

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1291

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE KIMI S. COJUANGCO

Explanatory Note

This bill was originally authored and sponsored by the former Representative of the 5th District of Pangasinan, the honorable Mark O. Cojuangco, as House Bill No. 4631 but which subsequently evolved into House Bill No. 6300 after it passed the approval of the Committee on Energy and referred to the Plenary for second reading.

The proposed measure had to do with the validation and rehabilitation of our fully paid for, but decommissioned Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP). The BNPP, our BNPP, a nationally owned asset which has cost us \$2.118 Billion US Dollars, and for which we regularly allocate an annual expenditure (budget) for maintenance in order to preserve this serviceable and tangible material asset which is still in excellent condition.

To rehash all that has been said in the archived 14th Congress's House Bill No. 4631 and House Bill No. 6300 would be redundant and in my opinion, a waste of time.

Let it be made therefore that the explanatory note of then House Bill No. 4631 with amendments is reused or adopted as part of this explanatory note for this new pro-BNPP bill. It is trust that it will now give the sense and the purpose of this new piece of legislation, as well as incorporate the sensitivities and compromises which were arrived at during the lengthy discussions of the merits thereof.

As well, the bill proper as I am submitting it contains the distilled essence of what was discussed during the period of interpellation and debate during the 14h Congress, from the then author's point of view. This proposed measure incorporates adjustments to what he then perceived were the sensitivities of the discussions as brought forth by those with a dissenting point of view.

The body of this new bill is now more reflective of former House Bill No. 6300 with amendments based on the discussions on record and the previous author's sense of these discussions, rather than that of House Bill No. 4631.

It is submitted that the bill is now much more straightforward and captures the sentiments and concerns of a broader range of the stakeholders and of our people.

It is submitted that the national debate by our society on the nuclear power option is timely in view of an impending power crisis which may be upon us in two (2) or three (3) years, by 2012 or 2013, and which has already manifested its ugly self during the summer of the current year.

It is submitted that such a power crisis would put a cap on any economic development and growth which we may be having due to our new found political stability, confidence and positive outlook, if not outright sabotaging our gains and setting us back in our struggle for prosperity.

Such an occurrence would indeed be a tragedy, because if we act in a timely and decisive manner, none of these woeful events will have to happen at all, and in fact the positive would be boosted and multiplied.

In this age of global warming, climate change, energy shortages and soaring energy prices, the only two mainstream alternatives and solutions available to us as sources of energy are; fossil fuels and nuclear energy. The rest, in my humble opinion, are all peripheral and irrelevant to our national Philippine context.

The world is inexorably headed in this direction. Do we intend to be last again?

The choice is ours, the decision is ours. Let's act before it is too late.

I therefore urge all the members of this august body, to study this matter well so that our beloved House may debate the issue intelligently and sans emotion, as our people will be watching and they will be learning and benefitting from our discussion and trade of ideas. Let the Members endeavor to bring this discussion to a higher level. I am confident that we will arrive at what I am sure is best for the future of our people.

I therefore urgently seek the decisive and steadfast support of the honorable Members for the battle that lies ahead.


HON. KIMI S. COJUANGCO
5th District, Pangasinan

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1291

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE KIMI S. COJUANGCO

AN ACT
MANDATING AN IMMEDIATE VALIDATION PROCESS WHICH SATISFIES
INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED NUCLEAR POWER INDUSTRY NORMS TO
DETERMINE THE BATAAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT'S OPERABILITY
CULMINATING IN EITHER THE IMMEDIATE REHABILITATION,
CERTIFICATION AND COMMERCIAL OPERATION OR, THE IMMEDIATE
PERMANENT CLOSURE AND SALVAGE VALUE RECOVERY, OF THE
BATAAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Title - This Act shall be known as the "Bataan Nuclear Power Plant Act of 2010."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy - Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature." Section 8, Article II further provides that: "The Philippines, consistent with the national interest, adopts and pursues a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons in its territory."

In pursuance of Section 16, and that there being no bar against the use of nuclear energy for power generation in accordance with Section 8, Article II of the Constitution, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to develop nuclear energy - which has been proven by world experience to be reliable, sustainable, efficient, environment-friendly and cost-effective - as a distinct and substantial part of the country's energy mix. It is also a tool to address the country's electric generating capacity shortfall which is projected to happen in the year 2012, and the worsening problem of global warming due to carbon emissions, and to bring about a cleaner environment by eliminating the spread of heavy metals, toxic substances, and radioactive elements which occur through the continued use of the conventional and the traditional fossil fuel power generating technologies.

Nuclear energy will serve as proactive action against the possible imposition of an international tax and sanctions against the use of carbon-based fuels, resulting from a public backlash against the supposed global warming and climate change.

Nuclear energy will serve as an alternative energy source which is necessary for the ushering in of a "clean" hydrogen or electric transportation economy.

SEC. 3. *Mandate and Authority to Validate.* – The provisions of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding, the National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) is hereby mandated and authorized to undertake the immediate validation of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP). This vested mandate and authority shall be under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Energy (DOE).

For purposes of this Act, validation is defined as a two stage process to ascertain as to whether or not the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) can in fact be made, if it is not already so, mechanically, structurally and electronically in conformity with its original specifications, and/or the functional equivalent of its three sister plants existing and operating in the world today, most especially the KORI II Nuclear Power Plant in the Republic of Korea, whose physical example will serve as the preferred baseline model guiding the validation of the BNPP.

The first stage of validation is to ascertain if the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant can be brought to the required specification for certification and operation within the allocated One Billion US Dollars (US \$1,000,000,000.00) maximum expenditure allowed by this Act, resulting in a "GO" or "NO GO" finding. It involves a step by step review of the original plans and specifications, build documentation, inspection, re-inspection and comparison with standards such as those of the operating KORI II Nuclear Power Plant.

The second stage may come into force upon a "GO" result of the first stage. It involves the immediate rehabilitation, repair, reconstruction and other activities including any and all necessary works guided by the step by step review process mandated in the first stage, culminating in a "hot function test" for a duration equal to one and a half (1½) times internationally recognized standards and resulting in the receipt of the required operating certificates from the regulatory authority. Only thereafter may the facility be loaded with nuclear fuel and the plant activated.

The second stage may also come into force upon a "NO GO" result of the first stage. It involves a declaration of permanent BNPP closure and the disposal through public bidding of all remaining BNPP assets within one year

from the date of said declaration. Or, at the minimum, the cessation of public funding for the further maintenance of BNPP.

SEC. 4. *Mandate and Authority to Rehabilitate, Commission and Operate.* – The provisions of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding, the National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) after a “GO” finding pursuant to Section 3 of this Act, is hereby mandated and authorized to undertake the immediate rehabilitation, certification, commissioning and commercial operation of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP). This vested mandate and authority shall be under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Energy (DOE). The NAPOCOR may spin-off portions of its organization which are presently overseeing the preservation and maintenance of BNPP, its engineering, technical, and administrative staff to form a government-owned corporation to further hasten and streamline the rehabilitation, commissioning process and operation of the BNPP. The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) mandated to oversee the licensing and regulation of nuclear facilities shall continue to regulate the rehabilitation, commissioning and operation of the BNPP as mandated by law.

For purposes of the BNPP rehabilitation plan, the physical example of the KORI II Nuclear Power Plant, aside from and in further preference to its sister plants; Angra I and KRSKO, will serve as the preferred baseline model.

For purposes of the BNPP commercial operation, the physical example of the KORI II Nuclear Power Plant will serve as the preferred baseline model as to BNPP's performance both technically and financially.

SEC. 5. *Mandate and Authority to Declare the Permanent Closure and to effect the Scrapping of BNPP* - The provisions of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding, the National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR)/the spun-off entity, after a “NO GO” finding pursuant to Section 3 of this Act, is hereby mandated and authorized to declare the permanent closure of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP). This vested mandate and authority shall be under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Energy (DOE).

Within one year after the declaration of permanent closure, the NAPOCOR/the spun-off entity is mandated to have effected the scrapping and salvage value recovery of BNPP. Under no circumstances may these disposed assets be used for the operation of another nuclear power plant on Philippine soil.

At the very least, in the interregnum between declaration and the implementation of the above provision, the immediate cessation of public funding for the further maintenance of BNPP is mandated.

SEC. 6. Warranty Over Mechanical and Civil Portions Including the Nuclear Steam Supply System and Balance of Plant Equipment. - The NAPOCOR/the spun-off entity shall, after a "GO" finding pursuant to Section 3 of this Act and during the subsequent rehabilitation and certification, warrant that the Mechanical and Civil Portions, including the Balance of Plant Equipment but most especially the Nuclear Steam Supply System of the BNPP conforms with internationally recognized nuclear power industry standards to which applies the BNPP's series of plants: Provided, That the subsequent applicable international operating guideline revisions covering the series or model of nuclear plants to which the BNPP belongs are likewise complied with.

For purposes of the warranty over mechanical and civil portions, the physical example of the KORI II Nuclear Power Plant, aside from and in further preference to it's sister plants; Angra I and KRSKO, will serve as the preferred baseline model or reference.

Sec. 7. Warranty Over Instrumentation and Control (I AND C) Equipment. - After a "GO" finding pursuant to Section 3 of this Act and during the subsequent rehabilitation and certification, the existing main instrument and control equipment of the BNPP may be retained in whole or in part as needed. The NAPOCOR/the spun-off entity shall also ensure that the Instrumentation and Control (I and C) portions, including electronic controls, sensors, and data communication systems, such as non-mechanical servo drives and actuators are modernized according to the technology currently employed by existing nuclear power plants operating in the world. Digital systems may likewise be employed similar to the upgrades being implemented by other existing nuclear power plants implementing improvements of their I and C systems.

Such upgrades in the I and C equipment shall, as may be applicable, include all revisions and guidelines pertinent to the Three Mile Island incident and Chernobyl accident.

For purposes of the warranty over instrumentation and control equipment, the physical example of the KORI II Nuclear Power Plant, aside from and in further preference to it's sister plants; Angra I and KRSKO, will serve as the preferred baseline model or reference.

Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as giving the NAPOCOR the blanket authority to implement, apply or institute physical and/or design changes or other operating guidelines not otherwise proven in the running sister plants of BNPP, namely; Angra I or KRSKO or KORI II, with preference for KORI II as the baseline model or reference.

SEC. 8. Hiring of Technical Personnel. - Upon a "GO" finding of the BNPP, the NAPOCOR/the spun-off entity shall recruit, hire, and engage the services of the skilled manpower for the management and operation of all the

technical aspects of the plant. For this purpose, the technical personnel involved in and possessing institutional memory on the construction and maintenance of the BNPP shall be given priority and be deemed acceptable, subject to requalification, but regardless of their age for those that will be involved in the rehabilitation and re-commissioning process only.

Non-resident aliens who shall be employed as technical personnel by the BNPP must first secure an employment permit from the Department of Labor and Employment: *Provided*, that such permit shall be issued only upon determination of the non-availability of persons in the Philippines who are competent, able and willing at the time of the application to perform the services of the alien personnel.

The KORI II Nuclear Power Plant Manpower Plantilla shall be used as the preferred baseline model in determining the manpower complement of the BNPP.

SEC. 9. Development of Local Skilled Manpower. – The NAPOCOR/the spun-off entity shall implement a program for training, cultivating and developing a pool of local skilled manpower necessary for the management and operation of all the technical aspects of the plant and for a future nuclear power industry including a nuclear power manpower export industry.

Towards this end, the University of the Philippines is hereby mandated to augment its college of conventional power engineering by creating a nuclear power engineering department which shall be considered a higher level of academic attainment. The courses will only be offered for enrollment to the top twenty percent (20%) of engineering graduates which include power, mechanical, civil, electrical and other engineering fields which are applicable to the nuclear power industry, or the equivalent academic prerequisites as may be determined by the Dean of the College of Engineering of the University of the Philippines in consultation with the NAPOCOR/the spun-off entity.

A separate course may be offered by the University of the Philippines which will specialize in nuclear power industry regulation. Again, with the courses only offered for enrollment to the top twenty percent (20%) of engineering graduates which include power, mechanical, civil, electrical and other engineering fields which are applicable to the nuclear power industry, or the equivalent academic prerequisites as may be determined by the Dean of the College of Engineering of the University of the Philippines in consultation with the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute.

Other state universities and colleges are hereby encouraged to offer courses in nuclear engineering and nuclear plant operation including nuclear power plant regulation.

As a jump starter for the creation of continuing nuclear power expertise, a separate budget for hands-on training, simulator training and further academic training abroad of operating personnel and/or outstanding nuclear engineering graduates shall be allocated, chargeable against any excess in the One Billion US Dollar BNPP rehabilitation cost ceiling as mandated by this Act. This may also include the establishment of simulator training facilities which shall be located at a distinct facility which include adequate land area (at least two hectares) on the grounds of the University of the Philippines, to eventually emulate the functions of KHNP Nuclear Power Education Institute of the Republic of Korea.

SEC. 10. Compensation; Salary Rates. - The NAPOCOR/the spun-off entity is hereby authorized to pay internationally competitive rates for all personnel especially those working within battery limits or controlled areas within the nuclear facility: *Provided*, That the manpower complement shall not exceed the average number of personnel utilized per unit of the same type of plant in other countries.

As used in this Act, battery limits shall refer to the controlled area as defined in nuclear facilities.

Sec. 11. Tenure of Employment. - For purposes of this Act, the provisions of the Civil Service rules and regulations shall apply to personnel recruited under Section 10 of this Act: *Provided*, That single act of proven negligence, demonstrated incompetence or irresponsibility shall be ground for termination: *Provided*, further, that all personnel should pass the proficiency examination which shall be conducted every two years as a condition for continued employment.

The proficiency testing for KORI II personnel shall be used as the preferred guideline in establishing the proficiency testing standards for BNPP.

Should it be determined that these KORI II proficiency testing guidelines provide for a more frequent testing interval than the two year interval as provided above, then the more severe condition shall apply.

SEC. 12. Allocations for Disposal of Spent Fuel and Decommissioning of the BNPP including Penalty. - In the operation of the plant, the NAPOCOR/the spun-off entity shall allocate a sinking fund to cover the expenses for the future decommissioning of the plant at the end of its operational life. NAPOCOR/the spun-off entity shall also allocate for the costs of radioactive waste disposal and spent fuel disposal program of BNPP.

Upon collection of the fees for its product namely the generated and sold electricity, the BNPP shall forthwith (on a daily basis) and without exceptions turn over the said funds to the National Treasury. The said funds shall then be converted into thirty three and one third percent (33 1/3%), thirty three and one

third percent (33 1/3%) and thirty three and one third percent (33 1/3%) mix of U.S. Dollar, Euro and gold strictly on the subsequent working day from the receipt of the funds. The purpose of the conversion of the funds into these instruments of value is to ensure that the value of the total fund is not eroded, and is preserved for its future and exclusive use in financing the ULTIMATE disposal (ISOLATION) of spent fuel/high level nuclear waste, plant decommissioning, as the case may be.

The purchase of these instruments of value should be for a price which is at the most, the average price for the relevant trading day. For gold, the commodity exchange which shall be used is the London Bullion Market. For the US dollar and the Euro, they are to be supplied by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, at a price which is the average price for the total trade of the relevant day, at the Philippine Dealing System.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) together with the National Treasury shall be responsible for the purchase of these instruments in compliance with the above provision. Once these instruments are purchased they may not be traded.

Disbursement and management of the fund shall be governed by the implementing guidelines to be agreed upon and promulgated by DOE, NAPOCOR, PNRI and the Department of Finance. The primordial responsibility of these institutions will be to assure the non-erosion of the value of these funds, in real terms.

Any officer and/or personnel of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas or of the National Treasury who violate the provision of this Section or of the rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto shall, upon conviction by a competent court, be sentenced to imprisonment for a period of not less than three years but not more than ten years or a fine of not more than P100,000.00 or both, upon the discretion of the court, without prejudice to such other liabilities under any other existing laws.

The account for the final disposition of spent fuel shall be called the "BNPP Spent Fuel Disposal Fund."

The account for decommissioning the plant and making the then former plant site safe at the end of BNPP'S operating or physical lifetime shall be called the "BNPP End of Life Decommissioning Fund."

SEC. 13. Waste Management and Disposal. - Management and disposal of low-level and intermediate level waste similar to those generated in the medical and industrial sector shall be handled in accordance with the regulatory requirements of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute. In no case shall the BNPP Spent Fuel Disposal Fund be used to dispose of low and

intermediate level nuclear waste. As in the practice of the medical and industrial sectors, low and intermediate level waste disposal shall be funded as part of the BNPP's normal operating expenses.

SEC. 14. *Recovered Fissionable Materials.* - Recovered fissionable materials from spent fuel may be reused by the BNPP: Provided, that the technology is first proven to be economically viable by a working and commercial example. In such a case, the BNPP Spent Fuel Disposal Fund shall NOT be utilized. Instead, the funding for such shall be treated as a separate commercial investment, justified by an appropriate economic model and feasibility study which indicates clear economic advantage to society, the government and the NAPOCOR/the spun-off entity. Ten percent (10%) of the funds emanating from Section ____ may be used as capital for this purpose: Provided, That the original capital for BNPP's rehabilitation has been fully paid back, and: Provided, finally that BNPP has fully paid back all of its loan obligations relating to its rehabilitation.

SEC. 15. *Definition & Extension of Operational Lifetime.* - The operational lifetime of the BNPP shall be defined as forty (40) years from the date of its commercial operation.

Extension of the operational lifetime of the BNPP may be granted by the PNRI: Provided, That the duration of the extended operational lifetime shall not exceed twenty (20) years per extension.

SEC. 16. *Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan.* - The NAPOCOR/the spun-off entity shall, preferably within two years but in no case later than one year before the BNPP is put into operation, present a draft emergency preparedness and response plan in accordance with the regulatory requirements of PNRI. It shall use the original "BNPP emergency and preparedness response plan" as an initial working document culminating in a plan which is comparable in scope to that which is in place either at KORI II, or KRSKO or, Angara I nuclear power plants .

SEC. 17. *Cost of Rehabilitation.* - The NAPOCOR/the spun-off entity shall endeavor to complete the rehabilitation of the BNPP at a cost that is substantially below the cost of a greenfield and brand new coal-fired power plant equipped with sulfur scrubbing equipment, of equivalent power generating capacity. In no case shall the rehabilitation cost exceed One Billion US Dollars (US\$1,000,000,000.00).

SEC. 18. *Commercial Mode of Commissioning.* - The President, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Energy, is hereby given the authority to determine and decide the commercial mode of commissioning the BNPP in accordance with the provisions of this Act. Such mode may be by administration, or by contract.

SEC. 19. *Commercial Mode of Operation.* - The President, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Energy, is hereby given the authority to determine and decide the final mode of commercial plant operation. The President will endeavor to assure that the Filipino people will be the ultimate beneficiaries of the economic cost advantages offered by nuclear power generation.

In the event that the President determines that it is more publicly acceptable or more in the public interest to involve private sector participation in the operation of the plant, the maximum limit for such participation shall be twenty percent (20%) of the total beneficial ownership. Such private ownership must be acquired through a transparent public bidding process.

SEC. 20. *Compliance with Environmental Regulations.* - As far as the environment is concerned, all aspects nuclear shall be subject to the PNRI rulings and standards. With respect to all other non-radiological emissions or hazards, the DENR shall exercise its authority as mandated by law.

SEC. 21. *Benefits to Host Communities.* - The amount of PhP 0.01/ Kwh shall be given as a direct benefit to the province, city, or municipality especially the community and people in the direct proximity of the plant, and equitable preferential benefit to the region that hosts the nuclear power plant: *Provided*, That the benefits to host communities under Rep. Act No. 9136, also known as the EPIRA Law, are not duplicated nor diminished.

The Municipality of Morong, Bataan wherein the plant is physically located will be supplied annually with electric power produced by BNPP for the duration of BNPP's operating lifetime for up to four times its 2009 annual electric consumption at a rate of Four US Cent (US¢.04) in equivalent peso per kilowatt hour (Kwh) computed at the prevailing exchange rate. Or, the Municipality of Morong, Bataan will annually receive power produced by BNPP for the duration of BNPP's operating lifetime, in an amount of kilowatt hours which is up to 200% of Morong's 2009 total electric consumption. This electric power is to be provided by BNPP free of charge. Whichever of these two methods of computation will provide for the greater benefit to the Municipality of Morong, such will apply.

SEC. 22. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Secretary of Energy shall, in coordination with the President of the National Power Corporation/the spun-off entity and the Director of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate any additional rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 23. *Congressional Oversight Committee.* - There is hereby created a Congressional Oversight Committee which shall be composed of Chairmen of the Committees on Energy of the Senate and the House of Representatives and

four (4) additional members from each House to be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively.

The Congressional Oversight Committee shall monitor and make public its findings and any information which it may gather regarding the implementation of this Act.

The secretariat of the oversight committee shall be drawn from the existing secretariat personnel of the committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives and the funding for its operations shall be taken from the existing budget of the (concerned) committees.

SEC. 24. Appropriations. - The amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (Php100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated chargeable against the appropriations of the Department of Energy under the current General Appropriations Act and/or supplemented or augmented by the National Power Corporation and/or the Philippine National Oil Corporation and/or the Office of the President for the conduct and completion of validation to determine the viability of rehabilitating, commissioning and commercially operating the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant as a nuclear facility taking into consideration technical, safety, economic, financial and ecological concerns.

SEC. 25. Options for Sources of Funding. - For the citizen to benefit fully from the cost advantages of nuclear power generation, in particular the BNPP, because it has already been paid for as of April 2007, the citizen must maintain his ownership of BNPP.

The State may therefore raise the necessary equity to preserve this ownership preferably at one hundred percent (100%) or optionally down to the minimum of eighty percent (80%) as provided for in Sec. 19 of this Act, through the collection of a surcharge of Php 0.15/ kwh of the total electric power sold in the country which passes through the power transmission and distribution grid except; from generating capacities which have qualified for incentives under Republic Act No. 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008: *Provided*, that such collection of a surcharge shall not be imposed for more than five (5) years from the date of its initial imposition, nor should it exceed One Billion US Dollars (US\$1,000,000,000.00). The funds collected shall be reimbursed to the electric consumers commencing immediately upon the commercial operations of the BNPP. The time frame for such reimbursement which shall be on a monthly basis shall not exceed four (4) years.

The state is also authorized to enter into international or domestic loan agreements to fund the implementation of this Act: *Provided*, that the total funds raised from the loan and/or the surcharge combined shall not exceed One Billion US Dollars (US\$1,000,000,000.00) net of interest and other charges.

SEC. 26. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 27. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 28. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the official gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,