



S E N A T E

S. No. 2799

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 2106 and 2373, taking  
into consideration House Bill No. 7752)\*

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PREPARED AND SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY THE COMMITTEES  
ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT; GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS  
AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES; AND FINANCE WITH  
SENATORS TOLENTINO AND EJERCITO AS AUTHORS  
THEREOF

---

AN ACT CREATING THE METRO BATAAN  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS  
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING  
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as  
2   the “Metro Bataan Development Authority Act”.

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared  
4   the policy of the State to pursue the acceleration of social,  
5   economic, and political development of local government

units (LGUs) and their communities through the creation of special development and administrative areas that will ensure the efficient and effective planning, supervision, and coordination of essential basic services, without prejudice to the autonomy of the LGUs concerned. The State shall encourage LGUs to group themselves to coordinate efforts, services, and resources for purposes beneficial to their respective constituencies. Towards this end, the Metro Bataan Development Authority (MBDA) is constituted to integrate and coordinate the delivery of certain basic services as well as the enforcement of laws, rules, and regulations in the Province of Bataan and adjacent areas.

SEC. 3. *Creation of the MBDA.* – There is hereby created a special body to be known as the Metro Bataan Development Authority, which shall be organized within thirty (30) days after the approval of this Act, to coordinate and promote the socio-economic growth and sustainable development of Metro Bataan.

1           The MBDA shall administer a special development  
2   and administrative area embracing the Province of Bataan,  
3   the City of Balanga, the Municipalities of Hermosa, Orani,  
4   Abucay, Samal, Orion, Limay, Mariveles, Morong, Bagac,  
5   Pilar, and Dinalupihan, which includes its land, water and  
6   air territory, including its municipal, city, and provincial  
7   waters, the connecting metro-wide road networks to the  
8   Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB), and the  
9   Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) connecting the  
10   Clark Development Corporation (CDC), Bataan, and the  
11   Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA). The MBDA  
12   shall be under the administrative supervision of the Office  
13   of the President of the Philippines.

14           Metro Bataan's coverage may be expanded upon the  
15   recommendation of the Council and approval of the  
16   President, provided the areas are contiguous to and  
17   directly connected with Metro Bataan.

18           The MBDA shall execute the powers and functions  
19   herein vested which shall in no way diminish the

1    autonomy of the LGUs of Metro Bataan concerning purely  
2    local matters, within the framework and subject to the  
3    mandate and limitations of the Constitution and the  
4    pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise  
5    known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”.

6            SEC. 4. *Scope of MBDA Services.* – The MBDA shall  
7    have the authority to provide services to the entire  
8    province of Bataan and to areas covering the road  
9    networks or expressways connecting the territory of  
10   Bataan to other provinces and economic or freeport zones.

11           The MBDA shall perform the following services:

12           (a) Assistance to the Planning Offices of the LGUs in  
13   Bataan and the freeport and special zone authorities of  
14   SBMA, AFAB, CDC, and Subic-Clark Alliance for  
15   Development (SCAD) in development planning, as needed,  
16   which includes the preparation of proposed medium and  
17   long-term development plans, the development,  
18   evaluation, and packaging of proposed projects,  
19   investment programming, and coordination and

1 monitoring of plans, programs, and projects required by  
2 the provincial development plan as approved by the  
3 Sanggunian or Board of Directors concerned: *Provided,*  
4 That the Planning Offices shall have primary jurisdiction  
5 over development planning in said province, city,  
6 municipality or freeport/ecozone authority, as the case  
7 may be;

8 (b) With respect to provincial and national roads,  
9 transportation and traffic management, the coordination  
10 and monitoring of policies, standards, programs, projects,  
11 and transport plans approved by the Council to  
12 rationalize the existing transport operations in  
13 coordination with the Department of Transportation  
14 (DOTr); the determination, planning, procurement, and  
15 provision of infrastructure requirements in coordination  
16 with the Department of Public Works and Highways  
17 (DPWH); the enhancement of the safe use of  
18 thoroughfares; the promotion of safe and convenient  
19 movement of persons and goods; the provision of transport  
20 systems and the establishment of a system to regulate

1 road users; the administration and implementation of all  
2 traffic enforcement operations; the provision of traffic  
3 engineering, traffic services, and traffic education  
4 programs, and a single ticketing system in Metro Bataan;

5 (c) Solid waste disposal and management, which  
6 includes the formulation and implementation of policies,  
7 standards, programs, and projects for proper and sanitary  
8 waste disposal; the establishment and operation of a  
9 sanitary landfill and other related facilities; and the  
10 implementation of other alternative programs intended to  
11 reduce, reuse, and recycle solid waste. This is without  
12 prejudice to the authority and right of LGUs to perform or  
13 enter into agreements to provide such services in  
14 coordination with the Department of Environment and  
15 Natural Resources (DENR);

16 (d) Assistance in flood control and sewerage  
17 management which include the formulation and  
18 implementation of policies, standards, programs, and  
19 projects for an integrated flood control, drainage, and

1 sewerage system. This is without prejudice to the  
2 authority and right of LGUs to perform or enter into  
3 agreements to provide such services in coordination with  
4 the DPWH;

5 (e) Assistance in urban renewal, zoning, land use  
6 planning, and shelter services, which includes the  
7 formulation, adoption, and implementation of policies on  
8 standards, rules and regulations, programs, and projects  
9 pertaining to the rationalization and optimization of land  
10 use, and assistance in the formulation of growth and  
11 expansion plans, the rehabilitation and development of  
12 slum and blighted areas, the development of shelter and  
13 housing facilities, and the provision of necessary social  
14 services therein. This is without prejudice to the authority  
15 and right of LGUs to perform or enter into agreements to  
16 provide such services in coordination with the appropriate  
17 national agency;

18 (f) Assistance in health and sanitation protection and  
19 pollution control, which includes the implementation of

1 policies, rules, regulations, standards, programs, and  
2 projects to promote and safeguard the health and  
3 sanitation of the province; enhance ecological balance; and  
4 prevent, control, and abate environmental pollution;

5 (g) Ensuring disaster resilience through the  
6 implementation of programs, policies, and procedures to  
7 achieve preparedness for preventive or rescue operations  
8 during calamities and disasters such as conflagrations,  
9 earthquakes, floods, and tidal waves; and coordination,  
10 resource mobilization, and implementation of contingency  
11 plans for rehabilitation and relief operations;

12 (h) Public safety, which includes formulating and  
13 implementing programs, policies and procedures to  
14 achieve public safety, particularly preparedness for  
15 preventive or rescue operations, resource mobilization,  
16 rehabilitation, and relief operations during calamities and  
17 disasters, in coordination with pertinent national  
18 agencies; and



(i) Digitalization of payments for government disbursements and collections, as provided in Executive Order No. 170, series of 2022, and other relevant laws.

SEC. 5. *Functions and Powers of the MBDA.* – The MBDA shall:

(a) Formulate, coordinate, and monitor the implementation of approved medium- and long-term plans and programs for the delivery of metro-wide services, consistent with the national development objectives and priorities;

(b) Undertake and manage approved plans and projects for the delivery of specific services under its jurisdiction, subject to the approval of the Council;

(c) Undertake and formulate plans, policies, and development initiatives towards the promotion of the blue and green economy within the MBDA's area of jurisdiction to balance economic development with environmental sustainability. This includes, but is not limited to, the formulation and implementation of integrated coastal

1 management plans, green urban planning initiatives,  
2 climate adaptation policies, and other innovative policies  
3 and programs for environmental sustainability. For  
4 purposes of this Act, the green and blue economy concept  
5 refers to a framework for developing the economy while  
6 managing environmental risks and promoting  
7 environmental sustainability towards preserving the  
8 locality's natural resources;

9 (d) Coordinate, monitor, identify bottlenecks in, and  
10 adopt solutions to implementation problems of such plans,  
11 programs, and projects in the province;

12 (e) Implement existing and approved traffic policies  
13 on provincial and national roads, coordinate and regulate  
14 the implementation of all approved programs and projects  
15 concerning traffic management on metro-wide roads  
16 specifically pertaining to enforcement, engineering, and  
17 education: *Provided, That* upon request by LGUs and other  
18 government agencies and with the approval of the Council,  
19 it shall extend assistance and cooperation including the

1 assignment of personnel to such LGUs and other  
2 government agencies and offices;

3 (f) Issue tickets and citations and collect fines and  
4 penalties for violations of traffic rules and regulations on  
5 provincial and national roads, whether moving or non-  
6 moving in nature;

7 (g) Enter into contracts approved by the Council to  
8 enable it to carry out its purpose and functions under this  
9 Act;

10 (h) Perform other related functions to achieve the  
11 objectives and provide the services of the MBDA stated in  
12 this Act, including the delivery of basic services to the  
13 LGUs not otherwise enumerated herein, when deemed  
14 necessary, subject to prior coordination with and consent of  
15 the Council and the LGU concerned; and

16 (i) Be vested with other powers enjoyed or exercised  
17 by other metropolitan development authorities.

18 SEC. 6. *Metro Bataan Development Council.* – The  
19 governing board and policymaking body of the MBDA shall

1 be the Metro Bataan Development Council, herein referred  
2 to as the “Council”, which shall be composed of the  
3 Governor as *ex-officio* Chairperson, the Mayors of the City  
4 of Balanga, the Municipalities of Abucay, Bagac,  
5 Dinalupihan, Hermosa, Limay, Mariveles, Morong, Orani,  
6 Orion, Pilar, and Samal, the Administrator of the SBMA,  
7 the Administrator of the AFAB, the President and Chief  
8 Executive Officer (CEO) of the CDC, and the Chairperson  
9 of the SCAD as *ex-officio* members. The Region III regional  
10 directors of the Department of the Interior and Local  
11 Government (DILG), DENR, DPWH, Office of Civil  
12 Defense (OCD), Philippine National Police (PNP), the  
13 Commander of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) National  
14 Capital Region-Central Luzon District, and the President  
15 and CEO of the Bases Conversion and Development  
16 Authority (BCDA) shall be *ex-officio* members of the  
17 Council without voting rights.

18 The members of the Council may be modified or  
19 expanded upon a majority vote of its members.

1           SEC. 7. *Functions and Powers of the Council.* – The  
2   Council, as the policy-making body of the MBDA, shall  
3   exercise the following functions:

4           (a) Approve the development plans, investment  
5   programs, and projects after consultation and coordination  
6   with the LGUs and other stakeholders operating in the  
7   Metro Bataan Area;

8           (b) Formulate and issue resolutions, rules and  
9   regulations deemed necessary by the MBDA to carry out  
10  the purposes of this Act;

11          (c) Recommend investment programming for its  
12  plans and programs, as well as supervise the  
13  implementation of plans and programs which will include  
14  the formulation and coordination of its related activities;

15          (d) Coordinate and work closely with the DOTr and  
16  its attached agencies in policy formulation for the grant of  
17  franchises to safe, reliable, and environment-friendly  
18  public utility vehicles within the MBDA jurisdiction;

1           (e) Approve the annual budget and endorse the  
2     supplemental budget of the MBDA for submission to the  
3     Department of Budget and Management (DBM); and

4           (f) Perform and assume such other acts and functions  
5     as may be consistent and necessary to carry out the  
6     provisions of this Act.

7           SEC. 8. *Official Misconduct.* – The MBDA shall  
8     exercise its functions and powers impartially, without  
9     regard to the political interests or affiliations of the  
10    Council members. Failure to do so shall constitute official  
11    misconduct punishable by law, in particular, Section 3 of  
12    Republic Act No. 3019, otherwise known as the “Anti-Graft  
13    and Corrupt Practices Act”, and shall, following observance  
14    of due process, result in the immediate termination of the  
15    erring MBDA officer or personnel.

16          SEC. 9. *Metro Bataan Development Authority*  
17    *Administrator.* – The MBDA shall be headed by an  
18    Administrator, appointed by the President of the  
19    Philippines and chosen from a list of at least three (3)

1 nominees submitted by the Council. The Administrator  
2 shall have a term of three (3) years, unless otherwise  
3 removed for cause in accordance with law, and the rights,  
4 rank, disqualifications, and prohibitions of an  
5 Undersecretary under existing civil service rules and  
6 regulations. The Administrator shall not be related to any  
7 member of the Council within the fourth civil degree of  
8 consanguinity or affinity.

9       The Administrator shall be assisted by a Deputy  
10 Administrator for Finance and Administration, a Deputy  
11 Administrator for Central Planning, and a Deputy  
12 Administrator for Operations, all of whom shall be  
13 appointed by the Administrator with the concurrence of  
14 the Council, subject to civil service laws, rules and  
15 regulations. They shall enjoy security of tenure unless  
16 otherwise removed for cause in accordance with law. The  
17 Deputy Administrators for Finance and Administration,  
18 Central Planning, and for Operations shall not be related  
19 to the Administrator or any member of the Council within  
20 the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity.

1           SEC. 10. *Functions of the Administrator.* – The  
2 Administrator shall:

3           (a) Appoint, subject to civil service laws, rules, and  
4 regulations, all subordinate officers and employees, who  
5 shall enjoy security of tenure and may be removed only for  
6 cause in accordance with law. The Administrator is hereby  
7 authorized to engage the services of experts or consultants  
8 either on a full- or part-time basis, as may be required in  
9 the performance of his functions and duties;

10          (b) Execute the policies, measures, and programs  
11 approved by the Council and be responsible for the efficient  
12 and effective day-to-day management of the operations of  
13 the MBDA;

14          (c) Prepare the annual budget for the operations of  
15 the MBDA, for the consideration and approval of the  
16 Council;

17          (d) Submit, for consideration of the Council, such  
18 other duties and measures as may be necessary to carry  
19 out the purposes and provisions of this Act;



1           (e) Subject to civil service laws, rules and regulations,  
2   and the approval of the Council, determine the staffing  
3   pattern, fix the compensation of the officers and personnel  
4   of the MBDA, in accordance with the Salary  
5   Standardization Law, fix the number of and exercise  
6   disciplinary authority over subordinate officials and  
7   employees of the MBDA under the provisions of law;

8           (f) Supervise the various operating centers and units  
9   of the MBDA;

10          (g) Formulate and recommend policies and programs  
11   to the Council for the efficient delivery of province-wide or  
12   inter-provincial services;

13          (h) Prepare an annual report on the activities and  
14   accomplishments of the MBDA at the close of each year, for  
15   submission to the Council and the Office of the President;

16          (i) Ensure that all information, official records,  
17   documents, and papers pertaining to official acts,  
18   transactions, or decisions of the Council and the MBDA,  
19   including research data used by the Council and the

1 MBDA as basis for policy development are preserved and  
2 made available to the public when requested; and

3 (j) Perform other duties and functions as may be  
4 lawfully delegated or assigned by the Council from time to  
5 time.

6 SEC. 11. *MBDA Central Planning Office.* – There is  
7 hereby created a Planning Office in the MBDA as its  
8 planning and policy coordinating body that will, in  
9 coordination with or assistance to the LGUs and other  
10 members of the Council, formulate and implement  
11 comprehensive urban or regional development plans within  
12 its area of jurisdiction. It shall be supervised by the Deputy  
13 Administrator for Central Planning. Its specific tasks  
14 include, but shall not be limited to, zoning and land use  
15 management, transportation planning, development  
16 review, project evaluation and monitoring, data and  
17 analysis research, socio-economic policy formulation,  
18 environmental planning, public engagement, stakeholder  
19 coordination, advocacy, and capacity development. The

Central Planning Office shall have the following divisions:  
infrastructure, zoning and land use management division;  
transportation planning division; socio-economic policy  
division; tourism policy division; and environmental  
management division. The specific staffing pattern of the  
Central Planning Office and its divisions shall be  
submitted by the Administrator in accordance with Section  
10 of this Act.

SEC. 12. *MBDA Finance and Administration Office.* –

There is hereby created a Finance and Administration  
Office in the MBDA that shall supervise its financial and  
administrative concerns. It shall be supervised by the  
Deputy Administrator for Finance and Administration.  
The Finance and Administration Office shall have a  
finance division and an administration division. The  
specific staffing pattern of the Finance and Administration  
Office and its divisions shall be submitted by the  
Administrator in accordance with Section 10 of this Act.

1           SEC. 13. *MBDA Operations Office.* – There is hereby  
2   created an Operations Office in the MBDA that shall  
3   supervise its operational mandate. The operational  
4   mandate shall include, but not be limited to, the following:  
5   traffic management, disaster and emergency response,  
6   medical response, maritime security, and information  
7   systems management. It shall be supervised by the Deputy  
8   Administrator for Operations. The Operations Office shall  
9   have the following divisions: Tactical Operations Division,  
10   Emergency Operations Division, Medics Operations  
11   Division, Maritime Operations Division, and Management  
12   of Information Systems (MIS) Division. The specific  
13   staffing pattern of the Operations Office and its divisions  
14   shall be submitted by the Administrator in accordance  
15   with Section 10 of this Act.

16          SEC. 14. *Institutional Linkages of the MBDA.* – The  
17   MBDA shall, in carrying out its functions, consult,  
18   coordinate, and work closely with the LGUs, the DPWH,  
19   the DOTr, and other national government agencies; the  
20   SBMA, for properties under its territorial jurisdiction as

1 provided under Republic Act 7227, as amended, and  
2 Executive Order No. 675, series of 2007; accredited people's  
3 organizations (POs), non-government organizations  
4 (NGOs), and the private sector operating in Bataan.

5 The implementation of the MBDA's plans, programs,  
6 and projects shall be undertaken by the LGUs, the  
7 concerned national agencies, the POs, NGOs, the private  
8 sector, and the MBDA itself, as necessary and appropriate  
9 to meet the objectives of this Act. For this purpose, the  
10 MBDA may enter into contracts approved by the Council  
11 with such entities.

12 SEC. 15. *The Metro Bataan Development Master Plan.* –

13 The MBDA shall prepare a master plan to be approved by  
14 the Council that shall serve as the framework for the local  
15 development plans of the component LGUs. For this  
16 purpose, the Council, through the MBDA, may require its  
17 *ex-officio* non-voting members as well as other national  
18 government agencies and instrumentalities to submit

development plans and projects to be implemented within its jurisdiction.

The master plan shall contain, but not be limited to, the following components: areas of industrial growth, transportation, infrastructure development, tourism site development plan, planned energy facility development, and environmental management and sustainability.

SEC. 16. *Metro Bataan Coast Guard Station.* – There is hereby established a Metro Bataan Coast Guard Station, dedicated to implement the objectives or policies of the MBDA for the security of the territorial waters and areas covered by Metro Bataan but shall still be under the administrative control and operational supervision of the PCG. The Metro Bataan Coast Guard Station shall assume and perform the following functions:

(a) Ensure that peace, order, and safety within the immediate territorial waters of Metro Bataan are maintained at all times;

(b) Coordinate with the SBMA, the AFAB, the CDC, the SCAD, member LGUs of the MBDA, the Regional Police Office, and other relevant agencies in fulfilling its mandate within the territorial jurisdiction of the MBDA.

The Metro Bataan Coast Guard Station shall be adequately staffed with the necessary personnel and provided with the necessary equipment in the fulfillment of its mandate as determined by the PCG and the Council.

The PCG shall utilize its air, land, and sea assets within Metro Bataan's territorial jurisdiction. In consultation with the PCG, the MBDA may establish or construct auxiliary facilities to support the deployment, operation, and maintenance of such assets in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

SEC. 17. *Sources of Funds and Operating Budget of the MBDA.* – The amount necessary for the operating budget of the MBDA shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act to ensure adequate funding for Personnel Services (PS) which entails the creation and

1 maintenance of adequate plantilla positions towards  
2 attracting, employing, and retaining skilled professionals  
3 and highly competent personnel; Maintenance and Other  
4 Operating Expenses (MOOE) for sustaining daily  
5 operations and essential services; and Capital Outlay (CO)  
6 to acquire infrastructure, state-of-the-art equipment and  
7 facilities necessary for long-term development projects and  
8 the fulfillment of its mandate.

9 The MBDA is likewise empowered to impose  
10 administrative fees and charges on such rates and  
11 amounts approved by the Council for various services  
12 rendered.

13 The MBDA, through the Council, and subject to the  
14 approval of the LGUs and their respective *sanggunians*,  
15 may call on its member city and municipalities to  
16 contribute such amount as may be determined for its  
17 operation and the implementation of projects.

18 The MBDA may accept donations and grants from  
19 foreign and local sources. Acceptance of grants in cash or



1 kind from governments of foreign countries or their  
2 agencies and instrumentalities, or from multilateral  
3 institutions or organizations shall be subject to the prior  
4 clearance and approval by the President of the Philippines  
5 or the authorized representative based on the  
6 recommendation of the Secretary of Finance. Other  
7 donations in cash or in kind from foreign governments  
8 shall require prior clearance and approval by the  
9 President, or the authorized representative based on the  
10 recommendation of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

11 The MBDA may obtain financing support from local  
12 and foreign sources, subject to the approval of the  
13 Department of Finance (DOF), the *Bangko Sentral ng*  
14 *Pilipinas* (BSP) through its Monetary Board, the National  
15 Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the  
16 Council.

17 SEC. 18. *Transparency Clause.* – Pursuant to  
18 Executive Order No. 2, s. 2016, the public shall have access  
19 to information, official records, documents, and papers

1     pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions of the  
2     Council and the MBDA, as well as research data used by  
3     the Council and the MBDA as basis for policy development.  
4     The Council and the MBDA shall preserve and make  
5     readily accessible all such information, official records,  
6     documents, and papers: *Provided, however,* That access to  
7     information shall be subject to the procedures and  
8     exceptions under Executive Order No. 2 and other related  
9     laws or guidelines. As provided by Executive Order No. 2,  
10    failure to do so shall be a ground for the imposition of  
11    administrative and disciplinary sanctions on the erring  
12    officers or employees, without prejudice to prosecution for  
13    violation of other laws.

14       SEC. 19. *Non-Diminution Clause.* – The Council  
15    cannot modify, overrule, or disregard resolutions and  
16    ordinances passed by the *Sangguniang Barangay*,  
17    *Sangguniang Bayan*, *Sangguniang Panlungsod*, and  
18    *Sanggunian Panlalawigan* within the Province of Bataan  
19    and executive orders of its local chief executives.

1           In discharging its functions and performing its  
2   services under Sections 5 and 6, the MBDA shall, in no  
3   case, diminish or undermine the autonomy of the LGUs,  
4   nor diminish or undermine the regulatory functions of  
5   national government agencies. The member LGUs shall  
6   continue to have control and be responsible for their  
7   respective local projects and services. No MBDA service  
8   shall be implemented in a locality unless the concerned  
9   LGU concurs thereto.

10          SEC. 20. *Amicable Resolution Clause.* – In the  
11   formulation and implementation of development  
12   initiatives, programs, and projects, the MBDA shall solicit  
13   and consider the inputs of relevant national government  
14   agencies. In like manner, concerned national government  
15   agencies shall consult the MBDA and its member LGUs  
16   before the implementation of development projects funded  
17   by the national government. Potential or actual conflicts or  
18   disputes arising from policy matters or overlapping  
19   initiatives, programs, and projects shall be amicably  
20   resolved to the mutual satisfaction of all concerned.

1 Otherwise, the dispute shall be resolved in favor of local  
2 autonomy. Potential or actual conflicts in the policies,  
3 plans, initiatives, or program implementation of the  
4 Council or the MBDA shall be resolved in favor of the  
5 SBMA, the AFAB, the CDC, or the SCAD, as the case may  
6 be, in areas within their respective operational  
7 jurisdictions.

8 SEC. 21. *Internal Audit.* – Notwithstanding the  
9 provisions of Republic Act No. 4177, amending certain  
10 sections of Republic Act No. 3456, otherwise known as the  
11 “Internal Auditing Act of 1962”, the Council shall appoint  
12 the members of the independent internal audit service of  
13 the MBDA.

14 SEC. 22. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* –  
15 Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the  
16 Council shall promulgate and may thereafter update the  
17 necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of  
18 this Act.

1        SEC. 23. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of  
2    this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining  
3    sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain  
4    in full force and effect.

5        SEC. 24. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees,  
6    executive orders, rules and regulations, and other  
7    issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to  
8    the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or  
9    modified accordingly.

10       SEC. 25. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after  
11    fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication  
12    in the *Official Gazette*, or in a newspaper of general  
13    circulation.

Approved,