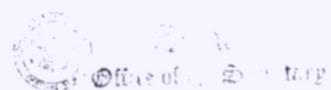


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE
S. B. No. 820

*19 JUL 30 A9:11

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH SOCIAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP (PRESENT) PROGRAM AND PROMOTING SOCIAL
ENTERPRISES WITH THE POOR AS PRIMARY STAKEHOLDERS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the first six months of 2018, 21.0 percent of Filipinos, and roughly 16.1 percent of families, were found to be living below the poverty line¹. This translates to about 22.70 million Filipinos, considering a 2018 population of 108.1 million. Such national poverty incidence is practically unchanged from the 21.6 percent registered in 2015—although it is still a significant drop from the 27.9 percent measured in 2012, and the 28.6 percent and 28.8 percent registered in 2009 and 2006 respectively.

Clearly, poverty has been going down in the past decade, but it is not doing so in a magnitude and speed that would truly improve the lives of Filipinos throughout the country. Hence, there is a need to enhance government strategy in helping our countrymen rise.

This bill aims to involve various sectors of the society in the fight against poverty, and recognizes social enterprises as key players in poverty reduction. A Social Enterprise, as defined in the proposed bill, refers to a social mission-driven organization that conducts economic activities directly related to improving the well-being of the poor and marginalized sectors. It explicitly declares and pursues poverty reduction as its principal objective.

Moreover, the bill aims to promote people's participation and empowerment; establish sustainable programs that reduce inequality in incomes and increase self-

¹ <https://psa.gov.ph/poverty-press-releases/nid/138411>

reliance among the poor; and develop effective mechanisms for the provision of quality and accessible social services to the poor, among others.

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



SONNY ANGARA

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

Senate of the Philippines
RECEIVED JULY 30 1988
F

SENATE
S. B. No. 820

19 JUL 30 A 9:11

RECEIVED JULY 30 1988
F

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH SOCIAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP (PRESENT) PROGRAM AND PROMOTING SOCIAL
ENTERPRISES WITH THE POOR AS PRIMARY STAKEHOLDERS**

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

1 **CHAPTER I**
2 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

3 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Poverty Reduction
4 Through Social Entrepreneurship (PRESENT) Act."

5 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall promote a just and dynamic
6 social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free
7 the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services,
8 promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life
9 for all. The State shall provide social justice in all phases of national development and
10 that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect
11 for human rights.

12 The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of
13 opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and
14 services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding
15 productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the
16 underprivileged. The State shall promote industrialization and full employment based
17 on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make

1 full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in
2 both domestic and foreign markets.

3 The State also recognizes the important role of enterprises in the economy as
4 the major agent of development, creating off-farm employment opportunities and
5 providing transitional means for improving the livelihood of the people.

6 Towards this end, the State shall pursue an inclusive growth strategy that
7 promotes an environment conducive to the development and growth of a vibrant social
8 enterprise sector engaged in poverty reduction, economic and social development. It
9 shall empower the poor as primary stakeholders in social enterprises, establish
10 mechanisms essential to realizing their potential and achieving their full growth, and
11 extend the assistance necessary for their advancement. The State shall likewise
12 provide technical and financial assistance, incentives and other services to enable
13 Social Enterprises to develop into viable and vital anti-poverty agents, and a strong
14 social entrepreneurship movement that will be instrumental in reducing poverty in the
15 country.

16 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – The following terms when used in this Act shall
17 mean:

18 a) *Social Enterprise* or SE refers to a social mission-driven organization in the form
19 of an association, single proprietorship, partnership, corporation, cooperative,
20 peoples organization, non-stock non-profit and peoples organizations or any
21 other legal form that conducts economic activities providing goods and/or
22 services directly related to their primary mission of improving the well-being of
23 the poor, basic and marginalized sectors and their living environment. A social
24 enterprise explicitly declares and pursues poverty reduction as its principal
25 objective by purposefully rendering both transactional and transformational
26 services. An SE engages and invests in the poor to become effective workers,
27 suppliers, clients and/or owners and ensures that a substantive part of the
28 wealth created by the enterprise is distributed to or benefits them. In addition
29 to reinvesting its surplus or profits back to the enterprise to sustain the
30 fulfillment of its social mission, a SE also uses its surplus or profits and mobilizes
31 other resources to assist the poor to become partners in SE or value chain

1 management and governance and to become partners in community, sectoral
2 and societal transformation.

3 A single proprietorship, partnership or corporation must fulfill the
4 eligibilities set forth in Section 14 to avail of the benefits and incentives under
5 this Act.

- 6 b) *Government-Procuring Entity* refers to any branch, department, office, agency,
7 or instrumentality of the government, including state universities and colleges,
8 government-owned and/or -controlled corporations, government financial
9 institutions, and local government units procuring Goods, Consulting Services
10 and Infrastructure Projects;
- 11 c) *Basic Sectors*, as defined by Republic Act 8425 or the "Social Reform and
12 Poverty Alleviation Act", refer to the disadvantaged sectors of Philippine society,
13 namely: farmer-peasant, artisanal fisherfolk, workers in the formal sector and
14 migrant workers, workers in the informal sector, indigenous peoples and
15 cultural communities, women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, victims
16 of calamities and disasters, youth and students, children, and urban poor;
- 17 d) *Economic Subsectors* refer to networks of related actors, and enterprises
18 performing various functions in value chains. These actors and enterprises
19 transform raw materials into finished products, or develop services, and
20 distribute or provide them through market channels to final consumers; they
21 may be identified by key raw material source, by finished product or final
22 service provided. An economic subsector may be comprised of several
23 competing value chains. By understanding the dynamics of economic
24 subsectors and using them as units of planning social entrepreneurship
25 interventions, government agencies, support institutions and SEs shall more
26 effectively reach and benefit a greater number of poor in poverty reduction
27 programs;
- 28 e) *Marginalized Sectors* refer to groups of people who are stigmatized or excluded
29 by virtue of their physical, psychological, economic, social or cultural
30 circumstance;
- 31 f) *Poor*, as defined by Republic Act 8425, refers to individuals and families whose
32 income fall below the poverty threshold as defined by the National Economic

- 1 and Development Authority and/or cannot afford in a sustained manner to
2 provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing and
3 other essential amenities of life;
- 4 g) *Poverty Reduction* refers to overcoming the income, resource and capability
5 deprivation among the poor, basic and marginalized sectors;
- 6 h) *Social Enterprise Service Institution* refers to an organization that provides
7 assistance to SEs for them to become viable and sustainable and which
8 assistance pertains to supplying needs such as trainings, education and other
9 capacity-building measures, research and development, and other similar
10 activities;
- 11 i) *Transactional Services* refer to enterprise or market-driven activities, such as
12 providing loans, demonstrating new technologies or conducting trainings that
13 are necessary for the poor in the SE system to effectively and efficiently perform
14 their roles as workers, suppliers, clients and owners. Transactional services may
15 be fee-based, such as the granting of loans, or non-fee based, such as the
16 extension of production-related trainings;
- 17 j) *Transformative Services* refer to activities that empower the poor, such as
18 leadership formation, organizational development, financial and legal literacy,
19 asset build-up and providing education and experiential learning opportunities,
20 to become conscious change agents for themselves, for their communities,
21 sectors and society as a whole;
- 22 k) *Value Chains* refer to value-adding economic activities that an enterprise is
23 interlinked with in the process of producing goods and/or services to serve its
24 chosen market. A value chain typically consists of: 1) raw materials processing,
25 2) inbound distribution or logistics, 3) manufacturing operations, 4) outbound
26 distribution or logistics, 5) marketing and selling, and 6) after-sales service.
27 These activities are supported by 6) purchasing or procurement, 7) research
28 and development, 8) human resource development, and 9) organizational
29 development. A SE that understands and manages its value chain improves its
30 capability to create economic, environmental and social values towards
31 improving the position and benefits of the poor in the value chain and towards
32 ensuring the viability and sustainability of the enterprise; and

- 1 I) *Living Wage* refers to the amount of family income needed to provide for the
2 family's food and non-food expenditures with sufficient allowance for savings/
3 investments for social security so as to enable the family to live and maintain a
4 decent standard of human existence beyond mere subsistence level, taking into
5 account all of the family's physiological, social and other needs.

6 **CHAPTER II**

7 **POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**

8 Sec. 4. *Formulation of a Poverty Reduction Through Social Entrepreneurship*
9 (*PRESENT*) Program. – The PRESENT Program shall be established as a flagship
10 program of government. The objective of the PRESENT Program is to progressively
11 improve the position and benefits derived by a big number of the poor, marginalized
12 and basic sectors derived from economic subsector development and growth. It shall
13 do this by identifying strategic economic subsectors with the potentials for growth and
14 where the poor are concentrated or could be major players. In the process, it shall
15 identify and develop key SEs and resource institutions as partners in providing
16 transactional and transformational services towards poverty reduction. SEs shall be
17 developed as vehicles to ensure that the poor benefit the most from sustainable
18 subsector development.

19 The formulation of the PRESENT program shall be guided by the following
20 principles:

- 21 a) Promoting sustainable programs that support the development of inclusive
22 value chains in key economic subsectors, towards reducing inequality in
23 incomes and increase self-reliance among the poor;
- 24 b) Enabling SEs to overcome constraints and to take advantage of opportunities
25 for enhancing the position and benefits of the poor and their living
26 environments including those that harness innovative approaches in addressing
27 social problems;
- 28 c) Development of sustainable mechanisms for the provision of quality and
29 accessible social services to the poor;
- 30 d) People's empowerment by ensuring the participation of the poor, basic and
31 marginalized sectors;

- 1 e) Gender-sensitivity by ensuring women's equal rights and access to SE's
2 resources;
- 3 f) Ecological soundness in the pursuit of sustainable and equitable development;
- 4 g) Incorporation of the PRESENT Program in the government's poverty reduction
5 drive as a major sustainable and comprehensive strategy; and
- 6 h) Rationalization of poverty reduction programs by streamlining and coordinating
7 the various anti-poverty programs of the government to reduce inefficiency and
8 duplication and to improve the effectiveness of each program.

9 The planning framework of the PRESENT Program and its planning process
10 shall ensure that the poor are engaged as primary stakeholders. It shall add value and
11 complement ecosystem-based, area-based, community-based and other tools and
12 processes in local economic development by promoting and utilizing the economic
13 subsector as a strategic unit of analysis and planning SE development interventions.

14 PRESENT medium-term and annual development plans shall be formulated in
15 synchrony with the medium-term development plan of the national government.

16 *Sec. 5. National Enterprise Development Council.* – The existing Micro, Small
17 and Medium Enterprise Development (MSMED) Council, which is an attached agency
18 of the Department of Trade and Industry, shall be strengthened and expanded to
19 effectively spur the growth and development of MSMES and SEs throughout the
20 country, and to carry out the policy declared under this Act. It shall now be known as
21 the National Enterprise Development Council, herein referred to as the Council.

22 In addition to the existing functions of the Council as provided under Republic
23 Act 9501 or the "Magna Carta for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises", the Council
24 shall serve as the primary agency tasked to carry out the promotion, growth and
25 development of social enterprises in the country. To ensure that the Council is able to
26 fulfill its additional mandate, there shall be an SE Committee under the Council that
27 shall perform the following specific duties:

- 28 a) Promote social enterprise as a key strategy for reducing poverty and enabling
29 inclusive growth;
- 30 b) Provide oversight for the implementation of the PRESENT Program and
31 activities of the Center for Social Enterprise Development (CSED):

- 1 c) Establish policies, plans, programs and projects to develop and promote SE as
2 a tool for poverty reduction as part of a comprehensive Social Enterprise
3 Development Plan fully integrated and consistent with national development
4 objectives and plans;
5 d) Monitor and evaluate the performance of programs and projects of CSED for
6 appropriate incentives;
7 e) Submit annual and other periodic reports to the President and the Congress of
8 the Philippines;
9 f) Promulgate such rules and regulations and exercise such other powers and
10 functions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act; and
11 g) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for its effective operations
12 and the continued enhancement, growth and development of the SE sector.

13 The SE Committee shall be composed of the DTI, relevant council members
14 and the following representatives from the SE Sector and SE Service Institutions to
15 realize these powers and functions:

- 16 a) Nine (9) representatives from SEs, three (3) representatives each from the
17 main island groupings of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao;
18 b) Three (3) representatives from SE service institutions; and
19 c) Three (3) representatives from SE advocacy groups.

20 Sec. 6. *Center for Social Enterprise Development.* – There shall be established
21 a Center for Social Enterprise Development (CSED) under the supervision of the
22 Council and to be headed by an Executive Director, which shall have the primary
23 responsibility of implementing comprehensive policies for Social Enterprise
24 Development. Specifically, the CSED shall be responsible for:

- 25 a) The development and implementation of the PRESENT Program as approved
26 by the Council, with the following components:
27 1. Formulation and implementation of social entrepreneurship-oriented
28 strategic economic sub-sector development plans that shall serve as the
29 basis for major policies, projects and activities;
30 2. Capacity Building and Sustainability - The CSED will work with qualified
31 Social Enterprise Service Institutions and other intermediaries to design
32 and deliver training and education in social entrepreneurship

development, institutional start-up or strengthening, human resource competency and skills training, business planning and advisory services, upgrading of accounting and auditing systems, technical assistance for the installation or improvement of management information systems, technology intervention, technology incubation/commercialization, market studies, and product development competitiveness, business matching activities, trade fairs and missions, policy advocacy, disaster-resiliency and other related activities.

3. Research and Development - The CSED in coordination with the NEDA, DOST, DTI, and other appropriate agencies, research institutions, and intermediaries, shall develop and enhance a research and development system that:
 - i. provides studies on opportunities for poverty reduction and SE development in key economic subsectors and other inputs for the Council to undertake strategic planning for programs and projects;
 - ii. equip SEs and support institutions with services and technologies that are appropriate for enhancing the participation and benefits of the poor in various economic subsectors; and
 - iii. equip SEs and support institutions with innovative, and sustainable approaches to improve access of the poor to quality basic social services.
4. Information and Marketing Assistance - The CSED shall promote the development and expansion of local and foreign markets for the products and services of SEs. Towards this, the CSED shall:
 - i. establish a marketing assistance program that will assist SEs match supply with demand in both domestic and foreign markets, as well as promote SE products and services through tri-media, trade fairs and trade missions; and
 - ii. develop install and sustain a market information system for SEs with the assistance of the DTI and DOT. All government departments, agencies, bureaus, research institutions, as well as the Local Government Units (LGUs) shall consolidate and continuously update

1 all relevant information and data that would be of use to SEs on a
2 periodic basis and make such data available in a dedicated website
3 on the internet.

- 4 b) Establishment and implementation of criteria and process for the qualification
5 of SEs that shall be eligible for support and other incentives as provided by this
6 Act and as approved by the Council;
- 7 c) Identification of sources of financing for the SE sector not limited to grants,
8 loans and equity financing for enterprise incubation, start-up and expansion;
- 9 d) Management of multi-stakeholder convergence programs and activities among
10 government agencies and private organizations in support of the PRESENT
11 Program;
- 12 e) Coordination with the concerned government agencies and local government
13 units in the development and implementation of the PRESENT Program and
14 projects.
- 15 f) Coordination with social enterprise stakeholders, including people's
16 organizations, non-government organizations, and multi-sectoral and multi-
17 disciplinary pool of experts from the academe, practicing professionals,
18 business, industry, youth, women and other concerned sectors to provide
19 advice and technical assistance on matters pertaining to SEs.

20 Sec. 7. *Role of LGUs in SE Development.* – LGUs shall be encouraged to
21 incorporate viable SE development plans in their local plans and collaborate with SEs.

22 Sec. 8. *Social Enterprise Development Fund.* – There shall be included in the
23 budget of the DTI under the annual General Appropriations Act an initial amount of
24 Nine Hundred Million Pesos (P900,000,000.00) for the establishment of a Social
25 Enterprise Development Fund (SEDF) which shall be utilized as grants to SEs for the
26 plans set forth under the PRESENT program.

27 The SEDF shall be allocated for:

- 28 a) Six Hundred Million Pesos (P600,000,000.00) for value-chain financing; and
- 29 b) Three Hundred Million Pesos (P300,000,000.00) for enterprise development
30 services.

1 After the first year of implementation, such sums as may be necessary to fund
2 the SEDF shall be included in the budget of the DTI under the annual General
3 Appropriations Act.

4 Plans for the utilization of the SEDF shall be developed by the CSED for approval
5 by the Council.

6 **CHAPTER III**

7 **INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**

8 Sec. 9. *Special Credit Windows.* – The Land Bank of the Philippines,
9 Development Bank of the Philippines and other government financial institutions shall
10 establish special credit windows for the unique needs of SEs that are backed by a
11 guarantee fund, as provided by Section 10 of this Act, for the following purposes:

- 12 a) Credit line for business development loan or working capital loan to cover the
13 operational and management expenses of an existing business or income
14 generating project, including receivable financing or purchase of additional
15 inventory, soft or intangible investments such as trade fair participation or
16 acquisition of software or franchise development packages;
- 17 b) Fixed assets financing to cover acquisition of fixed assets like machineries and
18 equipment, motor vehicle, or acquisition of lot for project site or construction
19 of a plant and building and the improvement thereof;
- 20 c) Value chain financing to cover any of the value chain activities such as
21 production, processing and marketing;
- 22 d) Domestic letter of credit or trust receipt to provide a stand-by credit facility for
23 the SE borrower for the purchase of product inputs, equipment, machinery,
24 implements, and spare parts, whereby payment of which is guaranteed and to
25 be made to the seller by the lending institution, provided all documents conform
26 with the terms and conditions of the credit; and
- 27 e) Revolving Credit Line for re-lending to finance the livelihood project
28 requirements of end-borrowers.

29 Sec. 10. *Social Enterprise Guarantee and Surety Fund.* – There shall be
30 established a Social Enterprise Guarantee and Surety Fund (SEGSF) which shall be
31 funded from equity contributions of government financial institutions. The SEGSF shall
32 be administered by the Small Business Corporation to enable SEs to access non

1 collateralized and other appropriate financing while mitigating the risks involved in SE
2 sector lending, The SEGSF shall be used to provide guarantee cover to participating
3 financial institutions and other parties in extending financing to SEs: *Provided*, That
4 the fund may also be used to cover the performance bond of SEs for their transactions.

5 *Sec. 11. Compliance to Mandatory Allocation of Credit Resources.* – Loans
6 granted by financial institutions to Social Enterprises shall be computed by the Bangko
7 Sentral ng Pilipinas as twice the loan amount for purposes of determining financial
8 institutions' compliance to the mandatory allocation of credit resources to micro, small
9 and medium enterprises under Republic Act 9501 or the "Magna Carta for Micro, Small
10 and Medium Enterprises."

11 *Sec. 12. Public Procurement for Social Enterprises.* – The Government
12 Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) shall facilitate the full participation of social
13 enterprises in public procurement processes. In support of this provision, the DBM
14 shall direct agencies of government to allocate at least ten percent (10%) of their
15 annual budgets specifically for projects to be procured from social enterprises.

16 *Sec. 13. Insurance for Social Enterprises.* – The Insurance Commission shall
17 issue the necessary rules and regulations and implement measures to ensure that the
18 insurance industry shall provide insurance products, both life and non-life, for social
19 enterprises and their stakeholders among the poor. Furthermore, social enterprises
20 shall be eligible to be licensed agents or delivery channels for their clients and
21 constituents.

22 *Sec. 14. Cash Incentives for Persons with Disabilities.* – To level the playing
23 field and in recognition of the circumstances of start-up SEs primarily employing
24 PWDs, the SEDF created in Section 8 of this Act shall provide a cash incentive for
25 every PWD, in accordance with Republic Act 7277 or the "Magna Carta for Disabled
26 Persons", and other marginalized sectors as may be provided by this law, representing
27 at least twenty five percent (25%) of the daily minimum wage, until such time that
28 the said SE is able to achieve financial sustainability.

29 *Sec. 15. Eligibility for Benefits and Incentives.* – In the case of social enterprises
30 organized as stock corporations, partnerships or sole proprietorships, the following
31 requirements shall apply to become eligible for benefits and incentives provided by
32 this Act:

- 1 a) A social enterprise must not be organized as a branch, subsidiary or division of
2 a private business enterprise, regardless of the size of such private business
3 enterprise, nor may its policies be determined by a private business enterprise:
4 *Provided*, That this shall not preclude a SE from accepting subcontracts from
5 large private business enterprises or firms or from joining in cooperative or
6 joint-venture activities with other SEs or foundations practicing Corporate Social
7 Responsibility (CSR).
- 8 b) At least sixty percent (60%) of a social enterprise's total expenditures and
9 profits plows back to the enterprise for the benefit of the poor, and engage in
10 practices that optimize the benefits for the poor through the provision of living
11 wages, above-market pricing for economically disadvantaged producers and
12 suppliers, and other such best practices that distribute the profit generated by
13 the enterprise.

CHAPTER IV

APPROPRIATION AND OTHER PROVISIONS

16 Sec. 16. *Social Entrepreneurship Education in Schools*. – Toward strategically
17 developing the nation's human resource capability in social entrepreneurship, the
18 DepEd, TESDA and the CHED shall cause the integration of SE content and inclusion
19 of SE courses in the curricula at all levels, especially in the secondary and tertiary
20 levels. A continuing social entrepreneurship education program for out-of-school youth
21 and adults shall likewise be developed and undertaken.

22 Sec. 17. *Social Enterprise Week*. – In order to institute continuing awareness
23 on the importance of SEs as a viable government strategy in pursuing poverty
24 alleviation, the week of the month when this Act shall have been signed into law shall
25 be declared as the "*Social Enterprise Week*" and shall be celebrated annually. The
26 Council shall, through the CSED, be responsible in organizing activities for the event.

27 Sec. 18. *Appropriations*. – The Council shall allocate the initial amount of Fifty
28 Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) from the existing MSMED Council Fund to support the
29 operations and programs of the CSED. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary
30 for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the DTI
31 under the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 The budgetary requirements of the cooperating agencies shall be, incorporated
2 in their respective budgets. The CSED may raise funds from other sources for specific
3 projects as may be authorized by law.

4 Sec. 19. *Transitory Provision.* – Within a period of five years, the NEDC shall
5 facilitate the development and dissemination of tools, and invest in the development
6 of the capability of SEs to plan, monitor and evaluate their social and financial
7 performance and outcomes. Further, the NEDC shall evolve socially-acceptable
8 benchmarks for evaluating the performance of SEs and incorporate such to more
9 effectively develop and regulate the sector.

10 Sec. 20. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from
11 the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Trade and Industry shall, in consultation
12 and coordination with the concerned government agencies, promulgate the necessary
13 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

14 Sec. 21. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is
15 subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are
16 not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

17 Sec. 22. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive
18 orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof
19 which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby
20 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

21 Sec. 23. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
22 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,