payment of fines consistent with  
4 existing laws and regulations.

5 **SECTION 35. Appropriations.**- The amount necessary for the implementation of the  
6 provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

7 **SECTION 36. Lead Agency.** - The Commission is hereby mandated as the  
8 independent regulatory agency charged with administering and enforcing the  
9 provisions of this Act.

10 **SECTION 37. Applicability.** - The provisions of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, as  
11 amended, otherwise known as the "Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines", and  
12 other election laws not inconsistent with this Act shall apply suppletorily.

13 **SECTION 38. Rules and Regulations.** - The Commission shall promulgate the  
14 necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

15 **SECTION 39. Separability Clause.**· If any part of this Act is held invalid or  
16 unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby  
17 shall remain valid and effective.

18 **SECTION 40. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations  
19 or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,  
20 modified or amended accordingly.

21 **SECTION 41. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
22 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

23           Approved,