

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fourth day of July, two thousand twenty-three.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. **11983**]

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NEW PASSPORT LAW, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996", AS AMENDED, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "New Philippine Passport Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Article III, Section 6 of the Constitution provides that the right to travel shall not be impaired except in the interest of national security, public safety, or public health, as may be provided by law. It is the policy of the State to protect the people's constitutional right to travel while ensuring the issuance of a passport or any travel document in line with international instruments and using secure passport personalization and data management

technologies to enhance and protect the unimpaired exercise of the right to travel. The State shall only prescribe minimum requirements and shall ensure expeditious actions on the application and issuance of passports and other travel documents.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

(a) *Ambassadors* refer to those who have been appointed as Chiefs of Mission and are currently serving as Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary;

(b) *Biographic data* refers to an individual's full name, birthdate, birthplace, and sex as recorded in the Certificate of Live Birth, Report of Birth, Certificate of Marriage, Report of Marriage, or Certificate of Foundling;

(c) *Biometric data* refers to front facing photograph, fingerprint, iris scan, and/or such other identifiable features of an individual;

(d) *Consular offices (CO)* refer to field offices or any offsite office of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Office of Consular Affairs located in the Philippines where passporting and consular services are provided;

(e) *Consular Official* refers to a DFA official assigned to the Office of Consular Affairs, DFA Consular Offices in the Philippines or Foreign Service Posts, who is responsible for providing passport and other consular services;

(f) *Consular Services* refer to services relating to the exercise of consular functions enumerated under Article 5 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations;

(g) *Convention on International Civil Aviation or Chicago Convention* refers to the Convention which sets out certain principles and arrangements for the development of international civil aviation and establishment of international air transport services. It was signed in Chicago in 1944 and entered into force in 1947;

(h) *Emergency Travel Document* refers to a document issued by the Philippine Government to travelers in emergency situations where it is not possible to issue a regular passport;

(i) *Foundling* refers to a deserted or abandoned child or infant with unknown facts of birth and parentage. This includes a person who has been duly registered as a foundling during his or her infancy or childhood but has reached the age of majority without benefitting from adoption procedures, as provided in Republic Act No. 11767, or the "Foundling Recognition and Protection Act";

(j) *Fugitives from Justice* refer to those who flee under the following circumstances: (1) After conviction by a Philippine court to avoid punishment; or (2) After being charged in a Philippine court to avoid prosecution;

(k) *Foreign Service Posts (FSPs)* refer to embassies, missions, consulates general, and other foreign service establishments maintained by the DFA;

(l) *International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)* refers to the specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that manages the administration and governance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation or the Chicago Convention, of which the Philippines became a party in 1947;

(m) *Issuing Authority* refers to the DFA Office of Consular Affairs, DFA Consular Offices in the Philippines, or the Philippine FSPs overseas which issue passports and provide other consular services;

(n) *Legal Guardians* refer to persons exercising parental authority, either by operation of law or by order of the court, over minors or persons above eighteen (18) years of age but who are unable to fully take care of themselves or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition;

(o) *Machine Readable Travel Document* refers to a travel document conforming with the specifications contained in ICAO Document 9303;

(p) *Passport* refers to the ICAO-compliant machine readable travel document issued by the Philippine Government which contains a request to other governments to permit its bearer to pass safely and freely, and to provide all lawful aid and protection, if needed;

(q) *Passport Personalization* refers to the process by which the biometric data, biographic data, and the signature are applied to the passport;

(r) *Passporting Services* refer to services relating to the processing, encoding, transmission, personalization, and releasing of passports, including online services; and all other related functions and capacities;

(s) *Recognized Alien Residents* refer to aliens who are permanent residents of the Philippines, or who are stateless persons or refugees, as recognized by the Philippine Government;

(t) *Refugee* refers to a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his or her former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it, and is officially given refugee status by the Philippine Government;

(u) *Stateless Person* refers to a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law; and

(v) *Travel Document* refers to an official document issued by the Philippine Government and is used by the holder for international travel.

SEC. 4. *Authority to Issue, Deny, or Cancel.* – Upon the application of any qualified Filipino citizen, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, hereinafter referred to as “DFA Secretary”, or any duly authorized consular official may issue passports in accordance with this Act.

Philippine consular officials in a foreign country shall be authorized by the DFA Secretary to issue, deny, or cancel a passport in the area of jurisdiction of the FSP in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

In the interest of national security, public safety, and public health, and in accordance with Sections 5 and 10 of this Act, the DFA Secretary, or any of the authorized consular officials, may deny issuance of a passport or cancel a passport: *Provided*, That such act shall not mean a loss of, or a doubt on, the person's citizenship: *Provided, further*, That the issuance of a passport may not be denied if the safety and interest of the Filipino citizen are at stake: *Provided, finally*, That denial or cancellation of a passport shall not prevent the issuance of an Emergency Travel Document to allow for a safe return journey by a Filipino to the Philippines.

SEC. 5. *Requirements for the Application and Issuance of a Passport.* – The DFA Secretary, or a duly authorized consular official, shall issue a passport to an applicant who is a Filipino citizen and who has complied with the following requirements:

(a) Personal appearance for biometric and biographic data capturing;

(b) A duly accomplished application form;

(c) Proof of citizenship as prescribed by relevant laws regarding the acquisition of Philippine citizenship which includes, but is not limited to:

(1) For natural-born citizens, Certificate of Live Birth or Report of Birth, or Certificate of Foundling, whichever is applicable, authenticated by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);

(2) For naturalized citizens, Certificate of Naturalization, Identification Certificate, Court Order granting naturalization, Decree of Naturalization, or copy of the law granting legislative naturalization;

(3) Identification Certificate for those who avail of recognition with the Bureau of Immigration or a registered, signed, and sworn statement of election of Philippine citizenship for those who were born before January 17, 1973 of Filipino mothers and who elected Philippine citizenship upon reaching the age of majority; and

(4) Order of Approval, Identification Certificate, or Oath of Allegiance for those who avail of reacquisition or retention of Philippine citizenship under Republic Act No. 9225, otherwise known as the "Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003";

(d) Valid and sufficient proof of identity, foremost of which is the applicant's PhilID issued pursuant to Republic Act No. 11055 or the "Philippine Identification System Act", or competent proof of identity;

(e) For a married woman who wishes to use her husband's surname, Certificate of Marriage or Report of Marriage, whichever is applicable, authenticated by the PSA;

(f) For a woman who wishes to revert to the use of her maiden name, a duly authenticated birth certificate by the PSA: *Provided*, That she can only revert to her maiden name once and all her other existing identification cards and pertinent documents shall likewise reflect her maiden name.

If the reversion is by virtue of an annulment, declaration of nullity of marriage, legal separation, judicially-recognized foreign divorce, or death of a husband, a duly annotated Certificate of Marriage or Report of Marriage, whichever is applicable, or Certificate of Death or Report of Death, whichever is applicable, authenticated by the PSA;

(g) For a minor applicant, the application may be filed by either parent: *Provided*, That if a person other than the minor's parents files the application, a Special Power of Attorney (SPA) duly executed by a person exercising parental authority, as per existing laws, must be presented for this purpose. For minor applicants who are foundlings, an adult guardian, through the presentation of a letter of guardianship issued by a Family Court and a Department of Social Welfare and Development clearance, may file for the minor's passport application;

(h) Certificate Declaring a Child Legally Available for Adoption issued by the National Authority for Child Care if the applicant is a prospective adoptive child under Republic Act No. 11642, or the "Domestic Administrative Adoption and Alternative Child Care Act";

(i) For the renewal of passports by applicants who are sixty (60) years old and above and by migrant workers abroad, the DFA shall implement a system wherein the applicants may submit their application without the need to physically appear in the Office of Consular Affairs or any Consular Office, through the use of available technology;

(j) For applicants who are unable to read or write, persons with disabilities (PWDs), or senior citizens, they may be assisted by a relative within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, or by the traveling companion of the applicant;

(k) In case of discrepancy, the applicant's name or other details in the Certificate of Live Birth or Report of Birth shall prevail over those appearing in any other public or private document unless by operation of law or through court order, the applicant is permitted to use a name other than what is officially recorded in the PSA;

Valid IDs must be consistent with the name and other biographic details in the Certificate of Live Birth or Report of Birth, as well as to the Certificate of Marriage or Report of Marriage, or laws wherein a woman prefers to use her husband's surname on any given form; and

(l) For government officials or employees seeking to apply for a diplomatic or official passport, they shall submit a travel authority issued by the head of the department, agency, or office, or such head's duly authorized representative.

SEC. 6. *Prohibition Against Unfair and Discriminatory Practices.* – The DFA, as well as its authorized passport-issuing authorities and personnel, shall only require documents to prove the following: (i) identity of the applicant; (ii) the applicant's citizenship; and (iii) lack of legal travel restrictions, consistent with Republic Act No. 11032 or the "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018".

SEC. 7. *Types of Passports.* – The DFA Secretary or the authorized consular official may issue the following types of passports:

(a) *Diplomatic Passports* are issued to citizens with diplomatic status or who are on diplomatic mission, such as:

(1) The President and former Presidents of the Philippines;

(2) The Vice-President and former Vice-Presidents of the Philippines;

(3) The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and former Presidents of the Senate and Speakers of the House of Representatives;

(4) The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, as well as the respective Presiding Justices of the Court of Appeals, Court of Tax Appeals, and the Sandiganbayan;

(5) The Secretary, Undersecretaries, and Assistant Secretaries of the DFA;

(6) The Members of Congress, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Secretary General of the House of Representatives;

(7) The Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines; Chiefs of Mission, Foreign Service Officers of all ranks in the career diplomatic service, and designated attachés from the DFA and agencies of the government, including the officials of the Migrant Workers Office (MWO) as created under Section 15 of Republic Act No. 11641 or the "Department of Migrant Workers Act";

(8) The Secretaries of all departments of the Executive branch;

(9) The Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas;

(10) The official delegates to international or regional conferences duly authorized to represent the country; and

(11) The spouses and minor children of the abovementioned officials when accompanying or following to join them on a diplomatic mission abroad.

The President of the Philippines or the DFA Secretary may grant diplomatic passports to officials and persons other than those enumerated herein;

(b) *Official Passports* are issued to all government officials and employees on official trip abroad but who are not on a diplomatic mission or have not been accorded diplomatic status, such as:

(1) The Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries of the Cabinet other than the DFA, the Associate Justices of the Court of Appeals, Court of Tax Appeals, the Sandiganbayan, and other members of the Judiciary, and all other government officials and employees traveling on official business and official time;

(2) Staff officers and employees of the DFA assigned to diplomatic and consular posts, as well as officers and representatives of other government departments and agencies assigned abroad;

(3) Persons in the domestic service of officials assigned to diplomatic or consular posts; and

(4) Spouse and minor children of the staff officers and employees of the DFA assigned to diplomatic or consular posts and offices and representatives of other government agencies assigned abroad, when accompanying or following to join them; and

(c) *Regular Passports* are issued to Filipino citizens who are not eligible or entitled to diplomatic or official passports, including government officials or employees going abroad for pleasure or other personal reasons. Government officials and employees and members of their families may, during their incumbency in office, hold two (2) passports simultaneously:

(1) A regular passport for private travel; and

(2) A diplomatic or official passport when traveling abroad on a diplomatic or official business.

The DFA shall prescribe the number of pages of passport booklets based on international standards and best practices: *Provided*, That an option to apply for a passport booklet with

additional pages shall be made available subject to reasonable fees as may be determined by the DFA Secretary.

SEC. 8. *Emergency Travel Documents.* – Types of emergency travel documents:

(a) *Emergency Passports* shall be issued to Filipino travelers who have lost their passports while traveling overseas and are justifiably in need to complete their intended overseas travel prior to their return to the Philippines or their residence overseas. This shall be valid for one (1) year from the date of issuance; and

(b) *Emergency Travel Certificate* shall be issued to Filipinos returning to the Philippines who have lost their passports overseas or cannot be issued a regular passport. This certificate shall be valid for thirty (30) days up to six (6) months from the date of issuance.

The Filipino's alien spouse and children who are traveling to, or are returning as permanent residents of, the Philippines may also be issued an emergency travel certificate.

SEC. 9. *Convention Travel Document.* – A convention travel document shall be issued to a stateless person who is likewise a permanent resident of the Philippines or a refugee granted such status or asylum in the country. This document shall be valid for five (5) years from the date of issuance.

SEC. 10. *Grounds for Denial of Issuance of Passport; Cancellation of Passport; or Imposition of Restrictions on Passports.* – A passport application may be denied, or cancelled, or restrictions may be imposed on a passport, based on the following grounds:

(a) Denial of Issuance of Passport:

(1) Upon orders of the court to hold the departure of an individual;

(2) Upon submission of a duly notarized request by the person exercising parental authority over a minor or incapacitated applicant;

(3) When the applicant has been found to have violated any of the provisions of this Act; or

(4) Such other disqualification under existing laws;

(b) Cancellation of Passport:

(1) Upon orders of the court, when the holder has been convicted of a criminal offense: *Provided*, That a passport may be issued after service of sentence;

(2) Upon orders of the court, when the holder is a fugitive from justice;

(3) Upon orders of the court, when the holder is a suspected terrorist charged with any violation of Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of Republic Act No. 11479 or "The Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020": *Provided*, That a passport may be issued upon: (i) acquittal of the accused, (ii) the dismissal of the case filed against such person, or (iii) the discretion of the court on motion of the prosecutor or of the accused;

(4) When a passport was acquired fraudulently, tampered with, or issued erroneously; or

(5) When a passport is returned to the DFA by other government agencies or entities: *Provided*, That cancellation of the passport will not prevent the holder from being issued a new passport.

Denial of passport application or cancellation of passport for reasons other than by order of the court may be appealed to the DFA Secretary;

(c) Imposition of Restriction on Passport:

(1) When a hold departure order or a precautionary hold departure order is issued by a competent court against a suspected person or a respondent to a criminal case;

(2) When the country of designation is in a state of political instability which could pose a danger to the Filipino traveler;

(3) When diplomatic ties have been fractured or severed with the Philippines; or

(4) When the country of destination is subject to travel restriction by government policy, enforcement action by the UN or in a state of war.

SEC. 11. *Passport Database.* – The DFA shall have its own database, which shall contain the following: (a) applicants' biographic data, biometric data, and demographic data; (b) record of denials, cancellations, stolen, and lost passports; and (c) such other information as may be necessary to implement this Act.

The DFA, in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology, National Privacy Commission, PSA, and other pertinent agencies, shall implement appropriate organizational, technical, and physical security measures to ensure that the information gathered for the passport database is protected against tampering, loss, destruction, damage, and unauthorized access, use, and disclosure.

SEC. 12. *Validity.* – Regular passports issued under this Act shall be valid for a period of ten (10) years: *Provided*, That for individuals under eighteen (18) years of age, only a passport with five (5)-year validity shall be issued: *Provided, further*, That the issuing authority may limit the period of validity to less than ten (10) years whenever such restriction is necessary in the interest of national economy or political stability of the country.

SEC. 13. *Ownership of Passports.* – A Philippine passport remains at all times the property of the government and the same may not be confiscated by any entity or person other than the DFA. Any other government agency, official or employee who confiscates a passport or travel document shall promptly turn over the same to the DFA.

Persons who confiscate or otherwise withhold a passport without authority therefor shall be punished in accordance with Section 22(a) of this Act.

SEC. 14. *Names and Titles.* – Passports shall contain the full name of the applicant, but shall not include any title, profession or job description.

The Philippine naming conventions and the relevant laws of the Philippines on the names of persons shall govern the details that shall be reflected in the passport.

SEC. 15. *Loss or Destruction of a Passport.* – The loss or destruction of a passport shall be immediately reported to the DFA or a FSP by submitting an affidavit stating in detail the circumstances of such loss or destruction.

A person who subsequently manages to locate his/her lost passport shall turn over the same to the DFA. An affidavit stating the location of the passport and the person or entity in possession thereof shall be submitted in case physical turnover of the lost passport is not feasible.

SEC. 16. *Fees.* – Reasonable fees shall be collected for the processing and issuance of a passport or a travel document: *Provided*, That any fee shall not be increased more than once every three (3) years.

SEC. 17. *Passport Revolving Fund.* – The DFA may charge a service fee of not more than thirty percent (30%) of the regular passport fees for such service rendered to applicants relating to the processing and issuance of passports requiring special consideration, waiver, or issuance beyond regular office hours.

The service fees received by the DFA under this section shall constitute a revolving fund to be called as the “Passport Revolving Fund” which may be utilized by the DFA for the improvement of its passporting and consular services and other DFA services except travel and transportation allowances and expenses.

The setting up, use, and disbursement of funds shall be subject to review, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit and will be subject to annual review by Congress. The DFA Secretary shall submit a report on the disbursement of the fund every six (6) months to both the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs.

SEC. 18. *Establishment of an Online Application Portal and Electronic One-Stop Shop.* – The DFA, in coordination with other pertinent government agencies, is mandated to establish and maintain an online application portal and Electronic One-Stop Shop readily accessible on its official website to facilitate convenience of application and ease in gathering and submission of the requirements.

SEC. 19. *Offsite and Mobile Passport Services.* – The DFA may provide offsite and mobile passport services in areas outside of the consular offices and FSPs.

SEC. 20. *Setting up of Special Lanes.* – The DFA shall arrange accommodations for the application of regular passports by senior citizens, PWDs, pregnant women, minors aged seven (7) years old and below, solo parents, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), and individuals with emergency and exceptional cases through the creation of special lanes. The DFA shall arrange accommodations for regular passport applications of Muslim Filipinos who are intending pilgrims to the annual Hajj pilgrimage, which shall be for a period of four (4) months commencing from the date indicated in the official request by the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos.

SEC. 21. *Waiver.* – The DFA Secretary may waive any requirement set forth in Section 5 of this Act, as well as the fees for the processing or issuance of passports and travel documents contained in Section 16 of this Act, on humanitarian grounds.

SEC. 22. *Offenses and Penalties.* – (a) *Offenses relating to illegal withholding of passport; penalties.* – Any person or entity without legal authority who confiscates, retains, or withholds any passport issued by the DFA shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than twelve (12) years and one (1) day but not more than twenty (20) years, and shall pay a fine of not less than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) but not more than Two million pesos (P2,000,000.00): *Provided,* That a prosecution under this Act shall be without prejudice to any liability for violation of Republic Act No. 8042 or the “Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995”, as amended.

(b) *Offenses relating to forgery; penalties.* – Imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day to fifteen (15) years and a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person or entity who willfully and knowingly:

(1) Falsely makes, forges, counterfeits, mutilates or alters any passport or other travel document or any supporting document for a passport application. The possession of the documents herein mentioned shall be *prima facie* evidence of commission of acts enumerated herein; or

(2) Uses or attempts to use, or furnishes to another for use, any such false, forged, counterfeited, mutilated, altered, or cancelled passport or other travel document.

(c) *Offenses relating to improper use of passports, other travel documents, and supporting documents; penalties.* – Imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day but not more than fifteen (15) years and a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person who willfully and knowingly:

(1) Uses or attempts to use any passport or other travel document issued for the use of another;

(2) Uses or attempts to use any supporting document belonging to another; or

(3) Sells, trades, pawns, mortgages, or uses a passport or other travel document as a collateral to secure debt, or in any manner uses such passport or other travel document as currency or object of commerce: *Provided*, That in such situation, the buyer, trader, creditor, or mortgagee shall also be liable to the same extent as the passport/travel document holder.

(d) *Offenses relating to issuances; penalties.* – Imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day but not more than twelve (12) years and a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person or entity who:

(1) Acts or claims to act in any capacity or office under the Republic of the Philippines without lawful authority, accepts passport applications, grants, issues or verifies any passport or other travel document to any or for any person whomsoever, or is caught selling in whatever capacity passport application forms, or lost or stolen passports and travel documents;

(2) Acts or claims to act in any capacity, with the intention to profit thereby, intercepts a person proceeding to the DFA or any of its consular offices or FSPs to apply for a passport or other travel document, and persuades, entices, encourages, or misleads such applicant to course the application through another person or agency other than the DFA or its personnel on the pretext of facilitating its approval or issuance by the DFA;

(3) Being neither a diplomatic or consular official, nor an employee authorized to grant, issue, or verify any passport or other travel document to or for any person, and even though not claiming to be such, offers, for any material gain or consideration, to escort a passport applicant, or assist the same in booking an appointment, filling out an application form, making payments, handling application documents, or any other action relating to passport application;

(4) Hoards and/or sells online passport appointment slots for pecuniary gain or advantage;

(5) Being a diplomatic or consular official authorized to grant, issue, or verify passports, knowingly and willfully grants, issues, or verifies any such passport to any or for any person not a citizen of the Republic of the Philippines; or

(6) Being a diplomatic or consular official, knowingly and willfully grants, issues, or certifies to the authenticity of any passport or other travel document for any person not entitled thereto, or knowingly and willfully issues more than one (1) passport to any person except as provided for in this Act.

(e) *Offenses relating to false statements; penalties.* – Imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day but not more than twelve (12) years and a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more

than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person who willfully and knowingly:

(1) Makes any false statement in any application for a passport or other travel document with the intent to induce or secure the issuance of a passport or other travel document contrary to this Act or rules and regulations prescribed pursuant hereto;

(2) Makes any false statement in an affidavit declaring a passport or other travel document as lost or destroyed; or

(3) Uses or attempts to use any passport or other travel document which was secured in any way by reason of any false statement.

(f) *Offenses pertaining to unfair and discriminatory practices.* – Any violation of Section 6 of this Act shall warrant the following penalties and liabilities:

(1) First Offense: Administrative liability with six (6) months suspension;

(2) Second Offense: Administrative liability and criminal liability of dismissal from service, perpetual disqualification from holding public office and forfeiture of retirement benefits and imprisonment of eighteen (18) months and one (1) day to six (6) years with a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00).

(g) *Syndicate or on a large scale.* – The penalties provided for under this section shall be imposed in their maximum when the offenses are committed by a syndicate or on a large scale.

The offense is deemed committed by a syndicate if carried out by a group of three (3) or more persons conspiring or confederating with one another. It is deemed committed on a large scale if committed against three (3) or more persons, individually or as a group.

(h) *Offender is a public official.* – In addition to the penalties prescribed in this section, the offender shall be

dismissed from service and shall suffer perpetual absolute disqualification to hold public office.

(i) *Offender is a corporation, partnership, association, or any juridical person.* – The penalty prescribed in this section shall be imposed upon the president, partner, manager, and/or any responsible officer of the corporation, association, or any juridical person who directly participated in the commission of the violation of this Act and/or allowed its perpetuation and continuance: *Provided*, That in every case, the criminal conviction of the liable person shall cause and carry the automatic revocation of the business license and/or special certificate of accreditation or certificate of registration of the corporation, partnership, association, or the juridical person: *Provided, further*, That these entities and the persons who are criminally held liable for the violation of this Act shall not be allowed to operate similar establishments under different names.

(j) *Offender is an alien.* – In addition to the penalties prescribed in this section, the alien shall be deported after serving the sentence and be permanently barred from entering the Philippines.

SEC. 23. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.



SEC. 24. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from effectivity, the DFA shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 25. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in force and effect.


SEC. 26. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, proclamations, or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 27. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication either in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

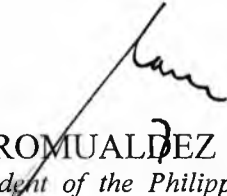


 FERDINAND MARTIN C. ROMUALDEZ JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
Speaker of the House *President of the Senate*
of Representatives

This Act, which is a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 2001 and House Bill No. 6510, was passed by the Senate of the Philippines and the House of Representatives on December 6, 2023.


 REGINALD S. VELASCO
Secretary General
House of Representatives


 RENATO N. BANTUG JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Approved: **MAR 11 2024**


 FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS JR.
President of the Philippines



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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



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