

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2471**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by **HON. RICO B. GERON**
Representative, AGAP Party List

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Private Security Industry Act or Republic Act No. 5487 was enacted into law on June 21, 1969 was amended by Presidential Decree No. 11 on October 3, 1972. Since the enactment of the said laws, the Private Security Industry went through various developments. Such developments, however, signaled the need for a professionalize industry and posed a challenge to the government to provide an efficient bureaucratic process. This being the case, efforts to amend the existing laws, to make them more responsive to the present time, were undertaken by the previous Congress. The legislative records would show that the House of Representatives has approved on second reading House Bill 6737, which seeks to strengthen the private security industry in the country. The said bill, however, was not passed into law because of lack of material time.

This Bill is filed to provide a mechanism to adapt and respond to the growing changes in the industry and to further professionalize it by intensifying the requirements for training and certification of its practitioners to ensure utmost security and safety of the public.

This Bill seeks to protect the welfare of our country's security guards and ensure that they receive no less than what is mandated by law. It also seeks to protect the welfare of Legitimate Detective and Protective Agency Operators against the unfair competition brought about by fly-by-night Security Agencies which do not only deprive security guards of their benefits but also risk the security and safety of the public.

This Bill recognizes the tremendous amount of capital advanced by legitimate security service providers. Thus, the bill intends to protect and ensure their right to a reasonable return to investments.

This Bill further intends to lessen the bureaucracy in the licensing, operation and regulation of Private Security Agencies. It encourages the participation of its stakeholders, in cooperation with the Philippine National Police—Supervisory Office for Security and Investigation Agency (PNP-SOSIA), in drafting rules and regulations relative to the industry.

More importantly, the bill will intensify the government's policy of safeguarding the public against private armies hiding behind the guise of private security agencies.

Approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.

RICO B. GERON
Representative, AGAP Partylist

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AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PRIVATE SECURITY INDUSTRY, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5487, ENTITLED, "AN ACT TO REGULATE THE ORGANIZATION AND
OPERATION OF PRIVATE DETECTIVE, WATCHMEN OR SECURITY GUARD AGENCIES", AS
AMENDED

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

SECTION 1 Short Title of Act. This Act shall be known as "The Private
Security Industry Act".

Sec. 2. Scope of this Act. This Act shall provide for the regulation and
supervision of the private security industry and the practice of security profession.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. The following terms are hereby defined as follows :

a) Accreditation refers to the formal authorization issued by the Philippine
National Police – Supervisory Office for Security and Investigation Agency (PNP
SOSIA) to private security agencies, private detective agencies, private security training
institutions, canine training centers, canine service providers, supervisors and training
personnel, armored service providers, personal security protection service providers,
electronic security device providers and other specialized security providers in
compliance with the standards set at a maximum level.

b) Armored Vehicle refers to a vehicle used in minimum security measures in the continuance of protection in the transportation of cash, funds, checks, any negotiable documents or any other valuable item against crimes and other destructive causes. It is an extraordinary vehicle made of bullet-resistant materials capable of withstanding the firepower of high-powered firearms such as M16 and M14 rifles. Moreover, armored vehicles shall be equipped with a vault or safe or a partition with a combination lock designed to prevent retrieval of the cargo while in transit.

c) Company Guard refers to a regular employee of a private company who is employed to render security services within the company premises.

d) Duty Detail Order refers to a written order of a private security agency issued by the security manager, operations officer or the branch manager authorizing the security guards to carry agency- issued firearms while in prescribed uniform and in the performance of security service during their tour of duty within the property of the person, firm or establishment with whom the agency has a contract for security services,

e) Electronic Security Devices refers to any mechanical or electrical device which is designed or used for the detection of an unauthorized entry into a building, structure or facility, or for alerting others of the commission of an unlawful or unauthorized act within a building, structure or facility.

f) License to Exercise Security Profession (LESP) refers to a permit issued by the Chief Philippine National Police or the duly authorized representative, recognizing a natural person to be qualified to perform the duties as security or training personnel.

g) License to Operate (LTO) refers to a permit issued by the Chief, PNP or the duly authorized representative, certifying and authorizing a person to engage in employing and deploying security guards, canine teams, protection agents, private detectives and other licensed specialized security personnel; or a juridical person to establish, engage, direct, manage or operate a private detective agency or private security agency or company guard force after payment of the prescribed dues or

fees and after complying with all the requirements as provided by the rules and regulations implementing this Act.

h) Pre-Licensing Training Programs refers to licensing pre-requisite, pre-licensing training programs that include all training and academic programs and courses with the objective to indoctrinate the individual with the basic skills and educational backgrounds necessary in the effective exercise and performance of the security and detective profession. These include, but are not limited to the Basic Security Guard Course and the Security Officers Training Course.

i) Private Detective refers to any licensed and qualified person, other than members of the PNP, of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), guards of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), provincial, municipal or city jail guards, or any member of any other law enforcement agency, to perform detective work on a compensated basis.

j) Private Detective Agency refers to any entity that contracts, recruits, trains, furnishes or posts private detective and protection agents; or provides detective, investigative and protection services, or other detective and protective services as may be set by the PNP in consideration of a fee, reward, commission or compensation.

k) Private Security Agency refers to any person, association, partnership, firm, company or private corporation that; (1) contracts, recruits, trains, furnishes or posts any security guard to perform its functions; (2) offers its services as a consultant or trainer on any security-related matter; or its security guards for hire, commission or compensation through subscription to individuals, business firms, or private, public or government-owned or controlled corporations whose business or transactions involve national security or interest like the operation or management of domestic ocean vessels, airplanes, helicopters, seaports, airports, heliports, landing strips, etc.; (3) provides specialized security needs that the SOSIA may approve.

l) Private Security Guard sometimes called private security guard or watchman refers to any person for hire or compensation, or as an employee thereof, who offers and renders personal service to : (1) watch or secure either residences, business establishments, buildings, compounds, areas or properties, including but not limited to logging concessions and agricultural, mining or pasture lands; or (2) inspect, monitor, conduct bodily checks or searches of individuals or baggage or perform other forms of security inspection, whether physically, manually, electronically or with the aid of K9.

m) Private Security Industry refers to those engaged in the legitimate business of providing private security and detective, security training, k9 security, electronic security and VIP protection services including those in the management and administration of company guard forces.

n) Private security personnel includes security consultants and officers, protection agents, training officers and directors, k9 handlers, k9 administrators, k9 evaluators, k9 trainers, kennel masters and other certified or licensed service providers rendering or performing security and detective services, other than security guards and private detectives, as employed by private security agencies and private firms.

o) Private security services refers to the act of providing or rendering services for compensation, whether or not that compensation has actually been received, to watch and guard an establishment, whether public or private, building, compound, area or property, whether by land, sea or air, as the case may be; conduct access control or denial in any form, whether physically, manually or by electronic monitoring systems, for the purpose of securing such area or property and at the same time ensuring safety and protection of persons within such areas; to maintain peace and order within such areas; providing or rendering canine services to complement the security requirement of a public or private establishment; or to conduct other activities to cater to the specialized security needs that the PNP-SOSIA, Civil Security Group (CSG) may approve.

Private security services may have any or all of these components: security guards services, protective agent services, detective agent services, security consultancy services, canine security services, maritime security services, air security services, close protection security devices or electronic security devices such as, intrusion monitoring and closed-circuit television remote video surveillance. The exercise of the foregoing, shall, as a matter of course, be subject to the limitations provided for by the law.

It shall also include the act of contracting, recruiting, training, furnishing or posting of any security guard.

p) Private security training refers to training and academic programs and courses duly approved and prescribed by the PNP and adopted by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). For purposes of securing an LESP, it is essential that a letter of authority to conduct training must be issued by the SOSIA. Such training includes the pre-licensing requirements of the individual security guard and other security personnel, the periodic and non-periodic in-service skill refreshers for such security personnel, and other specialized, individual or group, private security personnel skills development.

q) Protection agent refers to any natural person for hire or compensation who offers services to protect another natural person against unlawful activities, harm, danger or injuries. The agent shall have undergone the training course for protection agents.

r) Remote video surveillance refers to digital recording devices, cameras or any other technology or device capable of enabling the recording or transmission of video or audio, or remote observation or listening-in, regardless of whether audiovisual recording is the sole or primary purpose of the device for so long as the same is used with the intent to engage in compensated acts of surveillance and protection. The exercise of the foregoing, shall, as a matter of course, be subject to the limitations provided for by the law.

s) Security guard services refers to private security services provided by licensed security personnel at a defined area, such as but not limited to, industrial plants, financial institutions, education Institutions, office buildings, government facilities, retail establishments , commercial complexes, health care facilities, recreational facilities, residential and housing development transportation vehicles and facilities, warehouses and goods distribution depots, local and international marine vessels, air forwarders, and other areas in need of private security requirements as may be prescribed by the PNP.

t) Security consultancy services refers to the services provided by licensed security personnel such as formulation of a security plan ,threat and vulnerability assessment, site surveying, security auditing, risk management, travel security training, hostage avoidance, evacuation planning and incident management.

u) Special detail order refers to a written order and schedule of a private security agency issued by a superior officer, usually the branch manager, operations officer or the administrative officer, directing the unarmed security guards to wear a special set of uniform approved by the SOSIA Uniform and Equipment Board and to perform security services.

Sec. 4. Who May Organize a Private Security Agency. Any Filipino citizen or a partnership association or corporation that is one hundred percent (100%) owned and controlled by Filipino citizens may organize a private security agency and provide security services. The operator or license of the said agency must be at least twenty-five (25) years old, college graduate, of good moral character, has no previous record of conviction of any crime or offense involving moral turpitude and is not suffering from any of the following disqualifications:

a) Has been dishonorably discharged or separated from the AFF, PNP or any other government law enforcement agency;

b) Is mentally incompetent;

c) Is addicted to alcohol or the use of narcotic drugs or other controlled substances; and

d) Has previously had the license to operate or license to exercise security profession revoked.

The minimum capital requirement and minimum bank deposit required of private security agencies shall be determined by the Chief, PNP in consultation with various stakeholders and shall be provided for in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act,

For the purposes of this Act, elective or appointive government employees who may be called upon on account of the functions of their respective offices in the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this Act, and any person related to such government employees by affinity or consanguinity in the third civil degree, shall not hold any interest, directly or indirectly in any private security agency.

Sec. 5. Who May Apply for a License to Exercise Private Security Profession. Any Filipino citizen may apply for a license to practice the private security profession and engage in the occupation, calling or employment either as a private security guard, private security officer, private detective, protection agent or private security consultant, after complying with academic, scholastic, skills and training requirements subject to other requirements prescribed herein under:

a) Basic Requirements of a Private Security Personnel:

i. Must be a citizen of the Philippines;

ii. Must not be less than twenty-one (21) years Old.

iii Must have taken a private security course or seminar and must have adequate training;

- iv Must be of good moral character and must not have been convicted of any crime or offense involving moral turpitude;
- v Must be physically and mentally fit; and
- vi Has passed the neuro-psychiatric test and drug test administered by the PNP or other similar government neuro-psychiatric and drug testing centers or facilities.

b) Qualifications of a Private Security Guard. A person shall not be granted a license as a Security guard for employment in private security agencies and companies unless the applicant possesses the following qualifications:

- i Must be a citizen of the Philippines;
- ii Must be at least a high school Graduate.
- iii Must be physically and mentally fit;
- iv Must be twenty-one (21) years old up to sixty (60) years old for watchmen or unarmed security guard, and not more than thirty-five (35) years old for new applicants and security guards in non-supervisory position.
- v. Must be of good moral character and must not have been convicted of any crime or offense involving moral turpitude;
- vi Has passed the neuro-psychiatric test and drug test administered by the PNP or other similar government neuro-psychiatric and drug testing centers or facilities; and
- vii Must have completed the required pre-licensing training course or its equivalent.

The license of a security guard who reaches the age of sixty (60) shall not be renewed.

c) Qualifications of a Security Officer. A person shall not be granted a license to practice as a security officer unless the applicant:

- I Is a citizen of the Philippines
- ii Is physically and mentally fit;
- iii Is of good moral character and must not have been convicted of any crime or offences involving moral turpitude;
- iv Holds a baccalaureate degree or one who is without a baccalaureate degree but has earned and completed at least seventy-two (72) units in any college or vocational school and has at least five (5) years' experience in any supervisory position;
- v. Has graduated from a security officer's training course or its equivalent; and
- vi Has passed the neuro-psychiatric test and drug test administered by the PNP or other similar government neuro-psychiatric and drug testing centers or facilities.

d) Qualifications of a Security Consultant. A person shall not be granted a license to practice as a security consultant unless the applicant:

- i Is a citizen of the Philippines;
- ii Is physically and mentally fit;
- iii Holds a baccalaureate degree;

- iv Has at least ten (10) years' experience in the operation and management of security business;
- v Is of good moral character and must not have been convicted of any crime or offense involving moral turpitude; and
- vi Has passed the neuro- psychiatric test and drug test administered by the PNP or other similar government neuro-psychiatric and drug testing centers or facilities.

e) Qualifications of a Private Detective. A person shall not be granted a license to practice as a private detective unless the applicant:

- i. Is a citizen of the Philippines;
- ii Is physically and mentally fit;
- iii Is of good moral character and must not have been convicted of any crime or offense of moral turpitude;
- iv Holds a baccalaureate degree, preferably Bachelor of Laws or Bachelor of Science in Criminology;
- v Has graduated from a criminal investigation and detection course offered by the PNP, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), or any police training school, or a detective training course in any authorized or recognized training center; and
- vi Has passed the neuro-psychiatric test and drug test administered by the PNP or other similar government neuro-psychiatric and drug testing centers or facilities.

f) Qualifications of a Protection Agent. A person shall not be granted a license to practice as a protection agent unless the applicant:

- i. Is a citizen of the Philippines;
- ii Is at least twenty-five (25) years old and not more than sixty (60) years old;
- iii Is of good moral character and must not have been convicted of any crime or offense of moral turpitude;
- iv Holds a baccalaureate degree or one who is without a baccalaureate degree but has earned and completed at least seventy two (72) units in any college or vocational school and has at least five (5) years; experience in any supervisory position; and
- v Has passed the neuro-psychiatric test and drug test administered by the PNP or other similar government neuro-psychiatric testing centers or facilities.

Sec. 6. Grant of License. (a) A person who shall engage in the business of or act as a private Security agency or engage in private security services shall first secure the necessary permit from the Chief, PNP, which permit, as approved, is a prerequisite in obtaining a license to operate.

(b) A license is required by any person who shall operate, manage or direct a licensed private security, detective ,or training agency. Except for those employed solely for clerical or manual work, any person participating in the management or operation thereof shall likewise secure a license to operate a private security agency and provide security services.

(c) A license to operate a private security agency and provide security services shall not be granted to any applicant who:

- i Has a previous record of conviction of any crime or offense involving moral turpitude;
- ii Has been dishonorably discharged or separated for cause from employment or service;
- iii Is mentally incompetent, as determined by a competent authority;
- iv Has failed a government-mandated drug test;
- v Is a habitual drunkard or alcoholic; and
- vi Is proven to be acting as a dummy for a foreign national or company .

(d) A license to operate shall be granted only to a private security agency that has a minimum of one hundred (100) licensed private security personnel under its employ. A security agency may hire as many qualified security guards under its employ in order to sufficiently address all the security requirements of its clients.

(e) A license to operate shall be granted only to a private detective agency or company guard force that has a minimum of thirty (30) licensed private security personnel under its employ.

(f) The license to exercise security profession of duly qualified security guards shall be valid for a period of three (3) years from the date of its issuance. Security Licenses issued prior to the effectivity of this act shall cease to be valid on its original date of expiry.

Sec. 7. Application for a License to Operate. The application for a license to operate shall be made in writing by the owner for single proprietorships; or by the authorized person duly designated by the partnership or corporation through a joint affidavit or board resolution, respectively, and shall be filed with the Chief, PNP through the PNP-SOSIA, Civil Security Group (CSG).

Applications made by single proprietorships shall include a copy of the certificate of registration issued by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Applications made by the partnerships, associations and corporations shall include a copy of their respective certificates of registration issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission or the DTI together with the company's By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation.

All applications shall be accompanied by a bond issued by any competent or reputable surety or fidelity or insurance company, duly accredited by the Philippine Insurance Commission, which bond shall answer for any valid and legal claim against the agency by its clients or employees. The amount of the bond shall be determined by the Chief, PNP and stipulated in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act. The amount of the bond shall not be unjustified, prohibitive or unreasonable.

Sec. 8. Fees and Bonds to be Paid. When all requisites for the issuance of the license have been complied with, the Chief, PNP or the duly authorized representative, shall issue a permit for the issuance of such license and register the same, upon payment by the applicant of the annual national fee, and such other fees in accordance with the schedules of fees to be determined in subsequent issuances or orders by the PNP, through the SOSIA. The determination of the fees shall be made in coordination and consultation with the various stakeholders.

Licenses issued by the authorized representative of the Chief, PNP are subject to the latter's review.

Any provision of this Act or other laws to the contrary notwithstanding, the Chief, PNP may, after following due process, suspend or cancel the licenses of private security agencies found violating any of the provisions of this Act or the rules and regulations promulgated by the Chief, PNP pursuant thereto.

Sec. 9. Administrative Fee of Private Security Agencies. To safeguard the existence of legitimate private security agencies, the minimum administrative fee of private security agencies shall not be less than twenty percent (20%) of the total contract price. Contract price or cost shall include but not limited to minimum wage and other existing Labor Laws and Regulations relating to Labor Standard, overtime pay, including Retirement benefits under R.A. 7641, uniform, social benefits such as mandated contribution in SSS, EC, Pag-ibig and Philhealth and government taxes.

Sec. 10. Employees Need Not Be Licensed. Except for those personnel employed solely for clerical or manual work any person operating, managing or directing a licensed security agency including any person having any participation in the management or operation thereof, shall secure the license prescribed by appropriate Sections of this Act.

Sec. 11. Display of License of a Private Security Agency. The license to operate shall be displayed at all times in a conspicuous and suitable place in the agency, office, headquarters and branch offices of the agency. It shall be exhibited at the request of any person whose jurisdiction is in relation with the business of the agency, the employees thereof, or of the Chief, PNP, or the duly authorized representative.

Sec. 12. Safeguards for the Public. The Chief, PNP may cancel, revoke or suspend the license to operate of any private security agency on any of the following grounds:

- a) Cancellation of a license to operate:
 - i. When a private security agency takes part in an armed conflict either for private gain or the desire for material compensation or for the advancement of an ideology or philosophy;
 - ii. When a private security agency uses force or the threat of force to assert itself or those it represents in a national or local electoral contest;
 - iii. When a private security agency uses its authority to engage in human rights violations as described and protected in the 1987 Constitutions of the Philippines;
 - iv. When a private security agency is used as a privately-owned and operated para-military organization operating outside of the regulatory framework established by this law and the implementing rules and regulations adopted by the PNP;
 - v. When a private security agency is deliberately unilaterally and with the full knowledge of its management, used for the protection of a syndicated criminal enterprise;
 - vi. When the stockholder, director or senior officer of the private security agency is convicted of a heinous crime, as defined by law;

- vii When a private security agency intentionally and maliciously makes use of electronic security devices or remote video surveillance in a manner that violates the privacy of civilians;
 - viii When a private security agency is deemed grossly negligent in dealing with violations, or mistakes of its members, or incompetency in its ranks; and
 - ix Any analogous cause, which renders the private security agency a detriment to the maintenance of peace and order.
- b) Suspension of a license to operate;
- i When a stockholder, director or senior officer of the private security agency is convicted of a crime;
 - ii When the private security agency engages in business practices deemed in violation of Republic Act No. 8799, otherwise known as "The Securities Regulation Code"; and
 - iii Underpayment or maltreatment of its employees, or violations of the Labor Code as decided with finality by a court or quasi-judicial body of competent jurisdiction.

Sec. 13. Supervision by the Philippine National Police. Upon arrival of this Act, the PNP shall exercise general supervision over the operation of all private security agencies.

Sec. 14. Powers of the City or Municipal Mayors in Cases of Emergency. In case of emergency or in times of disaster or calamities where the need for the services of the security agencies may arise, the city or municipal mayor, as director of

civil defense, may request the services of the agency nearest the area and its duly licensed personnel to help maintain peace and order, the prevention or apprehension of law violators, and in the preservation of life and property without compromising the safety and security of the area where the private security personnel are assigned. Deputized private detectives, watchmen or security guards shall take direct orders from the Chief, PNP for the duration of a fire, inundation, earthquakes, riots or other emergencies.

Sec. 15. Issuance of Firearms. A private security agency shall be entitled to possess firearms after having satisfactorily passed the requirements prescribed by the Chief, PNP, pertinent to the possession of firearms of any caliber not higher than 5.56 caliber in a number not exceeding one (1) firearm for each private security personnel, to include single-posts, in its employ: Provided, That all the firearms herein referred shall be carried by the private security personnel only during their tour of duty, in proper uniform, within the compound of the establishments, except when they escort and secure persons, large amounts of cash or valuables.

In relation hereto, it is hereby categorically and expressly stated that a security agency can keep under its control and possession as many firearms as there are security guards in their employ as required of the private security services.

Sec. 16. Uniform. The uniform of private security personnel shall be different from the uniform worn and prescribed for members of the AFP, City and Municipal Police Force, The Chief, PNP, through the authorized representative, shall prescribe the uniform, ornaments, equipment and paraphernalia to be worn by the private security personnel throughout the Philippines.

Sec. 17. Compensation and Other Benefits of Private Security

Personnel. Private security personnel shall be paid not less than the minimum wage including other benefits under the Labor Code of the Philippines, as amended, and other existing laws and regulations relating to labor standards. In case a private security personnel is paid a salary lower than the minimum wage prescribed by law, the private security agency and its client where the underpaid private security personnel is detailed shall be solidarily liable for such violations.

Accordingly, if by law or wage order, the minimum wage of employees is ordered increased, it shall be the duty of the client to immediately effect the corresponding increase to the salary of the guards. On the other hand, it shall be the duty of the agency to likewise immediately increase the wages of the guards upon adjustment made by the client, failure on either of the client or the agency or both of them to comply with any law-mandated wage increase, shall make its officers and directors criminally liable in accordance with the penal provision in the appropriate wage orders or otherwise by the revised penal code.

Sec. 18. Study Now Pay Later Program. A security guard or watchman or private detective, who opts or is mandated pursuant to existing laws and regulations to undergo and finish the security management specialist course, shall be granted a study now-pay later schedule or program by any private or public training institutions duly accredited by the government to provide such training. The implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to be promulgated under this act shall provide the reasonable mechanisms for the availment of this scheme taking into consideration the welfare of guards and watchmen, and the rights and interest of the institutions concerned.

Sec. 19. Limitations and Prohibitions. No private security agency shall offer or render services to gambling dens or other illegal enterprises. The extent of the private security service being provided by any private security agency shall not go beyond the whole compound or property of the person or establishment requesting the security service, except when securing persons or large amounts of cash.

Private security agencies have the responsibility to perform due diligence on prospective clients and ascertain the legality of the services they are required to perform.

Sec. 20. Rules and Regulations by the Chief, Philippine National Police. The Chief PNP, in strict and public consultation with Philippine Association of Detective and Protective Agency Operators, Incorporated and other stakeholders of the security industry, and subject to the provisions of existing laws, is hereby authorized to issue the rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act. Furthermore, the Chief, PNP shall consult with Philippine Association of Detective and Protective Agency Operators, Incorporated and various stakeholders prior to the issuance of all regulations and issuances related to and affecting private security agencies and private security personnel.

These implementing rules and regulations shall be reviewed every three (3) years.

Sec. 21. Penal Provisions. Any private security agency which violates any provision of the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines and other existing penal laws shall be held liable therefore.

Sec. 22. Repealing Clause. Republic Act No. 5437 is hereby repealed. All laws, rules resolutions, municipal ordinances, regulations and administrative orders contrary or inconsistent with them provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Sec. 23. Separability Clause. If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 24. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,