

**Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**Seventeenth Congress  
First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1305**

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Introduced by **Honorable Leopoldo N. Bataoil**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Bureau of Immigration was created by the enactment of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940 (Commonwealth Act No. 613). A year or so later, it became an attached agency of the Department of Justice (DOJ). Due to the declaration of martial law on September 21, 1972 by then President Ferdinand E. Marcos, the Commission on Reorganization issued Letter of Implementation No. 20 renaming of the office from the Bureau of Immigration to Commission on Immigration and Deportation. This became a collegial body and performing both administrative and quasi-judicial functions.

Sometime on July 25, 1987, President Corazon C. Aquino signed Executive order No. 292, (The Administrative Code of 1987) renaming the office to "Bureau of Immigration." It continues, however, to perform all the powers and functions it had while still a commission, and its head of office still remains to be called commissioner as provided under DOJ.

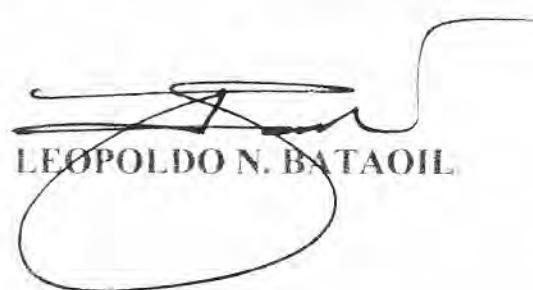
Despite the several amendments and reorganization made on the Bureau, there is still an urgent need to amend or revise Commonwealth Act No. 613 to enable the Bureau to be responsive to the present time and for a wider scope of functions and jurisdictions.

This bill will reorganize the whole Bureau of Immigration. It will constitute the Bureau into a Commission on Immigration who shall be responsible for the administration, enforcement and implementation of all laws, rules, regulations or orders of any component authority concerning the entry and admission into, stay in, and the departure from the country of all persons.

The bill provides for the creation of the Commission on Immigration, the composition of the Commission, their powers and functions and also clearly define the duties and responsibilities of all the divisions of the Commission. The Commission is a quasi-judicial body and has a wider scope of jurisdiction. There will also be constituted a Board of Special Inquiry (BSI) who shall decide on all cases such as deportation, revocation of immigrant status, recognition of Philippine citizenship, legalization of residence and issuance of visa for stateless person; and also issue subpoena in cases filed before the Board.

Lastly, the bill provides for the authority of the Commissioner to prescribe, impose, and collect fees and charges and a much stiffer penalty for violators of this Act.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is highly recommended.



LEOPOLDO N. BATAOIL

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1305

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Introduced by Representatives Leopoldo N. Bataoil

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AN ACT

CREATING THE COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, EXPANDING, RATIONALIZING AND FURTHER PROFESSIONALIZING ITS ORGANIZATION, UPGRADING THE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS OF ITS OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

TITLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Immigration and Registration of Foreign Nationals Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — In the conduct of its relation with other States, the Philippines shall give paramount consideration to national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national security, national interest, the right to self-determination, enhancement of economic diplomacy as well as the protection of overseas Filipinos in destination countries, as it adheres to the policy of peace, cooperation and amity with all nations. Toward this end, Philippine immigration policies, rules and regulations under this Act shall be applied and administered as instruments for the promotion of domestic and external interests of the Philippines, in recognition of:

1                 (a) The admission of foreign nationals for the purpose of encouraging and  
2 enhancing capital investments, trade and commerce, cultural exchanges and other  
3 forms of friendly relations and cooperation;

4                 (b) The need to support the country's technological and scientific  
5 development;

6                 (c) Promotion of conditions for social welfare and economic security of the  
7 people;

8                 (d) Compliance with obligations and standards set by international law in the  
9 admission or exclusion of foreign nationals;

10                 (e) Promotion of international order and justice by preventing and denying  
11 the use of Philippine territory to persons who are engaged or likely to engage in  
12 terrorism, human smuggling and trafficking, criminal and other nefarious activities;

13                 (f) Modernization of structures and mechanisms necessary for the  
14 administration of immigration laws in keeping with the changing demands of the  
15 country's role in the global community; and

16                 (g) Professionalization of the immigration service by instituting a rigid  
17 system of screening and selection of immigration officials and employees and  
18 promoting their development.

20                 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** — As used in this Act, the following terms are  
21 defined as follows:

22                 (a) "Admission" refers to the process by which a foreign national arriving at a  
23 port of entry in the Philippines is allowed into the country by the immigration  
24 authorities;

25                 (b) "Board" refers to the Board of Commissioners;

26                 (c) "Border Control Officer" refers to any person tasked to man the Border  
27 Control Station as provided under Section 28 of this Act;

28                 (d) "Captain" refers to the master of a vessel or pilot of an aircraft;

29                 (e) "Child" refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age;

1                 (f) "Citizen" refers to any person who is a citizen of the Philippines under

2 Section 1, Article IV of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines;

3                 (g) "Commission" refers to the Commission on Immigration;

4                 (h) "Commissioner" and "Deputy Commissioner" refer to the Commissioner

5 of Immigration and the Deputy Commissioner of Immigration, respectively;

6                 (i) "Commitment Order" refers to an order issued by the Commissioner

7 under Section 7(c)(2) of this Act that directs the taking into custody of a foreign national

8 after it has been determined that a probable cause exists that the foreign national

9 committed acts and/or omissions in violation of Philippine immigration laws, rules and

10 regulations, or during the pendency of deportation case against such foreign national;

11 *Provided*, That such custody shall not exceed three (3) months, unless there exists other

12 legal grounds for continued custody;

13                 (j) "Consular Officer" refers to any consular, diplomatic, or other officer of

14 the Department of Foreign Affairs who has been duly granted a consular commission

15 for the purpose of issuing visas under this Act;

16                 (k) "Derogatory Information" refers to details about persons and travel

17 documents relating to immigration consisting of the following:

18                         (1) "Blacklist Order" refers to an order issued by the Commissioner that

19 prevents a foreign national from entering the territorial jurisdiction;

20                         (2) "Hold Departure Order" refers to a directive from the Commissioner

21 preventing a foreign national from leaving the territorial jurisdiction of the

22 Philippines in cases of grant of bail and recognizance pending implementation of

23 Summary Deportation Order, or an order implementing a directive from the

24 Regional Trial Courts, *Sandiganbayan*, and appellate courts to prevent a person

25 from leaving the Philippines to any place outside thereof; and

26                         (3) "Watchlist Order" refers to an order issued by the Commissioner

27 under this Act that requires immigration personnel to monitor the travel of any

28 person for a period of sixty (60) days, extendible for another sixty (60) days and

29 to notify the concerned government agencies of the Philippines.

1           (l) "Entry" refers to the arrival of a foreign national into any designated port  
2 of entry in the Philippines from a place outside thereof. A foreign national having a  
3 lawful permanent residence in the Philippines shall not be regarded as making an entry  
4 for the purpose of this Act if such foreign national proves that the departure to a place  
5 outside the Philippines was for a temporary or limited period, or the continued absence  
6 from the Philippines was occasioned by deportation proceedings, extradition, or other  
7 legal process;

8           (m) "Exclusion" refers to the act of Immigration Officers denying admission of  
9 a foreign national into the country on grounds provided for in this Act;

10           (n) "Foreign National" refers to any person not a citizen of the Philippines;

11           (o) "Immigrant" refers to any foreign national departing from any place  
12 outside the Philippines destined for the Philippines, other than a non-immigrant;

13           (p) "Immigration laws" refers to this Act and any other law presently existing  
14 or which may hereafter be enacted relating to movement of natural persons to and from  
15 the Philippines;

16           (q) "Immigration Officer" refers to any person appointed under Section 24 of  
17 this Act or any employee of the Commission designated by the Commissioner to  
18 perform the powers, duties and functions of an Immigration Officer as specified under  
19 this Act;

20           (r) "Interception" refers to the act of Immigration Officers denying departure  
21 clearance to any person leaving the country on grounds provided for in this Act;

22           (s) "Non-immigrant" refers to any foreign national departing from any place  
23 outside the Philippines who is allowed entry and admission into the Philippines for a  
24 temporary or limited period of stay;

25           (t) "Non-refoulement" refers to a principle of international law which  
26 prohibits the forced return of a refugee to the state or territory where one's life or  
27 liberty would be threatened;

1                         (u) "Passport" refers to a document issued by the Philippine government to its

2 citizens pursuant to Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as "*The Philippine Passport*  
3 *Act of 1996*";

4                         (v) "Person" refers to a natural or juridical person such as but not limited to  
5 partnerships, corporations, companies, and associations;

6                         (w) "Port of entry" refers to any port designated by the Commissioner through  
7 which a foreign national may enter or exit the Philippines;

8                         (x) "President" refers to the President of the Republic of the Philippines;

9                         (y) "Refugee" refers to a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being  
10 persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social  
11 group, or political opinion, is outside the country of nationality, and is unable or, owing  
12 to such fear, is unwilling to avail of the protection of that country; or who, not having a  
13 nationality and being outside the country of former habitual residence, is unable or,  
14 owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it;

15                         (z) "Seaman," "Seafarer" or "Crewmember" refers to a person actually  
16 employed in the operation or service in any capacity on board a vessel;

17                         (aa) "Secretary" refers to the Secretary of the Department of Justice;

18                         (bb) "Stateless Person" refers to a person who is not considered a national by  
19 any State under the operation of its laws;

20                         (cc) "Travel document" refers to a certification or identifying document  
21 containing the description and other personal circumstances of its bearer, issued for  
22 direct travel to and from the Philippines valid for short periods or a particular trip. It is  
23 issued only to persons whose claim to Philippine citizenship is doubtful or who fall  
24 under the category enumerated in Section 13 of Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise  
25 known as "*The Philippine Passport Act of 1996*";

26                         (dd) "Vessel" refers to all means of conveyances, whether aircraft or sea craft,  
27 and

28                         (ee) "Visa" refers to an endorsement on a passport or any travel document  
29 issued by a Consular Officer abroad authorizing the holder thereof to proceed to a

1 designated port of entry in the Philippines and there to apply for entry and admission  
2 under the status specified therein; or immigration status granted and/or issued to  
3 foreign nationals by the Commissioner or the Board under this Act;

4

## 5                                   **TITLE II**

6                                   **COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION**

7

### 8                                   **CHAPTER 1**

9                                   **THE COMMISSION**

10

11                 **SEC. 4. Creation.** — The Commission on Immigration is hereby created. It shall  
12 be principally responsible for the administration and enforcement of this Act, and the  
13 implementation of all laws, rules, regulations or orders of any competent authority  
14 concerning the entry and admission into, stay in, and the departure from the  
15 Philippines of all persons.

16

17                 **SEC. 5. Composition and Qualification.** — The Commission shall be  
18 administered by the Board of Commissioners headed by the Commissioner as  
19 Chairperson, and four (4) Deputy Commissioners as members, all of whom shall be  
20 natural-born citizens of the Philippines and, at the time of their appointment, at least  
21 thirty-five (35) years of age, holders of a college degree and with proven capacity for  
22 administration: *Provided*, That the majority or three (3) members including the  
23 Chairperson of the Commission shall be members of the Philippine Bar in good  
24 standing for at least five (5) years.

25

### 26                                   **CHAPTER 2**

27                                   **THE COMMISSIONER**

1           **SEC. 6. Appointment and Rank of the Commissioner.** – The Commissioner shall  
2 be appointed by the President and shall have the same rank, salary, and privileges of an  
3 Undersecretary of a Department.  
4

5           **SEC. 7. Powers and Functions of the Commissioner.** – In addition to the duties as  
6 Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners, the Commissioner shall exercise the  
7 following powers and functions:

8           (a) Supervise, direct and coordinate the overall operations of the  
9 Commission;

10          (b) Exercise control and supervision over the officers and personnel of the  
11 Commission, including but not limited to appointments, promotions, reassessments  
12 and other personnel movements, subject to existing civil service laws, rules and  
13 regulations;

14          (c) Issue, (1) letter orders after determination of the existence of probable  
15 cause for the purpose of deportation; (2) commitment or release orders; (3) warrant of  
16 deportation; (4) order to inspect the documents, premises and records of persons  
17 covered by this Act and (5) derogatory information orders as defined in Section 3(k) of  
18 this Act;

19          (d) Delegate authority to subordinate officers and employees of the  
20 Commission, except with regard to powers and functions enumerated in the  
21 immediately preceding paragraph, which may be delegated only to the Deputy  
22 Commissioners;

23          (e) Act on applications for issuance and extension or on petitions for  
24 conversion, adjustment and amendment of visas;

25          (f) Act on petitions for declaration of indigency;

26          (g) Declare such control posts, landing places, airports or ports as points of  
27 entry or exit, whether limited or unlimited;

28          (h) Increase, reduce or waive immigration fees, fines, penalties and other  
29 charges;

1                         (i)     Act on applications for retention or reacquisition of citizenship in  
2 accordance with Republic Act No. 9225 otherwise known as "Citizenship Retention and  
3 Re-acquisition Act of 2003, based on the recommendations of the concerned office of the  
4 Commission in consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs";

5                         (j)     Issue Certificate of Identification to foreign nationals who have obtained  
6 Filipino citizenship;

7                         (k)     Deputize any official or employee of the national government and local  
8 government units, including uniformed personnel of the Armed Forces of the  
9 Philippines, the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Coast Guard to assist  
10 immigration personnel in the performance of their duties and functions subject to the  
11 concurrence of the Board;

12                         (l)     Authorize and prescribe the forms and the amount of cash bonds for the  
13 provisional release of respondents in deportation proceedings;

14                         (m)     Impose reasonable fines and penalties for violation of immigration and  
15 alien registration laws in accordance with this Act and the guidelines adopted by the  
16 Commission;

17                         (n)     Provide an express lane for the rendition of services upon payment of  
18 prescribed fees by persons served and to deposit in a government authorized  
19 depository bank all such fees received under a trust fund that may be made available  
20 for the payment of allowances to employees of the Commission, subject to existing  
21 auditing and accounting rules and regulations;

22                         (o)     Accept donation of materials, equipment or technical services from any  
23 foreign government, international or domestic organization, to upgrade the efficiency  
24 and operations of the Commission;

25                         (p)     Submit to the President and Congress, annually or as may be directed, a  
26 report on the: (1) number and status of foreign nationals in the Philippines; (2) foreign  
27 nationals admitted or granted change of status as permanent residents; (3) foreign  
28 nationals who have been excluded or deported from the Philippines; (4) estimated  
29 number of illegal foreign nationals in the Philippines in each calendar year and actions

1 taken to arrest them, by nationality grouping, for each region in the Philippines; and (5)  
2 such other transactions of the Commission;

3 (q) Assign immigration employees to do overtime work or services pursuant  
4 to rules and regulations to be prescribed and at the rates fixed by the Commissioner  
5 when the work or service to be rendered is to be paid by shipping companies and  
6 airlines or other persons served;

7 (r) Determine the manning levels of immigration officers of the Commission  
8 nationwide in accordance with the number of arrivals in each port of entry as  
9 determined by the Board: *Provided*, That the number of employees, as provided in the  
10 staffing pattern in accordance with Section 120 of the Act, shall not be decreased;

11 (s) Prepare and submit supplemental budget of the Commission for the  
12 consideration of the Department of Budget and Management;

13 (t) Prescribe such rules, regulations or other administrative issuances to carry  
14 out the provisions of this Act;

15 (u) Prescribe the appropriate forms, bonds, reports, entries and other papers  
16 in accordance with this Act; and

17 (v) Perform such other functions inherent to the Commission.

## 19 CHAPTER 3

### 20 THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS

21 SEC. 8. *Appointment and Rank of Deputy Commissioners.* – There shall be four

22 (4) Deputy Commissioners who shall be appointed by the President. They shall have  
23 the same rank, salary and privileges of an Assistant Secretary of a Department.

25 SEC. 9. *Duties of Deputy Commissioners.* – In addition to their duties as

26 members of the Board, the Deputy Commissioners may be assigned by the  
27 Commissioner to supervise relative to the operations of the different divisions of the  
28 Commission clustered as follows: (a) regulatory; (b) border control; (c) enforcement;  
29 and (d) management support.

CHAPTER 4

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SEC. 10. *Powers and Functions of the Board.* – The Board shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Decide on applications and/or cases relative to:
  - (1) Deportation;
  - (2) Revocation of immigration status;
  - (3) Recognition of Philippine citizenship by reason of birth or marriage;
  - (4) Issuance and revocation of all visas;
  - (5) Declaration of indigency; and
  - (6) Legalization of residence in accordance with law;
- (b) Prescribe and promulgate rules of proceedings before it;
- (c) Cite and punish for contempt in relation to the discharge of its quasi-judicial functions in accordance with the Rules of Court;
- (d) Prepare and publish operations manual and rules of procedure, including schedule of fees, for all transactions entered into by the Commission with the public;
- (e) Formulate policies, directives, programs and projects of the Commission; and
- (f) Perform such other powers and functions as provided by existing laws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Decisions of the Board.* – In all cases or proceedings before the Board, the decision of the majority shall prevail. Decisions of the Board shall become final and executory fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof. Only one (1) motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Board.

Decisions in deportation cases may be appealed to the Secretary within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof, whose decision shall be final and executory unless stayed

1 by an order of the Court of Appeals.

2  
3       **SEC. 12. Period for Decision by the Board.** – The Board of Commissioners shall  
4 decide deportation cases within thirty (30) days from the date they are submitted for  
5 decision or resolution.

6  
7       **SEC. 13. Meetings of the Board.** – In all cases, the Board of Commissioners shall  
8 convene and act as a collegial body in all matters referred to in Section 10 of this Act.  
9 The Board shall meet at least once a week or, if necessary, twice a week. Members of  
10 the Board shall be notified accordingly and the presence of the Chairperson and two  
11 (2) members shall constitute a quorum.

12  
13                             CHAPTER 5  
14                             THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

15  
16       **SEC. 14. Appointment and Tenure.** – There shall be an Executive Director of the  
17 Commission who shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the  
18 Commissioner and endorsement by the Secretary. The Executive Director must be a  
19 natural-born citizen of the Philippines, at least thirty (30) years of age, Career Executive  
20 Service (CES) eligible and a member of the Philippine Bar in good standing for at least  
21 five (5) years prior to the appointment.

22  
23       **SEC. 15. Powers and Duties.** – The Executive Director shall:

- 24           (a)   Act as the Board Secretary in the meetings of the Board;  
25           (b)   Advise and assist the Commissioner in the formulation and  
26 implementation of the objectives, policies, plans and programs of the Commission;  
27           (c)   Supervise all the operational activities of the Commission;  
28           (d)   Coordinate the programs and projects of the Commission and be  
29 responsible for its economical, efficient and effective administration;

- (e) Administer oaths in connection with all matters relating to the business of the Commission; and
  - (f) Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Commissioner.

## CHAPTER 6

### THE BOARD OF SPECIAL INQUIRY

**SEC. 16. Constitution of Boards of Special Inquiry.** – There shall be constituted as many Boards of Special Inquiry (BSI) as required in the exigency of service but not more than twelve (12). Each Board shall be composed of a Chairperson and two (2) members. The Overall Chairman of the BSI shall sit as the Chairperson of the First Board of the BSI. The BSI shall be designated according to their areas of specialization to be determined by the Board.

**SEC. 17. Appointment and Qualification of the Chairpersons and Members of the BSI.** - The Chairpersons and members of the BSI shall be appointed by the Commissioner, all of whom shall be natural-born citizens of the Philippines and, at the time of their appointment, at least thirty (30) years of age, members of the Philippine Bar in good standing, and engaged in the practice of law for at least three (3) years.

**SEC. 18. Powers and Functions of the BSI.** – The BSI shall:

- (a) Recommend to the Board for final resolution cases and/or applications relative to:

  - (1) Deportation;
  - (2) Revocation of immigration status;
  - (3) Recognition of Philippine citizenship by reason of birth or marriage;
  - (4) Legalization of residence in accordance with law; and
  - (5) Issuance of visa for stateless person;

(b) Issue subpoena in cases being heard by the BSI;

- (c) Cite and punish for contempt in the exercise of their quasi-judicial functions and in accordance with the Rules of Court;
  - (d) Recommend to the Board the imposition, waiver or reduction of fees, fines, penalties and other charges subject to existing laws, rules and regulations;
  - (e) Administer oaths;
  - (f) Promulgate rules and regulations governing matters within its assigned mandate subject to the approval of the Board; and
  - (g) Perform such other duties and functions as may be directed by the Commissioner and the Board.

**SEC. 19. Proceedings Before the BSI.** – The proceedings before the BSI shall be

public and recorded. In all cases, the BSI shall meet and act as a collegial body. Only members of the Philippine Bar in good standing shall appear for and in behalf of any party before the BSI.

**SEC. 20. Resolutions of the BSI.** – Cases before the BSI shall be resolved within

five (5) working days from the date the same are submitted for resolution. Said resolution shall be submitted immediately to the Board for action.

## CHAPTER 7

### DIVISIONS OF THE COMMISSION

**SEC. 21. *Divisions and Other Operating Offices of the Commission.*** — The

Government shall have the following divisions and other operating offices, namely:

- (1) Administration;
  - (2) Finance;
  - (3) Information and Communications Technology;
  - (4) Planning and Research;
  - (5) International Policies and Cooperation;

- (6) Social Integration;
- (7) Intelligence;
- (8) Law Enforcement;
- (9) Fraud Prevention;
- (10) Legal;
- (11) Immigration Regulation;
- (12) Registration;
- (13) Visa and Special Permit;
- (14) Complaint and Prosecution;
- (15) Internal Audit Office;
- (16) National Operations Center; and
- (17) Immigration Academy of the Philippines.

**SEC. 22. *Heads of the Divisions and Other Operating Offices.*** – Each Division

and other operating offices shall be headed by a Director to be appointed by the Secretary, upon recommendation of the Commissioner: *Provided, however,* That Directors for the Division for Legal and the Division for Complaint and Prosecution shall be members of the Philippine Bar in good standing, and must have been engaged in the practice of law for at least three (3) years. The Director for Finance Division shall be a Certified Public Accountant in good standing for at least three (3) years.

**SEC. 23. *Duties and Functions of the Divisions and Other Operating Offices.*** –

The different divisions and other operating offices of the Commission shall have such number of officers and employees to carry out their respective duties and functions as may be defined by the Commissioner in the implementing rules and regulations.

**SEC. 24. *Immigration Officers.*** – No person shall be appointed to the position of

Immigration Officer unless he or she is a holder of a bachelor's degree and a first grade civil service eligible. The Immigration Officers shall perform the following duties:

- 1                   (a) Examine, with the assistance and advice of medical authorities in  
2 appropriate cases, foreign nationals at the port of entry concerning their admissibility to  
3 enter and their qualifications to remain in the Philippines;
- 4                   (b) Exclude foreign nationals not properly documented, and to admit foreign  
5 nationals complying with the applicable provisions of immigration and related laws;
- 6                   (c) Administer oaths in connection with the performance of their duties;
- 7                   (d) Search for foreign nationals on any vessel believed to be used to illegally  
8 bring foreign nationals into the Philippines, and to take into custody without warrant  
9 any foreign national who in ones presence or view is entering or is about to enter the  
10 Philippines in violation of immigration and related laws, rules and regulations;
- 11                  (e) Act as control officer with authority to prevent the departure of  
12 passengers not complying with departure requirements; and
- 13                  (f) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Commissioner  
14 from time to time.

15

16                 **SEC. 25. Deployment of Immigration Personnel Abroad.** – Within ninety (90)

17 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the  
18 Commission shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations on the  
19 assignment and deployment of immigration personnel to select consular posts abroad  
20 who shall, subject to the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 7157 or the "Philippine  
21 Foreign Service Act of 1991", perform immigration duties, except diplomatic and consular  
22 functions.

23

24                 **CHAPTER 8**

25                 **OTHER OFFICES**

26

27                 **SEC. 26. Field Offices of the Commission.** – The Commission shall operate and  
28 maintain a field office in each of the administrative regions including the National  
29 Capital Region.

1           The field offices of the Commission shall each be headed by at least an  
2   Immigration Officer II, all of whom shall be designated by the Commissioner.  
3

4           **SEC. 27. *Changes in the Composition, Distribution of Assignment of Field***  
5   *Offices.* – The Commissioner may make changes in the composition, distribution and  
6   assignment of field offices, as well as its personnel, based on the demographics of the  
7   foreign nationals and as the exigency of the service requires.

8           **SEC. 28. *Border Control Stations.*** – There shall be established Border Control  
9   Stations which shall be manned by Border Control Officers appointed by the  
10   Commissioner. The Border Control Stations shall be placed in specific areas in the  
11   Philippines which shall be determined by the Board.  
12

13                          **TITLE III**  
14                          **IMMIGRATION**

15  
16                          **CHAPTER 1**  
17                          **NON-IMMIGRANTS**  
18

19           **SEC. 29. *Categories of Non-immigrants and Types of Visa Issued.*** – Foreign  
20   nationals departing from any place outside the Philippines who are otherwise  
21   admissible and who qualify under any one of the following categories may be admitted  
22   as non-immigrants:

23           (a)    Temporary visitors (A Visas): Visitors coming to the Philippines for a  
24   temporary period for reasons of business, pleasure or health:

25           (1)    Business (A-1 Visa): Temporary visitors engaged in activities of a  
26   commercial or professional nature for a foreign employer or for  
27   themselves that will not result in gainful employment in the Philippines.  
28   As used herein, the term "business" refers to conventions, conferences,  
29   consultations and other legitimate activities of a commercial or a

1 professional nature, but does not include local employment or labor for  
2 hire;

3 (2) Pleasure (A-2 Visa): Temporary visitors who stay in the Philippines for  
4 holiday, including sightseeing, recreation or visiting relatives; and

5 (3) Health (A-3 Visa): Temporary visitors who stay in the Philippines to  
6 avail of medical treatment.

7 (b) Transit Persons (B Visa): Persons passing through the Philippines solely  
8 for a "stop over" who have a confirmed connecting flight to another country or  
9 passengers in immediate and continuous transit to a destination outside the Philippines;

10 (c) Crew members (C Visa): Members of the crew of vessels required for the  
11 normal operation and servicing of the vessels who come to the Philippines temporarily  
12 as part of their jobs either arriving with or coming to join the vessels;

13 (d) Treaty Traders (D-1 Visa) and Treaty Investors (D-2 Visa): Citizens and  
14 their family members from a country that has a trade treaty with the Philippines and  
15 coming to work in the Philippines for either a company they own or one that is at least  
16 fifty percent (50%) owned by nationals of their home country and which company is  
17 engaged in substantial trade between the Philippines and their home country shall be  
18 granted a D-1 visa.

19 Citizens of a country that has an investor treaty with the Philippines, and their  
20 family members, and coming to work in the Philippines for a business they own or one  
21 that is at least fifty percent (50%) owned by nationals of their home country and which  
22 business is supported by a substantial investment from nationals of their home country  
23 shall be granted a D-2 visa;

24 (e) Accredited Foreign Government Officials, Their Families and Household  
25 Member (E Visas): Foreign government officials, their families and household members  
26 coming to the country for official purpose, pursuant to international conventions and  
27 bilateral agreements, shall be granted E Visas divided into four (4) types, namely:

28 (1) Persons eligible for E-1 Visa: The E-1 Visa shall be issued to the  
29 following classes of foreign nationals:

- i. Heads of State and/or Heads of Government and their personal representatives;
- ii. Members of reigning royal families from countries recognized by the Philippine Government;
- iii. Governors-General, Governors, and High Commissioners of dependent territories and their personal representatives;
- iv. Cabinet ministers and their deputies, and officials with cabinet rank of ministers;
- v. Presiding officers of national legislative bodies;
- vi. Justices or judges of the highest national judicial bodies;
- vii. Diplomats and career consular officials on foreign assignment in the Philippines;
- viii. Military, naval, air and other attaches assigned to a diplomatic mission; and
- ix. Accompanying spouses and unmarried dependents of foreigners within the abovementioned categories;

(2) Persons eligible for E-2 Visa: The E-2 visa shall be issued to an official of a foreign government recognized by the Philippines, is a national of the country whose government he represents, and is proceeding to the Philippines on a long-term basis in connection with official business for his/her government.

This category includes, *inter alia*, the following classes of foreign nationals:

- i. Administrative and technical members of the staff of a diplomatic or consular mission;
- ii. Official participating in programs under the auspices of the Philippine Government or recognized international institutions; and

- iii. Accompanying spouses and unmarried dependents of foreigners within the abovementioned categories;

(3) Persons eligible for E-3 Visa: The E-3 visa shall be issued to an official of a foreign government recognized by the Philippines, is a national of the country whose government he represents, and is proceeding to the Philippines on a short-term basis in connection with official business for his/her government.

This category includes, *inter alia*, the following classes of foreign nationals:

- i. Diplomatic couriers regularly and professionally employed as such;
  - ii. All members of official special missions of a diplomatic character;
  - iii. Members of delegations proceeding to or from an international conference of a diplomatic or official nature; and
  - iv. Such other officials going to the Philippines on diplomatic or official missions;

(4) Persons eligible for E-4 Visa: The E-4 Visa shall be issued to the private employees and household members of persons to whom E-1 and E-2 visas have been granted, as well as their immediate dependents;

All visas under Section 29(e) of this Act shall be exclusively issued and renewed by the Department of Foreign Affairs, which shall also determine the type of E-Visa of Foreign Government Officials not identified in the foregoing lists. The grant of immunities and privileges shall be subject to applicable domestic and international law and international agreements to which the Philippines is a party, as well as in consideration of the principle of reciprocity.

25 (f) Students (F Visa): Foreign students having means sufficient for their  
26 support and education in the Philippines who seek to enter the Philippines temporarily  
27 for the sole purpose of taking up a course of study higher than high school at a  
28 university/seminary, academy or college accredited to admit such foreign students by

1 the Commission on Higher Education in coordination with the Commission, including  
2 the monitoring of the status of activities of such foreign students in the Philippines;

3 (g) Prearranged Employment (G Visa): Foreign nationals coming to the  
4 Philippines on prearranged employment, including their family members  
5 accompanying or following to join them within the period of their employment. This  
6 category includes intra-company transferees, professionals, performing artists, athletes,  
7 and cultural exchange workers under a work exchange program;

8 (h) Religious Workers (H Visa): Duly ordained or professional missionaries  
9 and religious ministers, including members of their family, coming to the Philippines to  
10 join a religious congregation or denomination duly registered with the Securities and  
11 Exchange Commission, upon invitation, sponsorship or guarantee of such religious  
12 congregation or denomination, solely for the purpose of propagating, teaching and  
13 disseminating their faith or religion;

14 (i) Representatives of International Organizations and Government Agencies  
15 (I Visa): For purposes of this Act, the term "accredited international organization",  
16 includes any public international organization in the activities of which the Philippines  
17 participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any act of the Congress of  
18 the Philippines authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such  
19 participation and such other international organizations, institutions, agencies,  
20 programs, foundations and entities which are recognized by the government of the  
21 Republic of the Philippines, including those existing and already recognized as such at  
22 the time of the effectivity of this Act.

23 Foreign officials and staff of accredited international organizations, including  
24 their dependent family members, staff, and household members shall be granted I-Visas  
25 divided into four (4) types, namely:

26 (1) Persons eligible for I-1 Visa: The I-1 Visa shall be issued to the principal  
27 officials of international organizations, as well as their accompanying wives  
28 and dependents.

1                             (2) Persons eligible for I-2 Visa: The I-2 visa shall be issued to the other officials  
2                             and staff of international organizations, as well as their accompanying wives  
3                             and dependents.

4                             (3) Persons eligible for I-3 Visa: The I-3 visa shall be issued to officials and staff  
5                             of international organizations who will perform short-term official work with  
6                             the international organization upon its invitation.

7                             (4) Persons eligible for I-4 Visa: The I-4 Visa shall be issued to the private  
8                             employees and household members of persons to whom E-1 and E-2 visas  
9                             have been granted, as well as their immediate dependents.

10                             All visas under Section 29(i) of this Act shall be exclusively issued and renewed

11                             by the Department of Foreign Affairs, which shall also determine the type of I-Visa of  
12                             officials and staff of International Organizations who are not identified in the foregoing  
13                             lists. The grant of immunities and privileges shall be subject to applicable domestic and  
14                             international law, relevant Headquarters Agreements, and international agreements to  
15                             which the Philippines is a party.

16                             (j) Media Workers (J Visa): Foreign media personnel or correspondents, duly  
17                             accredited by the government agency concerned, who are bona fide representatives of a  
18                             foreign press, radio, satellite, television, film, or other information media, and are  
19                             coming to the Philippines solely to engage in gathering information principally for  
20                             dissemination abroad, including their family members accompanying or following to  
21                             join them during the period of the assignment in the Philippines;

22                             (k) Exchange Visitors (K Visa): Foreign nationals entering the Philippines to  
23                             teach, study, observe, conduct research or receive training in a specific Exchange Visitor  
24                             Program duly approved by the Philippine Government;

25                             (l) Refugees (L-1 Visa) and Stateless Persons (L-2 Visa): Refugees as defined  
26                             in Section 3 (z) hereof shall be issued L-1 Visa. Stateless persons, whose admission for  
27                             humanitarian reasons and not inimical to public interest has been approved by the  
28                             Commissioner or the President in such cases and under such conditions as he may  
29                             prescribe, shall be issued L-2 Visa;

1                             (m) Bridging Visa (M Visa): A temporary visa which allows a foreign national  
2 to stay in the Philippines after his/her current visa, other than temporary visitor visa  
3 under Section 29(a), expires and while his/her application for adjustment of status is  
4 being processed.

5                             (n) Special Non-Immigrants (N Visas): Such other foreign nationals including  
6 their family members who may be admitted as non-immigrants under special laws or  
7 foreign nationals not otherwise provided for by this Act who are coming for temporary  
8 periods only, and whose admission is authorized by the Commissioner or the President  
9 in the interest of the public or for humanitarian considerations and under such  
10 conditions as he may prescribe.

11

## 12                             CHAPTER 2

### 13                             IMMIGRANTS

14

15                             SEC. 30. *Quota Immigrants.* — Subject to conditions set forth in this Act, there  
16 may be admitted into the Philippines, immigrants, otherwise known as "*quota*  
17 *immigrants*", not to exceed two hundred (200) of any one nationality based on  
18 immigration reciprocity for any one calendar year and upon allotment by the  
19 Commissioner of the corresponding quota number. In the allotment of quota numbers,  
20 the following order of preference shall be observed:

21                             (a) First Preference: Those whose service and qualifications show high  
22 educational attainment, technical training, specialized experience, or exceptional ability  
23 in the sciences, arts, professions, or business as would reasonably enhance and  
24 contribute substantial benefits prospectively to the national economy, or cultural or  
25 educational interests or welfare of the Philippines, including their family members,  
26 accompanying or following to join them, who shall likewise be allotted individual  
27 quota numbers;

28                             (b) Second Preference: Parents of a naturalized Philippine citizen;

1                   (c) Third Preference: Spouses or minor children of foreign nationals who are  
2 lawful permanent residents of the Philippines; and

3                   (d) Fourth Preference: Parents of foreign nationals who are lawful permanent  
4 residents of the Philippines.

5

6                 **SEC 31. Allotment of Quota.** – The Commissioner shall, with respect to the first  
7 preference, allot not more than fifty percent (50%) of the annual quota allotment up to  
8 the end of June each year: *Provided, however,* That if the fifty percent (50%) is not utilized  
9 by the first preference, the balance thereof shall be given to the second, third, and fourth  
10 preferences in accordance with Section 30 of this Act. Any unused quota allotment for a  
11 calendar year cannot be carried over and utilized for the ensuing calendar year.

12

13                 **SEC. 32. Basis in Determination of Quota Allotment.** – The nationality of an  
14 immigrant whose admission is subject to the numerical limitation imposed by Section  
15 30 of this Act shall be that of the country of which the immigrant is a national or a  
16 citizen. The nationality of an immigrant possessing dual nationality may be that of  
17 either of the two countries regarding him/her as a national or citizen if he/she applies  
18 for a visa in a third country. If he/she applies for a visa within one of the two countries  
19 regarding him/her as a national or citizen, his/her nationality shall be that of the  
20 country in which he/she files his/her application for a visa to enter the Philippines.

21

22                 **SEC. 33. Non-Quota Immigrants.** – The following immigrants, known as “*non-*  
23 *quota immigrants*”, may be admitted without regard to numerical limitation and  
24 immigration reciprocity:

25                   (a) The spouse of a Philippine citizen: *Provided, however,* That the  
26 abandonment and failure to give support by the foreign spouse to his/her Filipino  
27 spouse and family, legal separation, or termination of the marital status by annulment,  
28 declaration of nullity of marriage or divorce where the cause is attributable to the

1 foreign spouse, shall constitute grounds for cancellation of the immigrant visa issued to  
2 the foreign spouse;

3 (b) A person of Filipino descent regardless of generation;

4 (c) A child born to a foreign mother during her temporary visit abroad, the  
5 mother being a lawful permanent resident of the Philippines, if accompanied by or  
6 coming to join the mother who applies for admission within five (5) years from the birth  
7 of the child;

8 (d) A child born subsequent to the issuance of an immigrant visa to the  
9 accompanying parent, the visa not having expired or revoked;

10 (e) A foreign national who had been previously lawfully admitted into the  
11 Philippines for permanent residence who is returning from a temporary visit abroad to  
12 an unrelinquished residence in the Philippines;

13 (f) A natural-born citizen who becomes a naturalized citizen of a foreign  
14 country and is returning to the Philippines for permanent residence therein, including  
15 his/her spouse and minor children accompanying or following to join him/her; and

16 (g) Spouse, parent, children, legitimate siblings of a foreign national who is  
17 gainfully employed and holder of a permanent resident status for a period of seven (7)  
18 years.

## CHAPTER 3

### NATIVE-BORN FOREIGN NATIONAL

23 **SEC. 34. Status of Children Born to Immigrants.** – A child born in the  
24 Philippines to parents who are foreign nationals and lawful residents of the Philippines  
25 shall be deemed a native-born permanent resident.

27 **SEC. 35. Status of Children Born to Non-immigrants.** – A child born to parents  
28 who are both non-immigrants shall be deemed a native-born non-immigrant or  
29 temporary resident and may remain in the Philippines only during the period of

1 authorized stay of the parents, unless he/she reaches the age of eighteen (18) years  
2 while continuously residing in the Philippines, in which case he/she may apply for  
3 naturalization under existing laws or for an appropriate visa.  
4

5

## CHAPTER 4

### ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS

6

7

8       **SEC. 36. *Conditions for Adjustment of Status of Foreign Nationals.*** — The status  
9 of a foreign national admitted into the Philippines as non-immigrant may be adjusted  
10 by the Board to that of a foreigner lawfully admitted as a permanent resident if: (a) the  
11 foreigner makes an application for such adjustment; (b) the foreigner is eligible to  
12 receive a quota or non-quota immigrant visa and is admissible to the Philippines as a  
13 permanent resident; and (c) a quota immigrant visa, if such is the case, is immediately  
14 available to him/her at the time of his/her application, without the need of first  
15 departing from the Philippines. In all such cases, the personal appearance of the  
16 foreigner shall be required during the consideration of his/her application.

17

18       **SEC. 37. *Effect of Approval on Application for Adjustment.*** — Upon the  
19 approval of an application for adjustment of status under the preceding section, the  
20 Commissioner shall record the foreign national's lawful admission as a permanent  
21 resident as of the date of the approval of the application and shall be included as part of  
22 the quota for the calendar year in accordance with Section 30 of this Act.

23

24       **SEC. 38. *Adjustment of Status, When Not Allowed.*** — Adjustment of status  
25 under Section 36 of this Act shall not be applicable to a foreign national: (a) who has  
26 violated or is in violation of immigration laws, rules and regulations unless the  
27 violation is without the fault of the foreign national or for purely technical reasons; and  
28 (b) transients.  
29

1                   **SEC 39. *Loss of Status.*** – A registered foreign national, except a temporary  
2 visitor, who fails to return to the Philippines within a period of one (1) year from  
3 departure shall loss his status. Otherwise, such foreign national shall apply for an  
4 extension of the period within which to return prior to its expiration and pay the  
5 prescribed fees and charges therefor in order to maintain ones visa category.  
6

7                   **CHAPTER 5**

8                   **DOCUMENTATION AND ADMISSION OF NON-IMMIGRANTS**

9  
10                  **SEC. 40. *Documentary Requirements of Non-immigrants.*** – Non-immigrants  
11 must present for admission into the Philippines valid passports issued by the  
12 governments of the countries to which they owe allegiance or other travel documents  
13 showing their nationality and identity as prescribed by regulations, a valid visa granted  
14 by the Philippine Consular Officer, if required, and such other relevant documents as  
15 may be required under existing laws, rules, regulations, or multilateral or bilateral  
16 agreements.

17  
18                  **SEC. 41. *Conditions and Period of Authorized Stay of Temporary Visitors.*** –  
19 The initial period of authorized stay of a foreign national admitted as a temporary  
20 visitor under Section 29(a) of this Act shall not exceed fifty-nine (59) calendar days from  
21 the date of arrival, subject to bilateral, regional and multilateral visa agreements entered  
22 into by the Philippines; *Provided*, That the conditions for extensions and total period of  
23 authorized stay shall be prescribed by the Commissioner; *Provided further*, That during  
24 the foreign national's authorized stay: (a) he/she shall not take any employment,  
25 whether paid or unpaid; (b) he/she shall not establish or join in any business; or (c)  
26 he/she shall not enroll and become a student at a school, college, university, academy,  
27 or other educational institution, unless he/she is granted, upon proper application, a  
28 conversion to another immigration status provided under this Act.

1           **SEC. 42. Conditions for Issuance of Pre-arranged Employment Visas.** – A  
2 foreign national who is coming to the Philippines for prearranged employment shall  
3 not be issued a non-immigrant visa referred to in Section 29(g) until the Consular  
4 Officer shall have received authorization for the issuance of the same. Such  
5 authorization shall be given only upon the filing of a petition with the Board  
6 establishing, among others, that no person can be found in the Philippines willing and  
7 competent to perform the work or service for which the foreigner is desired and that the  
8 admission would be beneficial to the public interest. The petition shall be under oath by  
9 the prospective employer or the latter's representative in the form and manner  
10 prescribed by the Board.

11           If the Board finds that the petition complies with the requirements of the  
12 preceding paragraph and of other regulations, it shall grant the petition and shall  
13 promptly transmit the authorization to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

14

15           **SEC. 43. Submission of Crew List and Passenger Manifest to the Commission.** –  
16 Simultaneous to the vessel's departure from the port of origin, the master, captain,  
17 agent, owner or consignee of any commercial vessel arriving to the Philippines shall  
18 submit to the Commission, within a reasonable time prior to such arrival, the crew lists,  
19 passenger manifests and such other information concerning the persons arriving on  
20 such a vessel. In the same manner and condition, the master, captain, agent, owner or  
21 consignee of any commercial vessel departing from any port in the Philippines shall  
22 submit to the Commission, within a reasonable time prior to such departure, the crew  
23 list, passenger manifest and such other information concerning the persons departing  
24 on such vessel. The crew list of an incoming sea craft shall contain the appropriate visa  
25 granted by the Consular Officer.

26

27           **SEC. 44. Inspection of Crewmembers.** – It shall be the duty of the master, captain,  
28 agent, owner or consignee of any vessel arriving in the Philippines to have available on  
29 board, for inspection by the Immigration Officer, any foreign crewmember employed

1 on such vessel and to detain such crewmember on board after inspection and to remove  
2 such crewmember when required by the immigration authorities. No crewmember on  
3 board such vessel shall be discharged while the vessel is in port without the permission  
4 of the Commissioner.

5

6       **SEC. 45. Permission for Temporary Landing of a Foreign Crewmember.** — A  
7 foreign crewmember on a vessel arriving in the Philippines may be permitted to land  
8 temporarily under such conditions as may be prescribed by the Commissioner. All  
9 expenses incurred by the Commission while the crewmember is on land shall be borne  
10 by the master, captain, agent, owner or consignee of the carrying vessel.

## CHAPTER 6

### DOCUMENTATION AND ADMISSION OF IMMIGRANTS

14       **SEC. 46. Documentary Requirements of Immigrants; Instances When Not**  
15 **Required.** — Immigrants must present for admission into the Philippines valid  
16 passports or travel documents issued by the government of the country to which they  
17 owe allegiance, showing their nationality and identity and valid immigrant visas  
18 indicating the date of issue and the period of validity thereof. Immigrant visas shall not  
19 be required of the following:

20           (a) A child born subsequent to the issuance of a valid immigrant visa to the  
21 accompanying parent;

22           (b) A child born during the temporary visit abroad of the mother who is a  
23 lawful permanent resident of the Philippines and a holder of a valid reentry permit, if  
24 the child is accompanied by either parent within five (5) years from the date of the  
25 child's birth; and

26           (c) A foreign national who is returning to an unrelinquished lawful  
27 permanent residence in the Philippines after a temporary residence abroad and presents  
28 for admission a valid reentry permit.

1  
2                   **CHAPTER 7**  
3  
4                   **VISA ISSUANCE**

5  
6       **SEC. 47. Nature of Visa.** – Nothing in this Act shall be construed to  
7 automatically entitle any foreign national to whom a visa or other travel document has  
8 been issued to enter the Philippines if, upon arrival at a port of entry, he/she is found to  
9 be inadmissible under this Act or any other law.

10  
11      **SEC 48. Visa Policy.** – The policies governing the issuance, extension, renewal  
12 and conversion of visas referred to in Sections 29 and 33 hereof shall be jointly  
13 formulated by the Commission and the Department of Foreign Affairs and, when  
14 appropriate, in consultation with concerned government agencies and offices.

15       **SEC. 49. Visa Issuance Abroad.** - All visas issued abroad shall be done by  
16 Consular Officers assigned at Philippine Foreign Service posts in the following manner:

17           (a) Upon approval by the Commissioner and recommendation of a Consular  
18 Officer, a quota immigrant visa may only be issued to a foreign national who has made  
19 a proper application therefor, which shall specify the foreign country, if any, to which  
20 the quota the number is assigned, the immigrant's particular status in such country, the  
21 preference to which the foreign national is classified, the date on which the validity of  
22 the visa shall expire, and such additional information as may be required; and

23           (b) The Department of Foreign Affairs, through its Consular Office abroad  
24 and/or the Office of the Visa Director, shall approve the issuance of non-quota  
25 immigrant and non-immigrant visas to a foreign national who has made a proper  
application therefor.

26       The issuance of special non-immigrant visas falling under the jurisdiction of a  
27 particular government office or agency can only be done in coordination with and upon  
28 recommendation of the government agency or office concerned.

1           **SEC. 50. Requirements for Physical and/or Mental Examination Prior to**  
2     ***Issuance of Immigrant Visa.*** – Prior to the issuance of an immigrant visa to any foreign  
3     national, the Consular Officer shall require such person to submit to a physical and  
4     mental examination in accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed by the  
5     Commissioner.

6

7           **SEC. 51. Visa Validity Period.** – A single-entry non-immigrant or immigrant  
8     visa issued by a Consular Officer abroad pursuant to Section 49 of this Act shall be valid  
9     for a period not exceeding three (3) months: *Provided:* That in prescribing the validity  
10    period of a single-entry non-immigrant visa, the Consular Officer may, insofar as  
11    practicable, allow a longer validity period based on reciprocity as accorded by the  
12    foreign country to citizens of the Philippines who are within a similar class.

13          An immigrant visa may be replaced under the original number during the  
14    calendar year in which the original visa was issued for a foreign national who  
15    establishes to the satisfaction of the Consular Officer that he/she was unable to use the  
16    original immigrant visa during the period of its validity for reasons beyond his/her  
17    control: *Provided,* That the foreign national is found by the Consular Officer to be  
18    eligible for another immigrant visa and has paid all the fees.

19

20          **SEC. 52. Denial of Visa, Grounds Thereof.** – The Consular Officer may deny the  
21    application for visa (a) if it appears from the statements in the application or in the  
22    documents submitted the applicant is not eligible for a visa under this Act; or (b) if  
23    he/she fails to comply with the requirements of the provisions of this Act.

24

25          **SEC. 53. Revocation of Visa Issued by Consular Officer.** – The Commissioner  
26    may, for valid cause and upon confirmation by the Department of Foreign Affairs,  
27    revoke the visa issued by any Consular Officer. If the notice of revocation is not  
28    received and the visa holder applies for admission into the Philippines, his/her

1 admission or entry shall be determined by the Immigration Officer upon his/her arrival  
2 at the port of entry.

3

## 4 CHAPTER 8

5 RE-ENTRY AND EMIGRATION CLEARANCE

6

7       **SEC. 54. *Re-entry.*** – Every time a registered foreign national, except a  
8 temporary visitor, departs or is about to depart temporarily from the Philippines with  
9 the intention to return within one (1) year from departure, the foreign national must  
10 secure from the Commission a re-entry permit or if his/her authorized stay is less than  
11 one (1) year, a Special Return Certificate and pay the corresponding fees and charges  
12 therefor.

13

14       **SEC. 55. *Emigration Clearance.*** – A registered foreign national who departs  
15 permanently from the Philippines shall surrender all Philippine immigration  
16 documents to the Commission and apply for and be issued an Emigration Clearance  
17 Certificate, subject to the following conditions:

18           (a) The immigrant has no pending obligation with the government or any of its  
19 agencies or instrumentalities;

20           (b) The immigrant has no pending criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding  
21 which requires continued presence in the country; and

22           (c) There is no ongoing legislative inquiry where the immigrant is called upon to  
23 testify as a witness.

24       A temporary visitor departing from the Philippines shall, after the expiration of  
25 initial authorized stay, apply for emigration clearance with the Commission and pay the  
26 prescribed fees and charges therefor.

27

## 28 CHAPTER 9

29 PRESIDENTIAL PREROGATIVES

1  
2       **SEC. 56. Presidential Prerogatives.** – Any provision of this Act to the contrary  
3 notwithstanding, the President may:

- 4             (a) Deny the entry and admission into the Philippines of any foreign national  
5 or a class of foreign nationals whenever the President finds that the entry would be  
6 detrimental to the interest of the Philippines or impose such restrictions as he/she may  
7 deem appropriate;
- 8             (b) Waive passport and/or documentary requirements for non-immigrants  
9 and immigrants under such terms and conditions as he/she may prescribe;
- 10            (c) Change the status of non-immigrants by allowing them to acquire  
11 permanent residence status without necessity of a visa;
- 12           (d) Deport any foreign national, subject to the requirement of due process;
- 13           (e) Admit non-immigrants not otherwise provided for in this Act for  
14 humanitarian considerations and when not detrimental to public interest, under such  
15 terms and conditions as he/she may prescribe;
- 16           (f) Prohibit the departure from the Philippines of any person who is likely to  
17 disclose national security information, or who is likely to organize a rebellion abroad  
18 against the Philippines, or whose presence in the country is necessary to face, or be a  
19 witness in, criminal proceedings; and
- 20           (g) Exercise, with respect to foreign nationals in the Philippines, such powers  
21 as are recognized by the generally accepted principles of international law.

22  
23                              **TITLE IV**  
24                              **PROVISIONS RELATING TO ENTRY**

25  
26                              **CHAPTER 1**  
27                              **CLASSIFICATION OF PORTS OF ENTRY**

1           **SEC. 57. Authority to Classify Ports.** - The Commissioner shall classify and  
2 designate, from among the ports of entry established by law for immigration purposes,  
3 limited or unlimited ports of entry through which foreign nationals may be admitted  
4 into the Philippines. Only such classes of foreign nationals as provided under the rules  
5 and regulations prescribed by the Commissioner may be admitted at limited ports of  
6 entry. The Commissioner may, after due notice to the public, close designated ports of  
7 entry in the interest of national security or public safety.  
8

9

## CHAPTER 2

### PROCEDURES ON ARRIVAL

10

11

12           **SEC. 58. Inspection by Immigration Officer.** - A foreign national seeking  
13 admission or readmission shall present ones valid passport and visa, if required, to the  
14 immigration officer at the port of entry and shall be subject to primary inspection. The  
15 decision of the examining Immigration Officer, if favorable to the admission of any  
16 foreigner, may be challenged by another Immigration Officer. The final determination  
17 of admissibility of such foreign national shall be determined by the Commissioner in  
18 case no resolution is reached between the Immigration Officers on the challenged  
19 admission. In case of admission, the Immigration Officer shall indicate in the passport  
20 the date, the port of entry and the identity of the vessel boarded.  
21

22           **SEC. 59. Detention or Quarantine for Examination.** - For the purpose of  
23 determining whether a foreign national arriving at any port in the Philippines belongs  
24 to any of the classes excludable under this Act by reason of being afflicted with any of  
25 the contagious or communicable disease or mental disorder set forth under Section  
26 70(a) of this Act or whenever the Commissioner has received information showing that  
27 foreigners are coming from a country or a place where any of such diseases are  
28 prevalent or widespread, the foreigner shall be detained or quarantined for a reasonable

1 period of time to enable the immigration and medical officers to subject such person to  
2 observation and examination.

3

4       **SEC. 60. Medical Examination Requirement.** – Any arriving foreign national  
5 whom the examining Immigration Officer believes to belong under the class of  
6 excludable foreign nationals specified in Section 70(a) herein shall be referred to  
7 designated medical officers for physical and mental examination. Such medical officer  
8 shall certify his/her findings for the information of the Immigration Officer.

9

10      **SEC. 61. Arrival Notice Requirements of Vessel.** – The immigration authorities  
11 shall be given prior notice of the arrival of any civilian vessel before such vessel comes  
12 into any area in the Philippines from any place outside thereof. Such prior notice shall  
13 not be required in the case of vessels with scheduled arrivals filed with the Immigration  
14 Officer in charge at the international port of entry.

15       If, upon arrival in any area other than the designated port and there is no  
16 available Immigration Officer therein, the master, pilot, captain, agent or consignee  
17 shall not allow the passengers and crew members to disembark or leave the primary  
18 inspection area until the immigration officer shall have conducted the primary  
19 inspection formalities.

20

21      **SEC. 62. Contents of Notice of Arrival.** – The advance notice of arrival required  
22 in the preceding section shall specify the following:

- 23           (a) Type of vessel and registration marks;
- 24           (b) Visaed crewlist;
- 25           (c) Passenger manifest;
- 26           (d) Port of last departure;
- 27           (e) International port of intended destination, or other place authorized by  
28 the Commissioner;
- 29           (f) Estimated time of arrival; and

(g) Authorized agent or representative at the place of arrival.

## CHAPTER 3

### FOREIGN CREWMEMBER

**SEC. 63. Conditional Permit to Disembark.** — A foreign crewmember of a vessel under Section 29(c) of this Act may be granted a conditional permit, in a form prescribed by regulations, to disembark temporarily from the vessel on which he/she arrived while such vessel remains in port under such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Commissioner.

**SEC. 64. Confiscation and Cancellation of Permit; Deportation from the Philippines.** — Upon the determination that the foreign national is not a *bona fide* crewmember or does not intend to depart on the vessel that brought him, the Commissioner shall cancel and confiscate the conditional permit already issued, take such foreign national into custody, and require the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee of the vessel on which the foreigner arrived to receive and detain him/her on board. The expenses for removal of the foreign national, including the cost of detention and other expenses incidental thereto, shall be borne by the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee of such vessel.

**SEC. 65. Liability for Overstaying Foreign Crewmen.** — A foreign crewmember who remains in the Philippines in excess of the period allowed in the conditional permit issued to him shall be solidarily liable with the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee of the vessel to pay the penalties prescribed in Section 115 of this Act.

**SEC. 66. Liability for Unauthorized Discharge of Foreign Crewmember.** — It shall be unlawful for any person, including the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee of any vessel to discharge any foreign crewmember employed by a

vessel arriving in the Philippines and whilst in port, without first obtaining the prior permission of the Commissioner. Otherwise, such person or owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee of the vessel shall pay the Commission such fines as may be prescribed under this Act. No such vessel shall be granted clearance from any port in the Philippines while such fines remain unpaid or while the validity thereof is being determined: *Provided*, That a clearance may be granted prior to such determination upon deposit of a sum or cash bond sufficient to cover such fines as approved by the Commissioner.

**SEC. 67. Duty to Report Desertion or Illegal Landing of Foreign Crewmember. –**

The owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee of any vessel shall immediately report, in writing, to the Immigration Officer all cases of desertion or illegal disembarkation in the Philippines from the vessel, together with a description of such foreign nationals and any information that shall result in their apprehension.

**SEC. 68. Requirement for Submission of List of Newly Employed, Discharged and Illegally Landed Foreign Crewmember. –**

Prior to the departure of any vessel from the last port in the Philippines destined to any place outside thereof, the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee thereof shall deliver to the Immigration Officer at that port a list containing:

- (a) The names of crewmembers who were not employed thereon at the time of the vessel's arrival on such port but will depart thereat on the same vessel;
- (b) the names of those, if any, who have been discharged;
- (c) the name of those who have deserted or illegally landed at that port, if any, and
- (d) such other additional information as the Commissioner deems necessary.

**SEC. 69. Liability for Failure to Submit Complete, True and Correct Report. –**

The owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent, or consignee who fails to submit a

1 true and complete list or report of foreign nationals or to report cases of desertion or  
2 illegal landing shall pay to the Commission such sum as may be prescribed under this  
3 Act. No such vessel shall be granted clearance from any port in the Philippines while  
4 such fines remain unpaid or while the validity thereof is being determined: *Provided*,  
5 that clearance may be granted prior to such determination upon deposit of a sum or  
6 cash bond sufficient to cover such fines as approved by the Commissioner.

## 7 CHAPTER 4

### 8 EXCLUSIONS

9  
10 **SEC. 70. Exclusion Grounds.** - The following classes of foreign national shall not  
11 be allowed entry and shall be excluded from the Philippines:

12 (a) Health Related Grounds

- 13 1. Those who are found to be suffering from a communicable, dangerous  
14 or contagious disease, unless excepted under existing laws, rules and  
15 regulations;
- 16 2. Those who are found to be suffering from mental disorder or  
17 associated behavior that may pose threat to persons or danger to  
18 property;
- 19 3. Those who are found to be suffering from addiction to prohibited or  
20 regulated substance;

21 (b) Economic Grounds

- 22 1. Those likely to become a public charge;
- 23 2. Those seeking entry for the purpose of performing skilled or unskilled  
24 labor, without a permit from the Secretary of the Department of Labor  
25 and Employment as required by law;

26 (c) Moral Grounds

- 27 1. Those coming to the Philippines to practice polygamy or who advocate  
28 the practice of polygamy unless the person's religion allows such  
29 practices;

2. Those who are pedophiles, sexual perverts or those coming to the Philippines for immoral purposes;
3. Those who are engaged or who seek to engage in prostitution or to procure or attempt to procure prostitutes, or who receives in whole or in part the proceeds of prostitution;
4. Those who, at the time of primary inspection, by the Immigration Officer exhibit any obnoxious behavior, contempt or disrespect for the said officer or any government official or Commission;

9 (d) Criminal and Security Grounds

1. Those who have been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude or who admit to the Immigration Officer having committed such crime, or who attempt and conspire to commit the crime;
2. Those who have been convicted, or who admit having committed, or are committing acts which constitute the elements of a violation or conspiracy to violate any law or regulation of the Philippines or a foreign country relating to a controlled, regulated or prohibited substance, or who admit having attempted or conspired to commit the crime;
3. Those that the Philippine Government knows or has reason to believe is a trafficker of any controlled, regulated or prohibited substance or knows or has reason to believe is or has been an accomplice, accessory, abettor, or co-conspirator in the illicit trafficking of any controlled, regulated or prohibited substance;
4. Those who are fugitives from justice;
5. Those who seek to enter the Philippines to engage in:
  - a. Espionage or sabotage, or a violation or evasion of any laws prohibiting export of goods, technology or sensitive information;
  - b. Any activity aimed to promote membership in an organization of syndicated criminal activities;

- c. Any activity, the purpose of which is to overthrow the Philippine government by force, violence or other unlawful means; and
  - d. Any other unlawful activity.
6. Those who are engaged or believed to be engaged or likely to engage in, aid, abet or finance any terrorist activity and members or representatives of a foreign terrorist organization;
7. Those who have been identified by competent authorities, local or foreign, as having engaged or are engaging in human trafficking and smuggling;
8. Those who are under fifteen (15) years of age and unaccompanied by or not coming to a parent, except that they may be admitted in the discretion of the Commissioner, if otherwise admissible: *Provided*, that they present a written consent to travel from either parent citing the purpose thereof and affirmed by a Consular Officer; and
9. Those who have been identified by competent authorities, local and foreign, as having engaged or are engaging in importation of contrabands and other prohibited articles into the country.

**SEC. 71. *Temporary Custody of Excludable Foreign Nationals.*** – For the

purpose of ascertaining whether a foreign national arriving in the Philippines belongs to any of the excludable classes of foreign national provided for in this Act or related laws, the Immigration Officer, for a period not exceeding seventy-two (72) hours, may temporarily take into custody for investigation such foreign national either on board the vessel or at a place designated for the purpose at the expense of the master, captain, agent, owner or consignee of the carrying vessel.

**SEC. 72. *Finality of Exclusion Order.*** – An order by the Immigration Officer to

exclude a foreign national who is excludable under Section 70 hereof is final and

1       executory unless revoked by the Commissioner upon a timely appeal prior to the  
2       implementation of the exclusion order.

3

4       **SEC. 73. Authority to Waive Grounds for Exclusion.** – Except for grounds of  
5       exclusion under Section 70(d), subparagraphs 1 to 7 and 9, the Commissioner may  
6       waive any of the grounds for exclusion mentioned therein.

7

8       **SEC. 74. Procedure of Removal and Cost Thereof.** – Any foreign national arriving  
9       in the Philippines who is ordered excluded shall be immediately removed in the same  
10      accommodation to the country where he/she boarded the vessel on which he/she  
11      arrived, unless the Commissioner determines that immediate removal is not proper and  
12      practicable. The cost of detention and other expenses incidental thereto shall be borne  
13      by the owner, operator, master, pilot, captain, agent or consignee of the vessel on which  
14      he/she arrived.

15

16       **SEC. 75. Country Where Removal is to be Directed.** – If the government of the  
17      country designated in the preceding section will not accept the foreign national into its  
18      territory, the removal of the foreign national shall be directed by the Commissioner's  
19      discretion and without necessarily giving preference, either to:

- 20           (a) The country which he/she is a citizen or national;  
21           (b) The country of birth;  
22           (c) The country of the foreign national's habitual residence; or  
23           (d) The country willing to accept the foreign national into its territory, if  
24      removal to any of the foregoing countries is impractical or impossible.

25

26       **SEC. 76. Obligation of Owner, Operator, Master, Captain, Pilot, Agent or**  
27       *Consignee.* – It shall be unlawful for an owner, operator, master, captain, pilot, agent,  
28       or consignee of a vessel to refuse or fail to:

- 1                         (a) Board a foreign national ordered excluded and removed under Section 70  
2 hereof in the same vessel or another vessel owned or operated by the same company;  
3                         (b) Detain a foreign national on board any such vessel at the port of arrival  
4 when required by this Act or when so ordered by an Immigration Officer;  
5                         (c) Deliver a foreign national for medical or other examinations when so  
6 ordered by such officer;  
7                         (d) Remove a foreign national from the Philippines to the country to which the  
8 individual's removal has been directed; or  
9                         (e) Pay the cost of detention and other expenses incidental thereto of a foreign  
10 national incurred while being detained as required by Section 74 of this Act or other  
11 costs necessary or incidental to his removal as provided in this Act.

12

13                         **SEC. 77. Penalty for Non-compliance of Obligation.** – The owner, operator,  
14 master, captain, pilot, agent, or consignee of a vessel who violated Section 76 hereof  
15 shall pay the fines prescribed under this Act. No such vessel shall be granted clearance  
16 from any port in the Philippines while such fines remain unpaid or while the validity  
17 thereof is being determined. *Provided*. That clearance may be granted prior to such  
18 determination upon deposit of a sum or cash bond sufficient to cover such fines as  
19 approved by the Commissioner.

20                         **TITLE V**

21                         **DEPORTATION**

22

23                         **CHAPTER 1**

24                         **DEPORTABLE FOREIGN NATIONALS**

25

26                         **SEC. 78. Classes of Deportable Foreign Nationals.** – The following foreign  
27 nationals shall be taken into custody upon the order of the Commissioner and deported  
28 upon recommendation by the Board of Special Inquiry and approval by the Board:

- 29                         (a) Those who entered the Philippines by means of false and misleading

1 statements or documents, misrepresentations or without inspection and admission by  
2 the immigration authorities;

3 (b) Those who entered the Philippines who were not lawfully admissible at the  
4 time of entry;

5 (c) Those who abet or aid in the practice of prostitution, including the owner or  
6 manager of a prostitution den, or are pedophiles;

7 (d) Those who, at any time after the date of entry, have become a public charge;

8 (e) Those who remain in the Philippines in violation of any period of limitation  
9 or condition under which they were admitted;

10 (f) Those who believe in, advise, advocate or teach the overthrowing by force  
11 and violence of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, or duly constituted  
12 authority, or those who do not believe in or are opposed to organized governments, or  
13 those who advise, advocate or teach the assault or assassination of public officials by  
14 reason of their office, or those who advise, advocate or teach the unlawful destruction  
15 of property, or those who are members of or affiliated with any organization  
16 entertaining, advocating or teaching such doctrines, or those who in any manner  
17 whatsoever extend assistance, financial or otherwise, in the dissemination of such  
18 doctrines;

19 (g) Those who, at any time after entry, engage in, abet, aid or finance any  
20 terrorist activity;

21 (h) Those who, at any time after entry, are charged of a crime involving acts or  
22 omissions punishable under Philippine penal laws cognizable by the Regional Trial  
23 Courts and the *Sandiganbayan*;

24 (i) Those who, at any time after entry, are convicted by final judgment of a  
25 crime involving moral turpitude which is punishable under Philippine penal laws and  
26 cognizable by the first level courts;

27 (j) Those who were admitted as non-immigrants and who obtained an  
28 adjustment of their admission status for convenience, or through fraud, falsification of  
29 documents, misrepresentations or concealment of material facts;

1                   (k) Those who violated Philippine labor and taxation laws, rules and  
2 regulations;

3                   (l) Those who are found to be undesirable and whose further stay in the  
4 Philippines is inimical to public welfare and interest, or the dignity of the Filipinos, or  
5 the Republic of the Philippines as a sovereign nation;

6                   (m) Those who forge, counterfeit, alter or falsely make any document; or use,  
7 attempt to use, possess, obtain, accept or receive or provide any forged, counterfeit,  
8 altered or falsely made document; or use, attempt to use, provide, attempt to provide,  
9 accept or receive a genuine document, even of another person, without authority to do  
10 so for the purpose of satisfying or complying with the requirements of the Commission;

11                  (n) Those whose presence or activities in the country may result in adverse  
12 consequences to Philippine foreign policies as determined by the Secretary of Foreign  
13 Affairs;

14                  (o) Those who misrepresented themselves as Filipino citizens in all  
15 immigration matter; and

16                  (p) Those who commit any violation of the provisions of this Act, independent  
17 of any criminal action which may be brought against them: *Provided, however,* That in  
18 the case of a foreign national who, for any reason, is convicted and sentenced to suffer  
19 both imprisonment and deportation, said foreign national shall first serve the entire  
20 period of the sentence before being deported.

21  
22                  **SEC. 79. Non-Prescription of Deportation Cases.** – The right of the State to  
23 initiate at any time deportation proceedings shall not prescribe.

24  
25                  **SEC. 80. Nature of Deportation Proceedings.** – Deportation proceedings shall be  
26 independent of any action that may be instituted against a foreign national: *Provided,*  
27 That no deportation orders shall be issued against foreign nationals facing preliminary  
28 investigation, prosecution and trial before competent authorities.

1

CHAPTER 2

2

DEPORTATION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

3

4       **SEC. 81. *Formal Charge of Deportation.*** – A formal charge for deportation shall  
5       be issued upon determination of the existence of a *prima facie* case against the foreign  
6       national.

7

8       **SEC 82. *Bail.*** – Pending final determination of the foreign national's deportation  
9       case, the foreign national shall, upon the discretion of the Commissioner; (a) remain  
10      under detention; or (b) be released on bail or recognizance. The bail may be revoked  
11      and confiscated in favor of the government if there is sufficient evidence that the foreign  
12      national is evading the proceedings or is attempting to abscond, in which case he/she  
13      shall be taken into custody and placed under detention by order of the Commissioner.

14

15       **SEC. 83. *Custody of a Foreign National Convicted of a Felony or an Offense*** –  
16      After service of the sentence or compliance with the conditions of parole or probation,  
17      as the case may be, the foreign national shall be taken into custody for immediate  
18      deportation by order of the Board.

19

20       **SEC. 84. *Voluntary Deportation, When Authorized.*** – In case the foreign  
21      national does not contest the formal charge against and opts to voluntarily leave the  
22      country at the own expense of the foreign national, the Commissioner may waive the  
23      deportation proceedings and order the departure within the period specified in the  
24      voluntary deportation order: *Provided*, That the foreign national has not committed any  
25      criminal offense or has no pending criminal investigation: *Provided, further*, That the said  
26      foreign national so deported shall be barred from re-entering the country without prior  
27      written authorization from the Commissioner.

28

29       **SEC. 85. *Period to Enforce Order of Deportation.*** – The order of deportation shall

1 be enforced immediately but in no case shall exceed three (3) months from the date it  
2 has become final and executory. If deportation is not enforced within the prescribed  
3 period, the foreign national may be released on bail or recognizance.

4

5       **SEC. 86. Suspension of Deportation Order.** – The Commissioner may suspend  
6 the implementation of the deportation order and order the release of the foreign  
7 national on bail or recognizance, taking into account the following factors:

- 8           (a) Age, health, family or conduct;  
9           (b) Period of detention;  
10          (c) Impact on national security and public welfare;  
11          (d) Unavailability of travel documents;  
12          (e) Existence of an application for refugee or statelessness status; or  
13          (f) Other humanitarian considerations.

14

15       **SEC. 87. Reinstatement of a Deportation Order.** – A deportation order  
16 previously implemented against a foreign national who unlawfully re-entered the  
17 Philippines shall be deemed automatically reinstated and shall be implemented in  
18 accordance with this Act. This provision shall also apply to a foreign national who  
19 departed voluntarily under Section 84 hereof.

20

21       **SEC. 88. Country of Destination of a Deportee.** – Except as provided for under  
22 existing treaty or international agreement, a foreign national shall be deported to the  
23 country of which the person is a citizen or national, or to the country of birth of the  
24 individual, or to the country of which the individual is a resident, or to the country  
25 from which the individual embarked for the Philippines, subject to the acceptance by  
26 the receiving country.

27

28       **SEC. 89. Cost of Deportation.** – The cost of deportation shall be borne by the  
29 owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee of a vessel in case its foreign

1 crewmember is to be deported for violation of Section 90 of this Act. In all other cases,  
2 the cost of deportation shall be borne by the deportee himself/herself, the concerned  
3 consular office, nongovernment organizations or people's organizations with which the  
4 Commission has an agreement on this matter, or from the appropriations for the  
5 enforcement of this Act.

6

7       **SEC. 90. *Liability of Owner, Operator, Captain, Master, Pilot, Agent or Consignee of a Vessel.*** – Failure or refusal on the part of the owner, operator, captain,  
8 master, pilot, agent or consignee of a vessel to take on board, guard safely and transport  
9 the deportee to the foreign national's country of destination, or to shoulder the cost of  
10 deportation of the foreign crew member as provided in Section 89 hereof, shall be  
11 punished by an administrative penalty prescribed under this Act.  
12

13

14       **SEC. 91. *Expenses of Accompanying Person.*** – The Commissioner may, for  
15 security reason or by reason of the mental or physical condition of the deportee, direct  
16 an employee of the Commission to accompany such deportee to the country of the  
17 person's destination, subject to the provisions of the immediately preceding sections.  
18

19

## CHAPTER 3

### INDIGENT FOREIGN NATIONAL

20

21

22       **SEC. 92. *Removal of Indigent Foreign National.*** – At any time after entry, the  
23 Commissioner may remove indigent foreign nationals from the Philippines to the  
24 country of which they are citizens or nationals, or country of birth, or country of  
25 residence, as the case may be. The cost of deportation may be charged against the  
26 available funds of the Commission. Any foreign national removed under this section  
27 shall be barred re-admission except upon written authorization of the Board of  
28 Commissioners.

29       This provision shall not apply to a foreign national declared as an indigent by

any Philippine court for purposes of filing a case or to pursue a cause of action which resulted in the individual's indigency until such action is resolved with finality: *Provided*, That no other grounds for deportation exist during the pendency of the same.

**TITLE VI**  
**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**  
**CHAPTER 1**  
**REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS**

**SEC. 93. Requirement of Registration.** – All foreign nationals shall register with the Commission or any Immigration Office nearest to the place of residence on or before the sixtieth (60<sup>th</sup>) day of his/her latest arrival in the Philippines.

**SEC. 94. Registration Form and Oath.** — Applications for registration shall be under oath and in such form as prescribed by the Commission. Upon registration, a certificate of registration shall be issued by the Commission to the registrant. In case of loss or destruction of the certificate, a replacement thereof may be issued by the Commission upon proper application and payment of prescribed fees.

**SEC. 95. Amendment of Registration.** — A registered foreign national shall notify the Commission in writing of any change of information in the person's registration documents not later than seven (7) days thereof.

**SEC. 96. Presentation of Certificate of Registration.** — Every foreign national required to register under this Act or the parent or guardian of such foreign national shall, upon demand of any personnel authorized by the Commissioner, present a certificate of registration of the individual, and failure to do so without justifiable cause shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 97. Reportorial Requirements.** — Every foreign national registered under this Act shall, within the first sixty (60) days of every calendar year, report in person to the Commission. The Commissioner may exempt personal appearance of foreign nationals registered under this Act subject to certain requirements and conditions as may be prescribed in the rules and regulations issued for the purpose.

**SEC. 98. Failure to Comply with Requirements.** — A foreign national, or the parent or guardian of the foreign national, as the case may be, who, without justifiable reason, fails to comply with all the requirements under this Act, or who files an application for registration containing statements known by the individual to be false, or who utilizes registration documents other than that of the individual, shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this Act and other existing laws.

**SEC. 99. Cancellation of Registration of Foreign National.** – In case of death of a foreign national registered under the provisions of this Act, the legal heir, representative or administrator of the foreign national must inform the Commission within sixty (60) days from death and the Commission shall cancel such registration. The Local Civil Registrar or other civil registry officer of the locality where said foreign national died shall furnish the Commission with a copy of the Certificate of Death within thirty (30) days from issuance thereof. Failure on the part of the persons concerned to comply with the requirements of this section shall be dealt with pursuant to the provisions of existing laws.

## CHAPTER 2

### BONDS AND DEPOSITS

**SEC. 100. Bonds, When Required.** — The Commission shall have the authority to require cash bonds in such amounts and under such conditions as it may prescribe:

(a) To control and regulate the admission into, and departure from, the Philippines of foreign nationals applying for temporary admission;

1                   (b) To insure against foreign passengers liable to be excluded as likely to  
2 become public charges; and

3                   (c) To insure the appearance of foreign nationals released from custody during  
4 the course of deportation proceedings instituted against them.

5  
6                 **SEC. 101. Requirement of Cash Deposits for Overtime Services.** – The  
7 Commission shall likewise have the authority to require cash deposits in such amounts  
8 as may be necessary from vessel's owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent, or  
9 consignee or other persons served to cover payments for overtime services to be  
10 performed by officers and employees of the Commission.

11  
12                 **SEC. 102. Cancellation and Forfeiture of Bonds.** – When the conditions of the  
13 bond are fulfilled, or in case of a bond posted to insure against a foreign national  
14 becoming a public charge, when the Commissioner decides that the likelihood no  
15 longer exists, or death of the foreign national in whose behalf the bond is posted, the  
16 bond shall be cancelled and released to the depositor or the legal representative of the  
17 foreign national. In case of violation of the conditions of the bond, the same shall be  
18 forfeited and deposited in a trust fund account which may be utilized for the purchase  
19 of passage tickets for removal of indigent foreign nationals and to cover the costs of  
20 operations in locating deportees who jump bail.

21  
22                         CHAPTER 3  
23                             RECOGNIZANCE

24                 **SEC. 103. Petitions for Recognizance, Sanction for Breach of Conditions.** –

25                 The Commissioner may order the release of a foreign national upon recognizance of the  
26 individual's lawyer or a person who is of good standing in the community, under such  
27 terms and conditions as he/she may prescribe. Failure to comply with the terms and  
28 conditions of the recognizance shall subject said lawyer or person to a fine of not less  
29 than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos

1 (P100,000.00), without prejudice to other administrative sanctions and/or proceedings  
2 against the erring party.

3

## 4 CHAPTER 4

5 COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER OFFICES

6

7 **SEC. 104. Working Cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs.** – For  
8 purposes of efficient implementation and administration of this Act, the Commission  
9 shall maintain a working cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

10

11 **SEC. 105. Working Cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education.** –  
12 The Commission shall maintain a working cooperation with the Commission on Higher  
13 Education with respect to accreditation of schools and learning centers for enrolment of  
14 foreign students as authorized under this Act.

15

16 **SEC. 106. Coordination with Law Enforcement, Security and Other Offices.** –

17 The Commissioner shall have authority to maintain coordination with the National  
18 Security Council, the Philippine National Police, and other law enforcement agencies of  
19 the government.

20

## CHAPTER 5

21 FEES AND CHARGES

22

23 **SEC. 107. Authority of the Commissioner to Prescribe, Impose and Collect Fees  
24 and Charges.** – The Commissioner is authorized to prescribe, impose and collect fees  
25 and charges for services rendered pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

26

## CHAPTER 6

27 ADMINISTRATIVE FINES AGAINST VESSELS

1           SEC. 108. *Fine for Failure to Submit Crew List or Passenger Manifest, or*  
2         *Failure to Account Every Passenger and Crew.* — Any pilot, master, agent, owner or  
3         consignee of a vessel arriving at any port in the Philippines from a place outside thereof  
4         who fails to submit to the immigration authorities a complete and accurate crew list or  
5         passenger manifest, or fails to produce or account every crewmember or passenger  
6         whose name appears in said list or manifest shall be subject to fines of One hundred  
7         thousand pesos (P100,000.00) and Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) for each  
8         unaccounted person, respectively.  
9

10           SEC. 109. *Fine for Violation of Obligation on the Landing or Removal of Foreign*  
11         *Nationals.* — A pilot, master, agent, owner or consignee of any vessel arriving at a port  
12         of the Philippines from a place outside thereof for having a foreign national on board in  
13         violation of this Act shall be fined not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but  
14         not more than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) for each act of violation  
15         consisting of:

16           (a) Failure to prevent the landing of such foreign national in the Philippines at  
17         any time or place other than as designated by the immigration officer;

18           (b) Refusal or failure to pay the cost of maintenance and other costs, as required  
19         by Section 71 of this Act, of such foreign national when temporarily removed from the  
20         vessel for examination by order of the immigration officer;

21           (c) Refusal to receive such foreign national on board for removal from the  
22         Philippines if the foreign national is excluded, or to pay the cost of removal, if by  
23         another vessel as required under Section 76 of this Act;

24           (d) Making any charge against such foreign national for the cost referred to in  
25         (b) above, or for the cost of the removal of the foreign national from the Philippines if  
26         the latter is excluded, or taking any security from the foreign national for the payment  
27         of any such costs.

1           **SEC. 110. Fine for Bringing Undocumented Foreign National, or Foreign**  
2           **National Afflicted with Communicable or Contagious Disease, or Suffering from**  
3           **Mental Disorder.** — The pilot, master, agent, owner or consignee of the vessel arriving  
4           at a port in the Philippines from a place outside thereof bringing on board an  
5           undocumented foreign national shall be fined One hundred thousand pesos  
6           (P100,000.00) for each foreign national. If the foreign national is afflicted with a  
7           communicable or contagious disease or is suffering from mental disorder, the fine shall  
8           be not less than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) but not more than Three  
9           hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) for each foreign national.

10           

11           **SEC. 111. Fine for Bringing a Foreign National to Assist His Illegal Entry or**  
12           **Misrepresenting a Foreign National as a Member of the Crew.** — The pilot, master,  
13           agent, owner or consignee of the vessel arriving at any port in the Philippines from a  
14           place outside thereof bringing on board a foreign national bound for the Philippines to  
15           assist the illegal entry of the foreign national, or misrepresenting the foreign national to  
16           the Immigration Officer at the port of arrival as a *bona fide* member of the crew, shall be  
17           fined not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Two  
18           hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) for each foreign national.

19           

20           **SEC. 112. Fine for Violation of Other Provisions of this Act.** — The pilot, master,  
21           agent, owner or consignee of any vessel arriving at any port of the Philippines from a  
22           place outside thereof who violates any other provision of this Act not specifically  
23           provided in this Chapter shall be fined not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00)  
24           but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) for each violation.

25           

26           **CHAPTER 7**  
27           **OTHER PENAL PROVISIONS**

28

1           **SEC. 113. Other Prohibited Acts and Penalties Thereof.** – Any person who shall  
2 commit any of the acts specified hereunder shall, upon conviction, suffer the penalty of  
3 *prisión correccional* in its maximum period to *prisión mayor* in its minimum period or a  
4 fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Five  
5 hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the court:

6           (a) Impersonates another individual, or falsely appears in the name of a  
7 deceased individual, or evades the immigration laws by using an assumed or fictitious  
8 name when applying for an immigration document;

9           (b) Issues or otherwise disposes of an immigration document or an  
10 immigration accountable form, to any person not authorized by law to receive such  
11 documents;

12           (c) Obtains, manufactures, prints, accepts or uses any immigration or travel  
13 document knowing it to be false or uses immigration accountable form that is not  
14 legally issued;

15           (d) Enters the Philippines without inspection and admission by the  
16 immigration authorities, or obtains entry into the Philippines by fraud,  
17 misrepresentation, or concealment of material facts;

18           (e) Misrepresents himself/herself to be a Philippine citizen;

19           (f) Knowingly makes under oath any false statement regarding any  
20 immigration matter; or

21           (g). Brings into, or lands in the Philippines, or conceals, harbors, employs, or  
22 gives comfort to any person not duly admitted by any Immigration Officer or not  
23 lawfully entitled to enter into or resides within the Philippines, or attempts, conspires  
24 with, or aids another to commit any such acts.

25           Where the offender of any acts specified in paragraph (g) of this section is a  
26 corporation, company, partnership or other juridical entity, the president, general  
27 manager, managing partner, or chief executive officer thereof shall be held liable.  
28 Dismissal of the employee by the employer before or after apprehension shall not  
29 relieve such employer from any liability arising from the offense: *Provided*, That if the

1 offender is the pilot, master, agent, owner, consignee, or other person in charge of the  
2 vessel which brought the foreign national into the Philippines from any place outside  
3 thereof, the fine imposed under this section shall constitute a lien against the vessel  
4 which may be enforced in the same manner as fines are collected and enforced under  
5 existing laws. Such vessel shall not be allowed to depart without prior clearance issued  
6 by the Commission. Where forfeiture is justified under the particular circumstances of  
7 the case, the forfeiture of the vessel in favor of the government in lieu of the fine shall be  
8 decreed.

9 Conviction by final judgment of any offense punishable under this Act or other  
10 related laws shall result in the automatic revocation or cancellation of any immigration  
11 document issued to the offender, including that of the foreign national's spouse and  
12 unmarried children, if applicable.

13

14 **SEC. 114. Penalty for Non-compliance of Subpoena.** — Any person who, having  
15 been duly served with a *subpoena*, fails to comply without valid and justifiable reasons  
16 shall, upon conviction, suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not more than fifteen (15)  
17 days or a fine of not more than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00), or both, at the  
18 discretion of the court.

19

20 **SEC. 115. Penalty for an Overstaying Crewmember.** — Any foreign crewmember  
21 who wilfully remains in the Philippines beyond the period allowed for temporary  
22 landing shall, upon conviction, suffer the penalty of imprisonment of six (6) months or  
23 fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One hundred  
24 thousand pesos (P100,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.

25

26 **SEC. 116. Imposition of Maximum Penalty, When Applicable.** — A person  
27 convicted under Republic Act No. 3019, as amended, otherwise known as the "Anti-  
28 Graft and Corrupt Practices Act", or other laws against corruption and bribery who shall

1 violate or circumvent any provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction, suffer the  
2 maximum penalty for such offense as provided under this Act.

3

## 4 CHAPTER 8

5 UPGRADING OF COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

6

7 SEC. 117. *Creation and Upgrading of Compensation.* – The basic monthly  
8 compensation of the following officials and employees of the Commission shall be as  
9 follows:

| Position                           | Salary Grade |    |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----|
|                                    | From         | To |
| Commissioner III                   | 30           | 30 |
| Deputy Commissioner III            | 29           | 29 |
| Executive Director                 | -            | 28 |
| Attorney V                         | 25           | 28 |
| Deputy Executive Director I        | 25           | 27 |
| Chief Administrative Officer       | 24           | 27 |
| Chief Immigration Officer          | 24           | 27 |
| Intelligence Office V              | 24           | 27 |
| Information Technology Officer III | 24           | 27 |
| Attorney IV                        | 23           | 27 |
| Attorney III                       | 21           | 26 |
| Attorney II                        | 18           | 25 |
| Intelligence Office IV             | 22           | 25 |
| Supervising Immigration Officer    | 22           | 25 |
| Supervising Administrative Officer | 22           | 25 |
| Accountant III                     | 19           | 25 |
| Attorney I                         | 16           | 24 |
| Senior Immigration Officer         | 19           | 23 |

|   |                          |    |    |
|---|--------------------------|----|----|
|   | Administrative Officer V | 18 | 23 |
| 2 | Border Control Officer   | -  | 22 |
| 3 | Intelligence Officer III | 18 | 21 |
| 4 | Immigration Officer III  | 16 | 21 |
| 5 | Intelligence Officer II  | 15 | 19 |
| 6 | Immigration Officer II   | 13 | 19 |
| 7 | Immigration Office I     | 11 | 17 |
| 8 | Intelligence Officer I   | 11 | 17 |

9           On the recommendation on the Commissioner, the Board shall have the authority  
 10 to reorganize, upgrade, or otherwise make adjustments in, the offices of the  
 11 Commission as required by the implementation of this Act: *Provided*, That to the extent  
 12 possible, the incumbent chiefs of sections or divisions whose offices are thus affected  
 13 may be upgraded to positions of comparable rank in the reorganization; for the new  
 14 division created under this Act, the Commissioner shall designate the chiefs thereof.

## CHAPTER 9

### TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

19           **SEC. 118. *Interim Period.*** – The incumbent Commissioner and two Deputy  
 20 Commissioners, if qualified under this Act, shall continue to discharge the functions of  
 21 their position unless otherwise removed by the President. All personnel of the Bureau  
 22 of Immigration shall continue to discharge the functions of their position.

24           **SEC. 119. *Staffing Pattern and Salary Schedule.*** – To carry out the provisions of  
 25 this Act, the Commissioner shall submit a new staffing pattern and salary schedule for  
 26 personnel services to the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management in  
 27 accordance with Section 118 taking into account the Salary Standardization Law and  
 28 other applicable laws under the National Compensation and Classification Plan.

1           **SEC. 120. Reorganization of the Commission.** – Upon approval of this Act, all  
2 employees of the Bureau of Immigration covered by the civil service law and  
3 regulations shall continue to hold their present positions pending the  
4 reorganization of the Commission in accordance with the new staffing pattern.  
5 *Provided*, That the salaries, wages, allowances and other benefits of incumbent officers  
6 and employees of the Commission shall not be subject to diminution. *Provided, further*,  
7 That in the event that the positions are abolished in accordance with the  
8 reorganization, the affected employees shall be retained. *Provided, finally*, That  
9 employees who have been dismissed for cause shall no longer qualify for any position  
10 in the Commission.

11  
12           **SEC. 121. Inventory and Transfer of Properties, Accounts, Assets, Liabilities and**  
13 *Obligations to the Commission.* – All buildings, properties, equipment, facilities,  
14 accounts, other assets, liabilities and other obligations as well as records of the Bureau  
15 of Immigration shall be properly inventoried and transferred to the Commission.

16  
17           **SEC. 122. Treaty or Agreement.** – Any treaty or agreement entered into between  
18 the Philippines and any foreign state before the effectiveness of this Act shall remain in  
19 force and effect.

20  
21           **SEC. 123. Pending Cases.** – Any prosecution, suit, action, proceeding, or any act  
22 or matter, civil or criminal, pending at the time of the effectiveness of this Act shall not be  
23 affected by the provision of this Act unless otherwise applicable.

24    CHAPTER 10

25    ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

26  
27           **SEC. 124. Administration and Implementation Abroad.** – The administration and  
28 implementation of this Act abroad, including the rules and regulations as well as  
29 specific visa policies or guidelines, shall be the responsibility of the Department of

1 Foreign Affairs, with due notice to the Commission and other concerned agencies  
2 and/or offices.

3

4 **SEC. 125. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — The Commission, upon  
5 consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and other concerned agencies or  
6 offices and subject to the approval of the Secretary, shall promulgate the rules and  
7 regulations for the implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

8

9

10                   **CHAPTER 11**

11                   **FINAL PROVISIONS**

12                   **SEC. 126. Separability Clause.** — If any of the provisions of this Act is held  
13 invalid or unconstitutional the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be  
14 in force and effect.

15

16                   **SEC. 127. Repealing Clauses.** — (a) Commonwealth Act No. 613, otherwise  
17 known as the "Philippine Immigration Act of 1940", as amended, and Republic Act No.  
18 750, are hereby repealed; (b) All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
19 proclamations, memorandum orders, instructions, rules and regulations or parts thereof  
20 inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

21

22                   **SEC. 128. Effectivity Clause.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
23 its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general  
24 circulation.

25                   Approved,