

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1454

Introduced by

REP. FELICIANO R. BELMONTE, JR. and REP. JESUS CRISPIN C. REMULLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the thrusts of the Aquino Administration as laid down in the roadmap of the President's inaugural speech is to *make our country attractive to investors by cutting red tape dramatically and making the government an enabler, not a hindrance to business as this is the means by which we can create jobs for our people*. The introduction of a legislation to repeal Commonwealth Act No. 613 otherwise known as the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940 is a big step toward this direction.

Seventy (70) years since its passage into law, Commonwealth Act No. 613 has gone through several piecemeal amendments and revisions but has remained inadequate to meet the demands of the changing times. The bill intends to make the law attuned to the complex realities we face today by creating a more effective immigration enforcement agency and in so doing contribute to the development of the economy.

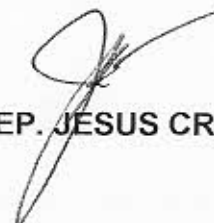
The proposed legislation seeks to reorganize the Bureau of Immigration converting it into a Commission with expanded jurisdiction and streamlined powers and functions to eliminate red tape and enhance efficiency and effectivity in the bureaucracy. The bill is designed to strengthen the function of the Commission as the gatekeeper and a primary economic agent taking into account the duty to safeguard our national borders at the same time to foster investments making the country more attractive to foreign tourists and investors which will help stimulate economic development and job generation.

Specifically, it introduces major changes to the old systems and procedures of immigration used in the country. Key features of the bill include the creation of more visa categories and privileges to foreign investors to provide a friendly business environment and attract more foreign investments into the country, the expansion of the classification of disqualified aliens and the imposition of heavier penalties for aliens involved in syndicated criminal activities to enhance national security and safety of our people.

With the passage of this landmark legislation, the immigration agency will be transformed into an institution that can be more responsive to current realities and can strike a balance between protecting the people from the entry of undesirable aliens and providing channels to benefit the country in terms of tourism and investment opportunities.

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


REP. FELICIANO R. BELMONTE, JR.


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PHILIPPINE IMMIGRATION ACT OF 2010

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

TITLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Title of the Act. — This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Immigration Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — In relation to other states, the Philippines shall give paramount consideration to national sovereignty, territorial integrity, **national security**, national interest, and the right to self-determination, as it adheres to the policy of peace, cooperation and amity with all nations. Toward this end, Philippine immigration policies, rules and regulations under this Act shall be applied and administered in the promotion of domestic and international interests of the Philippines, in recognition of:

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

(b) The need for increased technological and scientific development;

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

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

4 (e) Promoting international order and justice by denying the use of Philippine
5 territory to persons who are engaged or likely to engage in terrorism, human smuggling
6 and trafficking, criminal and other nefarious activities;

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

10 (g) Professionalization of the immigration service by instituting a rigid system of
11 screening and selection of immigration officials and employees and promoting their
12 development.

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

15 (a) "Admission" refers to the process by which a foreigner arriving at a port of
16 entry in the Philippines is allowed into the country by the immigration authorities;

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

18 (c) "Border Control Officer" refers to any person tasked to man the border
19 control station as provided under Section 26 of this Act;

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

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

22 (f) "Citizen" refers to any person who is a citizen of the Philippines under Section
23 1, Article IV of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines;

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

1 (h) "Commissioner" and "Deputy Commissioner" refer to the Commissioner of
2 Immigration and the Deputy Commissioner of Immigration, respectively;

3 (i) "Commitment Order" refers to an order issued by the Commissioner under
4 Section 7 (c) (2) of this Act that directs the detention of a foreigner after it has been
5 determined that a probable cause exists that he/she committed acts and/or omissions in
6 violation of Philippine immigration laws, rules and regulations, or during the pendency of
7 deportation case against such foreigner: *Provided*, That such detention shall not exceed
8 three (3) months, unless there exists other legal grounds for continued detention;

9 (j) "Consular officer" refers to any consular, diplomatic, or other officer of the
10 Government of the Philippines who has been duly granted a consular commission for the
11 purpose of issuing visas under this Act;

12 (k) "Entry" refers to the arrival of a foreigner into any designated port of entry in
13 the Philippines from a place outside thereof. A foreigner having a lawful permanent
14 residence in the Philippines shall not be regarded as making an entry for the purpose of
15 this Act if such foreigner proves that his/her departure to a place outside the Philippines
16 was for a temporary or limited period, or his/her continued absence from the Philippines
17 was occasioned by deportation proceedings, extradition, or other legal process;

18 (l) "Exclusion" refers to the act of Immigration Officers denying admission of a
19 foreigner into the country on grounds provided for in this Act;

20 (m) "Foreigner" or "Foreign National" refers to any person not a citizen of the
21 Philippines;

22 (n) "Hold Departure Order" refers to (1) a directive that commands the
23 Commissioner to prevent a foreigner from leaving the territorial jurisdiction of the
24 Philippines in cases of grant of bail and recognizance pending implementation of

1 Summary Deportation Order, or (2) an order implementing a directive from the President,
2 the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Department of Justice (DOJ), Regional
3 Trial Courts, Sandiganbayan, and appellate courts to prevent a person from leaving the
4 Philippines to any place outside thereof;

5 (o) "Husband" and/or "Wife" refer(s) to those regarded as such by the laws of
6 the country of which they are nationals but shall not include husband or wife by reason of
7 proxy or "picture marriage";

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

10 (q) "Immigration laws" refers to this Act and any other law presently existing or
11 which may hereafter be enacted relating to movement of natural persons to and from the
12 Philippines, and their exclusion, interception, deportation and repatriation;

13 (r) "Immigration Officer" refers to any person appointed under Section 28 of this
14 Act or any employee of the Commission designated by the Commissioner to perform the
15 powers, duties and functions of an Immigration Officer as specified under this Act;

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

18 (t) "Non-immigrant" refers to any foreigner departing from any place outside the
19 Philippines who is allowed entry and admission into the Philippines for a temporary or
20 limited period of stay;

21 (u) "Non-refoulement" means a principle of international law which prohibits the
22 forced return of a refugee to the state or territory where his/her life or liberty would be
23 threatened;

1 (v) "Passport" means a document issued by the Philippine government to its
2 citizens requesting other governments to allow its citizens to pass safely and freely, and
3 in case of need to give him all lawful aid and protection;

4 (w) "Person" refers to natural and juridical person such as partnerships,
5 corporations, companies, and associations;

6 (x) "Port of entry" refers to any port designated by competent authority in
7 accordance with law through which a foreigner may apply to the Immigration Officer
8 thereat for admission into the Philippines;

9 (y) "President" refers to the President of the Republic of the Philippines;

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

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

18 (bb) "Secretary" refers to the Secretary of the Department of Justice;

19 (cc) "Stateless Person" refers to a person who is not considered a national by any
20 State under its laws;

21 (dd) "Travel document" refers to a certification or identifying document containing
22 the description and other personal circumstances of its bearer, issued for direct travel to
23 and from the Philippines valid for short periods or a particular trip. It is issued only to
24 persons whose claim to Philippine citizenship is doubtful or who fall under the category

1 enumerated in Section 13 of Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as "The Philippine
2 Passport Act of 1996";

3 (ee) "Vessel" refers to all means of conveyances, whether aircraft or sea craft;

4 (ff) "Visa" refers to an endorsement on a passport or any travel document issued
5 by a consular officer abroad authorizing the holder thereof to proceed to a designated
6 port of entry in the Philippines and there to apply for entry and admission under the status
7 specified therein; or immigration status granted and/or issued to foreigners by the
8 Commissioner or the Board under this Act; and

9 (gg) "Watchlist Order" refers to an order issued by the Commissioner under
10 Section 7 (c) (4) of this Act that requires immigration personnel to monitor and/or prevent
11 the departure of any person for a period of fifteen (15) days, extendible for another fifteen
12 (15) days, and to notify concerned government or law enforcement agencies, when
13 his/her presence is required in criminal or legislative proceedings, or he/she poses or
14 may pose a threat to national security, public health or public safety.

15 16 TITLE II

17 COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION

18 CHAPTER 1

19 THE COMMISSION

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

1 of all persons. The Commission shall be under the general supervision of the Department
2 of Justice.

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

11 CHAPTER 2

12 THE COMMISSIONER

13 **SEC. 6. Appointment and Rank of the Commissioner.** — The Commissioner
14 shall be appointed by the President and shall have the same rank, salary, and privileges
15 of an Undersecretary of a Department.

16 **SEC. 7. Powers and Functions of the Commissioner.** — In addition to the duties
17 as Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners, the Commissioner shall exercise the
18 following powers and functions:

- 19 (a) Supervise, direct and coordinate the overall operations of the Commission;
- 20 (b) Appoint, and exercise control and supervision over, the officers and
21 personnel of the commission, subject to existing civil service laws, rules and regulations;
- 22 (c) Issue, (1) letter orders after determination of the existence of probable
23 cause; (2) commitment or release orders; (3) warrant of deportation; (4) watchlist orders;

(5) hold departure orders; (6) allow entry or departure orders; (7) blacklist orders; and (8) orders implementing watchlist orders issued by the Department of Justice;

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

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

(f) Act on petitions for declaration of indigency;

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

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

(i) Participate as member of the Special Committee on Naturalization pursuant to Section 6 of Republic Act No. 9139 otherwise known as "The Administrative Naturalization Law of 2000";

(j) Act on applications for retention or reacquisition of citizenship under Republic Act No. 9225 otherwise known as "Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003";

(k) Issue Certificate of Identification to foreigners who have obtained Filipino citizenship;

(l) Issue letter orders and permits to carry firearms, ammunition and communications equipment to authorized immigration operatives for use in enforcement operations and in the execution of warrants: *Provided*, That such firearms are owned and issued by the Commission;

1 (m) Inspect the documents, premises and records of persons covered by this
2 Act;

3 (n) Deputize any official or employee of the national government and local
4 government units, including uniformed personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines,
5 the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Coast Guard to perform immigration
6 duties and functions subject to the concurrence of the Board;

7 (o) Authorize and prescribe the forms and the amount of cash bonds for the
8 provisional release of respondents in deportation proceedings;

9 (p) Impose reasonable fines and penalties for violation of immigration and alien
10 registration laws in accordance with this Act and the guidelines adopted by the
11 Commission;

12 (q) Provide an express lane for the rendition of services upon payment of
13 prescribed fees by airlines/shipping companies or other persons served and to deposit in
14 a government authorized depository bank all such fees received under a trust fund that
15 may be made available for the payment of allowances to employees of the Commission,
16 subject to existing auditing and accounting rules and regulations;

17 (r) Accept donation of materials, equipment or technical services from any
18 foreign government, international or domestic organization, to upgrade the efficiency and
19 operations of the Commission;

20 (s) Submit to the President and Congress, annually or as may be directed, a
21 report on the: (1) number and status of foreigners in the Philippines; (2) foreigners
22 admitted or granted change of status as permanent residents; (3) foreigners who have
23 been excluded or deported from the Philippines; (4) estimated number of illegal
24 foreigners in the Philippines in each calendar year and actions taken to arrest them, by

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

3 (t) Prepare and submit supplemental budget of the Commission for the
4 consideration of the Department of Budget and Management;

5 (u) Prescribe such rules, regulations or other administrative issuances to carry
6 out the provisions of this Act;

7 (v) Prescribe the appropriate forms, bonds, reports, entries and other papers in
8 accordance with this Act; and

9 (w) Perform such other functions inherent to the Commission.

10 CHAPTER 3

11 THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS

12 **SEC. 8. Appointment and Rank of Deputy Commissioners.** — There shall be
13 four (4) Deputy Commissioners who shall be appointed by the President. They shall
14 have the same rank, salary and privileges of an Assistant Secretary of a Department.

15 **SEC. 9. Duties of Deputy Commissioners.** — In addition to their duties as
16 members of the Board, the Deputy Commissioners shall exercise additional powers,
17 subject to the approval of and as may be assigned by the Board, in the following areas of
18 concern as:

19 a. Deputy Commissioner for Administration, Finance, Planning, Legal and
20 Information and Communications Technology;

21 b. Deputy Commissioner for Regional Operations, Registration, Immigration
22 Regulation and Visa and Special Permit;

23 c. Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence, Enforcement, Fraud Prevention and
24 Complaint and Prosecution; and

d. Deputy Commissioner for International Policies, Cooperation and Social Integration.

CHAPTER 4

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

- (a) Decide on deportation cases;
- (b) Act on appeals on decisions promulgated by immigration hearing officers;
- (c) Act on applications or recommendations for revocation of immigration status;
- (d) Act on applications for recognition of Philippine citizenship by reason of birth or marriage;
- (e) Decide on applications for legalization of residence in accordance with law;
- (f) Prescribe and promulgate rules of proceedings before it;
- (g) Cite and punish for contempt any person in accordance with the Rules of Court;
- (h) Prepare and publish operations manual and rules of procedure, including schedule of fees, for all transactions entered into by the Commission with the public;
- (i) Formulate policies, directives, programs and projects of the Commission; and
- (j) Perform such other powers and functions as provided by existing laws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act.

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

Decisions in deportation cases may be appealed to the Office of the President

1 within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof, whose decision shall be final and executory
2 unless stayed by an order of the Court of Appeals. The appeal shall stay the execution of
3 the decision appealed from unless the Board, in the interest of national security and/or
4 public safety, directs its execution pending appeal.

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

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

13 **SEC. 14. *Board Secretary.*** – The Board shall be assisted by a Board
14 Secretary who shall be appointed by the Commissioner. He/she must be a member of
15 the Philippine Bar in good standing for at least three (3) years prior to his/her
16 appointment. He/she shall keep a docket book for deportation cases, applications for
17 revocation of immigration status, applications for recognition of Philippine citizenship by
18 reason of birth or marriage, applications for legalization of residence and applications for
19 refugee status.

20 **CHAPTER 5**

21 **THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

22 **SEC. 15. *Appointment and Tenure*** – There shall be an Executive Director of
23 the Commission who shall be appointed by the Secretary upon the recommendation of
24 the Commissioner, and whose term shall be co-terminous with the Commissioner. He/she

1 must be a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, at least thirty (30) years of age and a
2 member of the Philippine Bar in good standing for at least five (5) years prior to his/her
3 appointment.

4 **SEC. 16. Powers and Duties.** – The Executive Director shall:

5 (a) Advise and assist the Commissioner in the formulation and implementation
6 of the objectives, policies, plans and programs of the Commission;

7 (b) Oversee all the operational activities of the Commission;

8 (c) Coordinate the programs and projects of the Commission and be
9 responsible for its economical, efficient and effective administration;

10 (d) Administer oaths in connection with all matters relating to the business of
11 the Commission; and

12 (e) Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Commissioner.

13 CHAPTER 6

14 THE BOARD OF SPECIAL INQUIRY

15 **SEC. 17. Constitution of Boards of Special Inquiry.** There shall be constituted as
16 many Boards of Special Inquiry as required in the exigency of service but not more than
17 twelve (12). Each Board shall be composed of a Chairperson and two (2) members. The
18 Board shall be designated according to their areas of specialization to be
19 determined by the Board.

20 **SEC. 18. Appointment and Qualification of the Chairpersons and**
21 **Members of the Boards of Special Inquiry.** – The Chairpersons and members of the
22 Boards of Special Inquiry shall be appointed by the Commissioner, all of whom shall be
23 natural-born citizens of the Philippines and, at the time of their appointment, at least thirty
24 (30) years of age, members of the Philippine Bar in good standing, and engaged in the

1 practice of law for at least three (3) years. They shall hold office during good behavior,
2 unless sooner removed for cause.

3 **SEC. 19. Powers and Functions of the Boards of Special Inquiry.** – The
4 Boards of Special Inquiry shall:

- 5 (a) Administer oaths;
- 6 (b) Cite and punish for contempt in accordance with the Rules of Court;
- 7 (c) Issue subpoena in cases being heard by the Board of Special Inquiry;
- 8 (d) Recommend to the Board the imposition, waiver or reduction of fees, fines,
9 penalties and other charges subject to existing laws, rules and regulations;

10 (e) Exercise exclusive original authority to hear and recommend to the Board for
11 final resolution the following cases:

- 12 (1) Deportation;
- 13 (2) Applications for revocation of immigration status;
- 14 (3) Applications for recognition of Philippine citizenship by reason of
15 birth or marriage;
- 16 (4) Applications for legalization of residence in accordance with law;
- 17 (5) Application for issuance of visa for stateless person; and
- 18 (f) Perform such other duties and functions as may be directed by the
19 Commissioner.

20 **SEC. 20. Proceedings Before the Boards of Special Inquiry.** – The
21 proceedings before the Boards of Special Inquiry shall be public and recorded. In all
22 cases, the Boards of Special Inquiry shall meet and act as a collegial body. Only
23 members of the Philippine Bar in good standing shall appear for and in behalf of any
24 party before the Boards of Special Inquiry.

SEC. 21. *Resolutions of the Boards of Special Inquiry.* — Cases before the

Boards of Special Inquiry shall be resolved within five (5) working days from the date the same are submitted for resolution. Said resolution shall be submitted immediately to the Board for action.

CHAPTER 7

DIVISIONS OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 22. *Divisions and Other Operating Offices of the Commission.* — The

Commission shall have the following divisions and other operating offices, namely: (1) Administration; (2) Finance; (3) Information and Communications Technology; (4) Planning and Research; (5) International Policies and Cooperation; (6) Social Integration; (7) Intelligence; (8) Law Enforcement; (9) Fraud Prevention; (10) Legal; (11) Immigration Regulation; (12) Registration; (13) Visa and Special Permit; (14) Complaint and Prosecution; (15) Internal Audit Office; (16) National Operations Center; and (17) Immigration Academy of the Philippines.

SEC. 23. *Heads of the Divisions and Other Operating Offices.* — Each

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

SEC. 24. *Duties and Functions of the Divisions and Other Operating*

***Offices.* —** The different divisions and other operating offices of the Commission shall

1 operate in accordance with their respective duties and functions as defined by the
2 Commissioner, subject to the requirements of efficiency, economy, transparency,
3 accountability and effectiveness, and pertinent budget and civil service laws, rules and
4 regulations.

5 CHAPTER 8

6 REGIONAL OFFICES

7 **SEC. 25. Field Offices of the Commission.** — The Commission shall operate
8 and maintain a Regional Immigration Office in each of the administrative regions
9 including the National Capital Region.

10 The Regional Immigration Offices of the Commission shall each be headed by a
11 Regional Immigration Officer, all of whom shall be appointed by the Secretary upon the
12 recommendation of the Commissioner.

13 **SEC. 26. Changes in the Composition, Distribution of Assignment of**
14 **Regional Offices.** — The Commissioner may make changes in the composition,
15 distribution and assignment of Regional Offices, as well as its personnel, based on the
16 demographics of the Philippines' foreigner population and as the exigency of the service
17 requires.

18 **SEC. 27. Immigration Officers.** — The position of Immigration Officer is hereby
19 created. No person shall be appointed to the position of Immigration Officer unless he is a
20 holder of a bachelor's degree and a first grade civil service eligible. The Immigration
21 Officers shall perform the following duties:

22 (a) Examine, with the assistance and advice of medical authorities in appropriate
23 cases, foreigners at the port of entry concerning their admissibility to enter and their
24 qualifications to remain in the Philippines;

1 (b) Exclude foreign nationals not properly documented, and to admit foreign
2 nationals complying with the applicable provisions of immigration and related laws;

3 (c) Administer oaths in connection with the performance of their duties;

4 (d) Search for foreign nationals on any vessel believed to be used to illegally bring
5 foreign nationals into the Philippines, and to arrest without warrant any foreigner who in
6 his presence or view is entering or is about to enter the Philippines in violation of
7 immigration and related laws, rules and regulations;

8 (e) Act as control officer with authority to prevent the departure of passengers not
9 complying with departure requirements; and

10 (f) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Commissioner from
11 time to time.

12 **SEC. 28. Designation of Employees.** – The Commissioner may designate, in
13 accordance with civil service laws, rules and regulations, any competent and qualified
14 employee of the Commission, to act as immigration officer or assign any employee to
15 other offices within the Commission and/or assign him/her additional or other duties as
16 the best interest or exigency of the service may require.

17 **SEC. 29. Assignment of Employees to do Overtime Work.** — The Commissioner
18 may assign immigration employees to do overtime work or services pursuant to rules and
19 regulations to be prescribed and at the rates fixed by the Commissioner when the work or
20 service to be rendered is to be paid by the airline, shipping companies or other persons
21 served.

22 **SEC. 30. Deployment of Immigration Personnel Abroad.** - Within ninety (90)
23 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the
24 Commission shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement pertinent to the assignment

1 and deployment of immigration personnel to select consular posts abroad who shall
2 perform immigration duties, except diplomatic and consular functions.

3 **SEC. 31. Manning Levels** - On the average, the manning levels of immigration
4 officers of the Commission nationwide shall be in accordance with the number of arrivals
5 in each port of entry as determined by the Board: *Provided*, That the number of
6 employees, as provided in the staffing pattern in accordance with Section 130 of the Act,
7 shall not be decreased.

8 CHAPTER 9

9 BORDER CONTROL STATIONS

10 **SEC. 32. Border Control Stations** - There shall be established Border Control
11 Stations which shall be manned by Border Control Officers appointed by the
12 Commissioner. They shall be under the supervision of the Immigration Regulation
13 Division and their duties and responsibilities shall be determined by the Commissioner.

14 **SEC. 33. Areas of the Border Control Stations** - The Border Control Stations
15 shall be placed in specific areas in the Philippines which shall be determined by the
16 Board.

17 TITLE III

18 IMMIGRATION

19 CHAPTER 1 - NON-IMMIGRANTS

20
21 **SEC. 34. Categories of Non-immigrants and Types of Visa Issued.-** Foreign
22 nationals departing from any place outside the Philippines who are otherwise admissible

1 and who qualify under any one of the following categories may be admitted as non-
2 immigrants:

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

5 1. Business (A-1 visa): Temporary visitors engaged in activities of a
6 commercial or professional nature for a foreign employer or for themselves
7 that will not result in gainful employment in the Philippines. As used herein,
8 the term "business" refers to conventions, conferences, consultations and
9 other legitimate activities of a commercial or a professional nature, but does
10 not include local employment or labor for hire;

11 2. Pleasure (A-2 visa): Temporary visitors who stay in the Philippines for
12 holiday, including sightseeing, recreation or visiting relatives; and

13 3. Health (A-3 visa): Temporary visitors who stay in the Philippines to avail of
14 medical treatment.

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

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

21 (d) Treaty Traders (D-1 Visa) and Treaty Investors (D-2 Visa): Citizens and their
22 family members from a country that has a trade treaty with the Philippines and coming to
23 work in the Philippines for either a company they own or one that is at least fifty percent
24 (50%) owned by nationals of their home country and which company is engaged in

1 substantial trade between the Philippines and their home country shall be granted a D-1
2 visa.

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

8 (e) Accredited Foreign Government Officials, Their Families and Attendants (E
9 Visas): Foreign government officials, their families and attendants coming to the country
10 for official purpose, pursuant to international conventions and bilateral agreements, shall
11 be granted E Visas divided into three (3) types, namely:

12 1. Persons entitled to E-1 Visa: The E-1 Visa shall be issued to persons
13 enjoying diplomatic immunities and privileges, particularly the following
14 classes of foreign nationals:

- 15 a. Heads of the State and Heads of Government and their personal
16 representatives;
- 17 b. Members of reigning royal families recognized by the Philippine
18 Government;
- 19 c. Governors-General, Governors, and High Commissioners of
20 dependent territories and their personal representatives;
- 21 d. Cabinet ministers and their deputies and officials with cabinet rank of
22 ministers;
- 23 e. Presiding officers of national legislative bodies;
- 24 f. Justices or judges of the highest national judicial bodies;

- 1 g. Diplomats and career consular officials;
 - 2 h. Diplomatic couriers regularly and professionally employed as such;
 - 3 i. Military, naval, air and other attaches assigned to a diplomatic
 - 4 mission;
 - 5 j. All members of official special missions of a diplomatic character;
 - 6 k. Officials of international organizations bearing diplomatic passports
 - 7 when traveling on official business;
 - 8 l. Representatives of international organizations who have diplomatic
 - 9 status and bearing diplomatic passports issued by their governments;
 - 10 m. Members of delegations proceeding to or from an international
 - 11 conference of an official or diplomatic nature;
 - 12 n. Accompanying spouses and unmarried minor children of foreigners
 - 13 within the abovementioned categories; and
 - 14 o. Such other officials going to the Philippines on diplomatic missions.
- 15 2. Persons entitled to E-2 Visa: The E-2 visa shall be issued to any other
- 16 person not included in the foregoing list, who is an officer of a foreign
- 17 government recognized by the Philippines, is a national of the country
- 18 whose government he represents, and is proceeding to the Philippines in
- 19 connection with official business for his/her government.

20 This category includes, *inter alia*, the members of the staff of a

21 diplomatic mission or consular post, the staff of international organizations,

22 and official students or participants in programs under the auspices of the

23 Philippine Government or recognized international institutions.

1 The family members of the above-mentioned persons shall also be
2 issued E-2 Visa.

3 3. Persons entitled to E-3 Visa: The E-3 Visa shall be issued to the members
4 of the household, the attendants, servants and employees of persons to
5 whom E-1 and E-2 visas have been granted;

6 (f) Students (F Visa): Foreign students having means sufficient for their support
7 and education in the Philippines who seek to enter the Philippines temporarily for the sole
8 purpose of taking up a course of study higher than high school at a university/seminary,
9 academy or college accredited for such foreign students by the Commission on Higher
10 Education in collaboration with the Commission. Their collaboration shall include the
11 monitoring of the status of activities of such foreign students in the Philippines;

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

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

23 (i) Representatives of International Organizations and Government Agencies (I
24 Visa): Officials, principal representatives and foreign workers of accredited international

1 organizations as well as missions, including their family members, staff and servants. The
2 term "accredited international organization" includes any public international organization
3 in the activities of which the Philippines participates pursuant to any treaty or under the
4 authority of any act of the Congress of the Philippines authorizing such participation or
5 making an appropriation for such participation and such other international organizations,
6 institutions, agencies, programs, foundations and entities which are recognized by the
7 government of the Republic of the Philippines, including those existing and already
8 recognized as such at the time of the effectivity of this Act. The term "staff" includes the
9 employees of persons to whom the E-3 visa has been granted;

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

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

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

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

7 **SEC 34-A. Visa Policy.** – The policies governing the issuance, extension,
8 renewal and conversion of visas referred to in Section 33 hereof shall be jointly
9 formulated by the Commission and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and, when
10 appropriate, the Commission and the DFA shall consult with the concerned government
11 agencies or offices relative thereto.

12 Any visa policy or guidelines to be implemented abroad shall be done by the DFA,
13 with due notice to the Commission and other concerned agencies and/or offices.

14 **SEC. 34-B. Visa Issuance Overseas.-** All non-immigrant visas issued outside of
15 the Philippines shall be done by Consular Officers of the DFA duly assigned at
16 Philippines posts abroad. Immigrant visas, whenever issued abroad, shall be done by the
17 Consular Officers upon the approval of the Commission through the DFA.

18 CHAPTER 2

19 IMMIGRANTS

20 **SEC. 35. Quota Immigrants.** — Subject to conditions set forth in this Act, there
21 may be admitted into the Philippines, immigrants, otherwise known as “*quota immigrants*”,
22 not to exceed two hundred (200) of any one nationality based on immigration reciprocity
23 for any one calendar year and upon allotment by the Commissioner of the corresponding
24 quota number. In the allotment of quota numbers, the following order of preference shall

1 be observed:

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

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

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

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

13 **SEC 36. Allotment of Quota.** — The Commissioner shall, with respect to the first
14 preference, allot not more than fifty percent (50%) of the annual quota allotment up to the
15 end of June each year: *Provided, however,* That if the fifty percent (50%) is not utilized by
16 the first preference, the balance thereof shall be given to the second, third, and fourth
17 preferences in accordance with Section 34 of this Act. Any unused quota allotment for a
18 calendar year cannot be carried over and utilized for the ensuing calendar year.

19 **SEC. 37. Basis in Determination of Quota Allotment.** — The nationality of an
20 immigrant whose admission is subject to the numerical limitation imposed by Section 34
21 of this Act shall be that of the country of which the immigrant is a national or a citizen. The
22 nationality of an immigrant possessing dual nationality may be that of either of the two
23 countries regarding him/her as a national or citizen if he/she applies for a visa in a third
24 country. If he/she applies for a visa within one of the two countries regarding him/her as a

1 national or citizen, his/her nationality shall be that of the country in which he/she files
2 his/her application for a visa to enter the Philippines.

3 **SEC. 38. Non-Quota Immigrants.** — The following immigrants, known as "*non-*
4 *quota immigrants*", may be admitted without regard to numerical limitation and immigration
5 reciprocity:

6 (a) The spouse of a Philippine citizen: *Provided, however,* That the abandonment
7 and failure to give support by the foreign spouse to his/her Filipino spouse and family,
8 legal separation, or termination of the marital status by annulment, declaration of nullity of
9 marriage or divorce where the cause is attributable to the foreign spouse, shall constitute
10 grounds for cancellation of the immigrant visa issued to the foreign spouse;

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

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

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

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

20 (f) A natural-born citizen who becomes a naturalized citizen of a foreign country
21 and is returning to the Philippines for permanent residence therein, including his/her
22 spouse and minor children accompanying or following to join him/her, except the one who
23 has re-acquired or retained his/her Philippine citizenship pursuant to Republic Act No.
24 9225.

1 **SEC. 39. Status of Children Born to Foreign Nationals.** — (a) A child born in the
2 Philippines to parents who are foreign nationals and lawful residents of the Philippines
3 shall be deemed a native-born permanent resident. (b) A child born to parents who are
4 both non-immigrants shall be deemed a native-born non-immigrant or temporary resident
5 and may remain in the Philippines only during the period of authorized stay of the
6 parents, unless he/she reaches the age of eighteen (18) years while continuously
7 residing in the Philippines, in which case he/she may apply for naturalization
8 under existing laws or for an appropriate visa.

9 **CHAPTER 3**

10 **ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS**

11 **SEC. 40. Conditions for Adjustment of Status of Foreign Nationals.** — The
12 status of a foreign national admitted into the Philippines as non-immigrant may be
13 adjusted by the Board to that of a foreigner lawfully admitted as a permanent resident if:
14 (a) the foreigner makes an application for such adjustment; (b) the foreigner is eligible to
15 receive a quota or non-quota immigrant visa and is admissible to the Philippines as a
16 permanent resident: and (c) a quota immigrant visa, if such is the case, is immediately
17 available to him/her at the time of his/her application, without the need of first departing
18 from the Philippines. In all such cases, the personal appearance of the foreigner shall be
19 required during the consideration of his/her application.

20 **SEC. 41. Effect of Approval on Application for Adjustment.** — Upon the
21 approval of an application for adjustment of status under the preceding section, the
22 Commissioner shall record the foreign national's lawful admission as a permanent
23 resident as of the date of the approval of the application and shall be included as part of
24 the quota for the calendar year in accordance with Section 34 of this Act.

1 **SEC. 42. Adjustment of Status, When Not Allowed.** — Adjustment of status
2 under Section 34 of this Act shall not be applicable to (a) a foreign crewman, (b) a foreign
3 national who has violated or is in violation of immigration laws, rules and regulations
4 unless the same is through no fault of his/her own or for purely technical reasons, (c) a
5 foreign national admitted as a temporary visitor without visa, and (d) transients.

6 **CHAPTER 4**

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

8 **SEC. 43. Documentary Requirements of Non-immigrants.** — Non-immigrants
9 must present for admission into the Philippines valid passports issued by the
10 governments of the countries to which they owe allegiance to or other travel documents
11 showing their nationality and identity as prescribed by regulations and a valid visa
12 granted by the Philippine Consular Officer, if required under existing laws, rules,
13 regulations, or multi-lateral or bilateral agreements.

14 **SEC. 44. Conditions and Period of Authorized Stay of Temporary Visitors.** —
15 The initial period of authorized stay of a foreign national admitted as a temporary visitor
16 under Section 33 of this Act shall not exceed two (2) months from the date of arrival.
17 Extensions of authorized stay may be granted under terms and conditions as may be
18 prescribed by the Commissioner: *Provided*, That the total period of authorized stay shall
19 not exceed twenty-four (24) months: *Provided further*, That during the foreign national's
20 authorized stay: (a) he/she shall not take any employment, whether paid or unpaid; (b)
21 he/she shall not establish or join in any business; or (c) he/she shall not enroll and
22 become a student at a school, college, university, academy, or other educational
23 institution, unless he/she is granted, upon proper application, a conversion to another
24 immigration status provided under this Act.

1 **SEC. 45. Conditions for Issuance of Pre-arranged Visas.** — A foreigner who is
2 coming to the Philippines for prearranged employment shall not be issued a non-
3 immigrant visa referred to in Section 33 (g) until the Consular Officer shall have received
4 authorization for the issuance of the same. Such authorization shall be given only upon
5 the filing of a petition with the Board establishing, among others, that no person can be
6 found in the Philippines willing and competent to perform the work or service for which the
7 foreigner is desired and that his/her admission would be beneficial to the public interest.
8 The petition shall be under oath by the prospective employer or his/her representative in
9 the form and manner prescribed by the Board.

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

14 **SEC. 46. Submission of Crew List and Passenger Manifest to the**
15 **Commission.** — Simultaneous to the vessel's departure from the port of origin, the
16 master, captain, agent, owner or consignee of any commercial vessel arriving to the
17 Philippines shall submit to the Commission, within a reasonable time prior to such arrival,
18 the crew lists, passenger manifests and such other information concerning the persons
19 arriving on such a vessel. In the same manner and condition, the master, captain, agent,
20 owner or consignee of any commercial vessel departing from any port in the Philippines
21 shall submit to the Commission, within a reasonable time prior to such departure, the
22 crew list, passenger manifest and such other information concerning the persons
23 departing on such vessel. The crew list of an incoming sea craft shall be duly visaed by
24 the appropriate Consular Officer.

1 **SEC. 47. Inspection of Crewmembers.** – It shall be the duty of the master,
2 captain, agent, owner or consignee of any vessel arriving in the Philippines to have
3 available on board, for inspection by the Immigration Officer, any foreign crewmember
4 employed on such vessel and to detain such crewmember on board after inspection and
5 to remove such crewmember when required by the immigration authorities. No
6 crewmember on board such vessel shall be discharged while the vessel is in port without
7 the permission of the Commissioner.

8 **SEC. 48. Permission for Temporary Landing of a Foreign Crewmember.** – A
9 foreign crewmember on a vessel arriving in the Philippines may be permitted to land
10 temporarily under such conditions as may be prescribed by the Commissioner. All
11 expenses incurred by the Commission while the crewmember is on land shall be borne by
12 the master, captain, agent, owner or consignee of the carrying vessel.

13 **CHAPTER 5**

14 **REFUGEE STATUS**

15 **SEC. 49. Grant of Refugee Status.** – Persons seeking refugee status may apply
16 for recognition as a refugee upon seeking admission at any port of entry or within a
17 reasonable time thereafter. Refugee status shall be granted after a determination by the
18 Board that an applicant meets the qualifications of a refugee as defined in Section 3(z)
19 hereof. Refugee status shall not be granted to an applicant if he/she:

20 (a) has committed a crime against peace, a war crime, crime against humanity or
21 any other crime under international law;

22 (b) has committed a serious non-political crime outside the Philippines prior to his
23 admission as a refugee; or

(c) has been guilty of an act contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

SEC. 50. Cessation of Refugee Status. – Refugee status granted under the previous section shall cease if a refugee:

(a) Voluntarily repatriates himself/herself or has re-established himself/herself in another State;

(b) Acquired a new nationality and enjoys the protection of such a State; or

(c) Can no longer continue to refuse to avail the protection of the country of his/her nationality or, not having a nationality, is able to return to the country of former habitual residence in view of the cessation of the reasons that resulted to his/her being a refugee: *Provided*, That this ground shall not apply if a refugee is able to invoke compelling reasons arising out of the previous persecution.

SEC. 51. Effect of Grant of Refugee Status to Refugee Dependents. – A spouse, minor child, and other dependents of a foreigner who is granted a refugee status may, if not otherwise eligible under Section 48, be granted the same status as the refugee to assure family unity or when it is in the public interest.

SEC. 52. Confidentiality of Information. – In proceedings for the recognition of refugee status, the confidentiality of information shall be respected and no information relating to the refugee shall be shared with the country of origin, directly or indirectly.

SEC. 53. Burden of Proof. – In proceedings for the recognition of refugee status, the burden of proof lies with the applicant, subject to the principle of non-refoulment.

SEC. 54. Stay of Exclusion or Deportation. – Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 78 and 86, the exclusion from entry and deportation of a foreigner shall be stayed during the pendency of an application for refugee status. Where grounds under

1 Section 78 are present, the refugee shall be allowed entry and the application shall be
2 immediately referred by the Immigration Officer to the Board.

3 **SEC. 55. Detention of Refugee.** — Detention of applicants for refugee status shall
4 only be resorted to in cases arising out of illegal entry or unauthorized stay after
5 consideration of other alternatives, as may be determined by the Commissioner.

6 **CHAPTER 6**

7 **DOCUMENTATION AND ADMISSION OF IMMIGRANTS**

8 **SEC. 56. Documentary Requirements of Immigrants; Instances When Not**
9 **Required.** — Immigrants must present for admission into the Philippines valid passports
10 or travel documents issued by the government of the country to which they owe
11 allegiance, showing their nationality and identity and valid visas issued by the Consular
12 Officer indicating the date of issue and the period of validity thereof. Immigrant visas shall
13 not be required of the following:

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

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

19 (c) A foreigner who is returning to an unrelinquished lawful permanent residence in
20 the Philippines after a temporary residence abroad and presents for admission a valid
21 reentry permit.

22 **Chapter 7 — Visa Issuance**

23 **SEC. 57. Nature of Visa.** — Nothing in this Act shall be construed to automatically
24 entitle any foreign national to whom a visa or other travel document has been issued to

1 enter the Philippines if, upon arrival at a port of entry, he/she is found to be inadmissible
2 under this Act or any other law.

3 **SEC. 58. Requirement of Issuance of Visa.** – Under the conditions and subject to
4 the limitations prescribed in this Act or regulations issued hereunder, the Commissioner
5 may approve the issuance of an immigrant visa upon the recommendation of a Consular
6 Officer in the following manner:

7 (a) An immigrant visa may only be issued to a foreign national who has made a
8 proper application therefor, which shall specify the foreign country, if any, to which the
9 quota the number is assigned, the immigrant's particular status in such country, the
10 preference to which the foreigner is classified, the date on which the validity of the visa
11 shall expire, and such additional information as may be required.

12 (b) The Department of Foreign Affairs, through its Consular Office abroad and
13 through the Office of the Visa Director, shall approve the issuance of a non-immigrant
14 visa to a foreign national who has made a proper application therefor in accordance with
15 Section 33 of this Act.

16 All diplomatic visas under Section 33 (e) of this Act shall be exclusively issued by
17 the Department of Foreign Affairs in accordance with the Vienna Convention on
18 Diplomatic Relations.

19 All other non-immigrant visas under Section 33 shall be issued by the Consular
20 Officer, when the application is made abroad, or may be issued by the Office of the Visa
21 Director, when the application is made in the Philippines for conversion or renewal.

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

4 **SEC. 59. Requirements for Physical and/or Mental Examination Prior to**
5 **Issuance of Immigrant Visa.** — Prior to the issuance of an immigrant visa to any foreign
6 national, the Consular Officer shall require such person to submit to a physical and
7 mental examination in accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed by the
8 Commissioner. In addition, said foreign national shall be required to personally plant fifty
9 (50) trees, except when he/she is physically incapable of doing so, in which case, he/she
10 may cause another person to plant the trees.

11 **SEC. 60. Validity of Visa.** — A non-immigrant or immigrant visa issued by a
12 Consular Officer abroad pursuant to Section 57 of this Act shall be valid for a period not
13 exceeding six (6) months. In prescribing the period of validity of a non-immigrant visa, the
14 Consular Officer shall, insofar as practicable, accord to such nationals the same
15 treatment on a reciprocal basis as such foreign country accords to citizens of the
16 Philippines who are within a similar class. An immigrant visa may be replaced under the
17 original number during the calendar year in which the original visa was issued for a
18 foreigner who establishes to the satisfaction of the Consular Officer that he/she was
19 unable to use the original immigrant visa during the period of its validity for reasons
20 beyond his/her control: *Provided*, That the foreign national is found by the Consular
21 Officer to be eligible for another immigrant visa and has paid all the fees.

22 **SEC. 61. Denial of Visa, Grounds Thereof.** — The Consular Officer may deny
23 the application for visa (a) if it appears from the statements in the application or in the

documents submitted the applicant is not entitled to a visa under this Act; or (b) if he/she fails to comply with the requirements of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 62. Revocation of Visa Issued by Consular Officer. — The Commissioner may, for valid cause and upon confirmation of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, revoke the visa issued by any Philippine Consular Office. If the notice of revocation is not received and the visa holder applies for admission into the Philippines, his/her admission or entry shall be determined by the Immigration Officer upon his/her arrival at the port of entry.

CHAPTER 8

RE-ENTRY AND EMIGRATION CLEARANCE

SEC. 63. Re-entry. — Every time a registered foreign national, except a temporary visitor, departs or is about to depart temporarily from the Philippines with the intention to return, he/she must pay a re-entry fee, emigration clearance fee and head fee: *Provided*, That said foreign national returns to the Philippines within a period of one (1) year from his/her departure in order to maintain his/her visa category. Otherwise, he/she shall apply for an extension of the period within which to return prior to its expiration and pay the prescribed fees and charges therefor: *Provided*, That if his/her authorized stay is less than one (1) year, he/she shall pay a special return fee, emigration clearance fee and head fee for every departure: *Provided, further*, That in both cases, if the registered foreign national departs permanently from the Philippines, he/she shall surrender all his/her Philippine immigration documents to the Commission and apply for and be issued an Emigration Clearance Certificate upon payment of the prescribed fees and charges therefor, subject to the following conditions:

(a) He/she has no pending obligation with the government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities;

1 (b) He/she has no pending criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding which
2 requires his continued presence in the country; and

3 (c) There is no ongoing legislative inquiry where he/she is called upon to testify as
4 a witness.

5 **SEC. 64. Emigration Clearance.** — Any temporary visitor departing from the
6 Philippines shall, after the expiration of his/her initial authorized stay, apply for emigration
7 clearance with the Commission and pay the prescribed fees and charges therefor.

8 CHAPTER 9

9 PRESIDENTIAL PREROGATIVES

10 **SEC. 65. Presidential Prerogatives.** — Any provision of this Act to the contrary
11 notwithstanding, the President may:

12 (a) Deny the entry and admission into the Philippines of any foreign national or a
13 class of foreign nationals whenever the President finds that the entry would be
14 detrimental to the interest of the Philippines or impose such restrictions as he/she may
15 deem appropriate;

16 (b) Waive passport and/or documentary requirements for non-immigrants and
17 immigrants under such terms and conditions as he/she may prescribe;

18 (c) Change the status of non-immigrants by allowing them to acquire permanent
19 residence status without necessity of a visa;

20 (d) Deport any foreign national, subject to the requirement of due process;

21 (e) Admit non-immigrants not otherwise provided for in this Act for humanitarian
22 considerations and when not detrimental to public interest, under such terms and
23 conditions as he/she may prescribe;

(f) Prohibit the departure from the Philippines of any person who is likely to disclose national security information, or who is likely to organize a rebellion abroad against the Philippines, or whose presence in the country is necessary to face, or be a witness in, criminal proceedings; and

(g) Exercise, with respect to foreign nationals in the Philippines, such powers as are recognized by the generally accepted principles of international law.

TITLE IV

PROVISIONS RELATING TO ENTRY

CHAPTER 1

CLASSIFICATION OF PORTS OF ENTRY

SEC. 66. Authority to Classify Ports. — The Commissioner shall classify and designate, from among the ports of entry established by law for immigration purposes, limited or unlimited ports of entry through which foreigners may be admitted into the Philippines. Only such classes of foreigners as provided under the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commissioner may be admitted at limited ports of entry. The Commissioner may, after due notice to the public, close designated ports of entry in the interest of national security or public safety.

CHAPTER 2

PROCEDURES ON ARRIVAL

SEC. 67. Inspection by Immigration Officer. — A foreigner seeking admission or readmission shall present his/her valid passport and visa, if required, to the immigration officer at the port of entry and shall be subject to primary inspection. The decision of the examining Immigration Officer, if favorable to the admission of any foreigner, may be

1 challenged by another Immigration Officer. The final determination of admissibility of such
2 foreigner shall be determined by the Commissioner in case no resolution is reached
3 between the Immigration Officers on the challenged admission. In case of admission, the
4 Immigration Officer shall indicate in the passport the date, the port of entry and the
5 identity of the vessel boarded.

6 **SEC. 68. Detention or Quarantine for Examination.** — For the purpose of
7 determining whether a foreigner arriving at any port in the Philippines belongs to any of
8 the classes excludable under this Act by reason of being afflicted with any of the
9 contagious or communicable disease or mental disorder set forth under Section 78(a) of
10 this Act or whenever the Commissioner has received information showing that foreigners
11 are coming from a country or a place where any of such diseases are prevalent or
12 widespread, the foreigner shall be detained or quarantined for a reasonable period of
13 time to enable the immigration and medical officers to subject such person to observation
14 and examination.

15 **SEC. 69. Medical Examination Requirement.** — Any arriving foreign national whom
16 the examining Immigration Officer believes to belong under the class of excludable
17 foreign nationals specified in Section 78(a) herein shall be referred to designated medical
18 officers for physical and mental examination. Such medical officer shall certify his/her
19 findings for the information of the Immigration Officer.

20 **SEC. 70. Arrival Notice Requirements of Vessel.** — The immigration authorities
21 shall be given prior notice of the arrival of any civilian vessel before such vessel comes
22 into any area in the Philippines from any place outside thereof. Such prior notice shall
23 not be required in the case of vessels with scheduled arrivals filed with the Immigration
24 Officer in charge at the international port of entry.

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

5 **SEC. 71. Contents of Notice of Arrival.** — The advance notice of arrival required
6 in the preceding section shall specify the following:

7 (a) Type of vessel and registration marks;

8 (b) Visaed crewlist;

9 (c) Passenger manifest;

10 (d) Port of last departure;

11 (e) International port of intended destination, or other place authorized by the
12 Commissioner;

13 (f) Estimated time of arrival; and

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

15 CHAPTER 3

16 FOREIGN CREWMEMBER

17 **SEC. 72. Conditional Permit to Disembark.** — A foreign crewmember of a
18 vessel under Section 33(c) of this Act may be granted a conditional permit, in a form
19 prescribed by regulations, to disembark temporarily from the vessel on which he/she
20 arrived while such vessel remains in port under such terms and conditions as may be
21 prescribed by the Commissioner.

22 **SEC. 73. Confiscation and Cancellation of Permit; Deportation from the**
23 **Philippines.** — Upon the determination that the foreigner is not a *bona fide* crewmember
24 or does not intend to depart on the vessel that brought him, the Commissioner shall

1 cancel and confiscate the conditional permit already issued, take such foreigner into
2 custody, and require the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee of the
3 vessel on which the foreigner arrived to receive and detain him/her on board. The
4 expenses for his/her removal, including the cost of detention and other expenses
5 incidental thereto, shall be borne by the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or
6 consignee of such vessel.

7 **SEC. 74. Liability for Overstaying Foreign Crewmen.** — A foreign crewmember
8 who remains in the Philippines in excess of the period allowed in the conditional permit
9 issued to him shall be solidarily liable with the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot,
10 agent or consignee of the vessel to pay the penalties prescribed in Section 126 of this
11 Act.

12 **SEC. 75. Liability for Unauthorized Discharge of Foreign Crewmember.** — It
13 shall be unlawful for any person, including the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot,
14 agent or consignee of any vessel to discharge any foreign crewmember employed a
15 vessel arriving in the Philippines and whilst in port, without first obtaining the prior
16 permission of the Commissioner. Otherwise, such person or owner, operator, captain,
17 master, pilot, agent or consignee of the vessel shall pay the Commission such fines as
18 may be prescribed under this Act. No such vessel shall be granted clearance from any
19 port in the Philippines while such fines remain unpaid or while the validity thereof is being
20 determined: *Provided*, That a clearance may be granted prior to such determination upon
21 deposit of a sum or cash bond sufficient to cover such fines as approved by the
22 Commissioner.

23 **SEC. 76. Duty to Report Desertion or Illegal Landing of Foreign Crewmember.**
24 —The owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee of any vessel shall

1 immediately report, in writing, to the immigration officer all cases of desertion or illegal
2 disembarkation in the Philippines from the vessel, together with a description of such
3 foreigners and any information that shall result in their apprehension.

4 **SEC. 77. Requirement for Submission of List of Newly Employed, Discharged**
5 **and Illegally Landed Foreign Crewmember.** — Prior to the departure of any vessel from
6 the last port in the Philippines destined to any place outside thereof, the owner, operator,
7 captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee thereof shall deliver to the Immigration Officer
8 at that port a list containing: (a) the names of crewmembers who were not employed
9 thereon at the time of the vessel's arrival on such port but will depart thereat on the same
10 vessel; (b) the names of those, if any, who have been discharged; (c) those who have
11 deserted or illegally landed at that port, if any; and (d) such other additional information
12 as the Commissioner deems necessary.

13 **SEC. 78. Liability for Failure to Submit Complete, True and Correct Report.** —
14 In case the owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent, or consignee, fails to submit a
15 true and complete list or report of foreigners, or to report cases of desertion or illegal
16 landing, he/she shall pay to the Commission such sum as may be prescribed under this
17 Act. No such vessel shall be granted clearance from any port in the Philippines while
18 such fines remain unpaid or while the validity thereof is being determined: *Provided*, that
19 clearance may be granted prior to such determination upon deposit of a sum or cash
20 bond sufficient to cover such fines as approved by the Commissioner.

21 CHAPTER 4

22 EXCLUSIONS

23 **SEC. 79. Exclusion Grounds.** - The following classes of foreign nationals shall
24 not be allowed entry and shall be excluded from the Philippines:

1 (a) Health Related Grounds

- 2 1. Those who are found to be suffering from a communicable, dangerous or
3 contagious disease;
4 2. Those who are found to be suffering from mental disorder or associated
5 behavior that may pose threat to persons or danger to property;
6 3. Those who are found to be suffering from addiction to prohibited or
7 regulated substance;

8 (b) Economic Grounds

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

13 (c) Moral Grounds

- 14 1. Those coming to the Philippines to practice polygamy or who advocate the
15 practice of polygamy unless his/her religion allows such practices;
16 2. Those who are pedophiles, sexual perverts or those coming to the
17 Philippines for immoral purposes;
18 3. Those who are engaged or who seek to engage in prostitution or to procure
19 or attempt to procure prostitutes, or who receives in whole or in part the
20 proceeds of prostitution;
21 4. Those who, at the time of primary inspection, by the Immigration Officer
22 exhibit any obnoxious behavior, contempt or disrespect for the said officer
23 or any government official or Commission;

24 (d) Criminal and Security Grounds

- 1 1. Those who have been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude or who
2 admit to the Immigration Officer having committed such crime, or who
3 attempt and conspire to commit the crime;
- 4 2. Those who have been convicted, or who admit having committed, or are
5 committing acts which constitute the elements of a violation or conspiracy to
6 violate any law or regulation of the Philippines or a foreign country relating
7 to a controlled, regulated or prohibited substance, or who attempt or
8 conspire to commit the crime;
- 9 3. Those that the Philippine Government knows or has reason to believe is a
10 trafficker of any controlled, regulated or prohibited substance or knows or
11 has reason to believe is or has been an accomplice, accessory, abettor, or
12 co-conspirator in the illicit trafficking of any controlled, regulated or
13 prohibited substance;
- 14 4. Those who are fugitives from justice;
- 15 5. Those who seek to enter the Philippines to engage in:
 - 16 a. Espionage or sabotage, or a violation or evasion of any laws
17 prohibiting export of goods, technology or sensitive information;
 - 18 b. Any activity aimed to promote membership in an organization of
19 syndicated criminal activities;
 - 20 c. Any activity, the purpose of which is to overthrow the Philippine
21 government by force, violence or other unlawful means; and
22 d. Any other unlawful activity.

- 1 6. Those who are engaged or believed to be engaged or likely to engage in, aid,
2 abet or finance any terrorist activity and members or representatives of a
3 foreign terrorist organization;
- 4 7. Those who have been identified by competent authorities, local or
5 foreign, as having engaged or are engaging in human trafficking and
6 smuggling;
- 7 8. Those who are under fifteen (15) years of age and unaccompanied by or not
8 coming to a parent, except that they may be admitted in the discretion of the
9 Commissioner, if otherwise admissible; and
- 10 9. Those who have been identified by competent authorities, local and foreign,
11 as having engaged or are engaging in importation of contrabands and other
12 prohibited articles into the country.

13 **SEC. 79-A. Minor Persons/ Minority.** – Persons under fifteen (15) years of age,
14 and not accompanied by or not coming to a parent, may be admitted: *Provided*, That the
15 written consent of either parent allowing them to travel is presented. The written consent
16 must cite the purpose of the travel and must be affirmed by the Philippine Consular post
17 in the minor's country of origin.

18
19 **SEC. 80. Temporary Detention of Excludable Foreigners.** — For the purpose of
20 ascertaining whether a foreigner arriving in the Philippines belongs to any of the
21 excludable classes of foreigners provided for in this Act or related laws, the Immigration
22 Officer, for a period not exceeding seventy-two (72) hours, may temporarily detain for
23 investigation such foreigner either on board the vessel or at a place designated for the

1 purpose at the expense of the master, captain, agent, owner or consignee of the carrying
2 vessel.

3 **SEC. 81. Finality of Exclusion Order.** — An order by the Immigration Officer to
4 exclude a foreign national who is excludable under Section 78 hereof is final and
5 executory unless revoked by the Commissioner upon a timely appeal prior to the
6 implementation of the exclusion order.

7 **SEC. 82. Authority to Waive Grounds for Exclusion.** — Except for grounds of
8 exclusion under Section 78(d), subparagraphs 1 to 8 and subparagraph 9, the
9 Commissioner may waive any of the grounds for exclusion mentioned therein.

10 **SEC. 83. Procedure of Removal and Cost Thereof.** — Any foreign national arriving
11 in the Philippines who is ordered excluded shall be immediately removed in the same
12 accommodation to the country where he/she boarded the vessel on which he/she arrived,
13 unless the Commissioner determines that immediate removal is not proper and
14 practicable. The cost of detention and other expenses incidental thereto shall be borne
15 by the owner, operator, master, pilot, captain, agent or consignee of the vessel on which
16 he/she arrived.

17 **SEC. 84. Country Where Removal is to be Directed.** — If the government of the
18 country designated in the preceding section will not accept the foreign national into its
19 territory, his/her removal shall be directed by the Commissioner in his/her discretion and
20 without necessarily giving preference, either to:

21 (a) The country which he/she is a citizen or national;

22 (b) The country of birth;

23 (c) The country of his/her habitual residence; or

(d) The country willing to accept the foreign national into its territory, if removal to any of the foregoing countries is impractical or impossible.

SEC. 85. Obligation of Owner, Operator, Master, Captain, Pilot, Agent or Consignee. — It shall be unlawful for an owner, operator, master, captain, pilot, agent, or consignee of a vessel to refuse or fail to:

(a) Board a foreigner ordered excluded and removed under Section 78 hereof in the same vessel or another vessel owned or operated by the same company;

(b) Detain a foreign national on board any such vessel at the port of arrival when required by this Act or when so ordered by an Immigration Officer;

(c) Deliver a foreign national for medical or other examinations when so ordered by such officer;

(d) Remove a foreign national from the Philippines to the country to which his/her removal has been directed; or

(e) Pay the cost of detention and other expenses incidental thereto of a foreign national incurred while being detained as required by Section 82 of this Act or other costs necessary or incidental to his removal as provided in this Act.

SEC. 86. Penalty for Non-compliance of Obligation. — The owner, operator, master, captain, pilot, agent, or consignee of a vessel who violated Section 84 hereof shall pay the fines prescribed under this Act. No such vessel shall be granted clearance from any port in the Philippines while such fines remain unpaid or while the validity thereof is being determined: *Provided*, That clearance may be granted prior to such determination upon deposit of a sum or cash bond sufficient to cover such fines as approved by the Commissioner.

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TITLE V**DEPORTATION****CHAPTER 1****DEPORTABLE FOREIGN NATIONALS**

SEC. 87. *Classes of Deportable Foreigners.* – The following foreigners shall be arrested upon the order of the Commissioner and deported upon recommendation by the Board of Special Inquiry and approval by the Board:

(a) Those who entered the Philippines by means of false and misleading statements or documents, misrepresentations or without inspection and admission by the immigration authorities;

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

(c) Those who engage, abet or aid in the practice of prostitution including the owner, manager or inmates of a house of prostitution or are procurers, pedophiles or sexual pervers;

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

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

(f) Those who believe in, advise, advocate or teach the overthrowing by force and violence of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, or duly constituted authority, or those who do not believe in or are opposed to organized governments, or those who advise, advocate or teach the assault or assassination of public officials by reason of their office, or those who advise, advocate or teach the unlawful destruction of property, or those who are members of or affiliated with any organization entertaining,

1 advocating or teaching such doctrines, or those who in any manner whatsoever extend
2 assistance, financial or otherwise, in the dissemination of such doctrines;

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

5 (h) Those who commit any violation of the provisions of this Act, independent of any
6 criminal action which may be brought against them: *Provided, however,* That in the case
7 of a foreigner who, for any reason, is convicted and sentenced to suffer both
8 imprisonment and deportation, said foreigner shall first serve the entire period of his/her
9 sentence before being deported: *Provided, further,* That the penalty of imprisonment may
10 be waived by the President upon payment by the foreigner concerned of such costs, fines
11 and/or damages, if any, awarded to the government or any aggrieved party,;

12 (i) Those who, at any time after entry, are engaged in acts or omissions punishable
13 under Philippine penal laws cognizable by the Regional Trial Courts and the
14 Sandiganbayan;

15 (j) Those who, at any time after entry, are convicted by final judgment of a crime
16 punishable under Philippine penal laws cognizable by the first level courts;

17 (k) Those who are guilty of any offense penalized under the naturalization laws of
18 the Philippines or any law relating to the acquisition of Philippine citizenship;

19 (l) Those who defraud their creditors by absconding or alienating properties to
20 prevent their attachment or execution;

21 (m) Those who were admitted as non-immigrants and who obtained an adjustment of
22 their admission status for convenience, or through fraud, falsification of documents,
23 misrepresentations or concealment of material facts;

24 (n) Those who violated Philippine labor and taxation laws, rules and regulations;

(o) Those who, upon prior investigation and hearing, are found to be undesirable and whose further stay in the Philippines is inimical to public welfare and interest, or the dignity of the Filipinos, or the Republic of the Philippines as a sovereign nation;

(p) Those who forge, counterfeit, alter or falsely make any document; or use, attempt to use, possess, obtain, accept or receive or provide any forged, counterfeit, altered or falsely made document; or use, attempt to use, provide, attempt to provide, accept or receive a genuine document, even of another person, without authority to do so for the purpose of satisfying or complying with the requirements for his/her stay in the Philippines; and

(q) Those whose presence or activities in the country may result in adverse consequences to Philippine foreign policies as determined by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

SEC. 88. *Non-Prescription of Deportation Cases.* – The right of the State to initiate at any time deportation proceedings shall not prescribe: *Provided*, That no deportation proceedings and orders shall be had against foreigners facing preliminary investigation, prosecution and trial before competent authorities.

CHAPTER 2

DETENTION AND DEPORTATION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

SEC. 89. *Issuance of Summons.* – If the Commissioner determines that there exists a reasonable ground to deport a foreigner pursuant to Section 86 of this Act, he/she may issue summons requiring the foreigner to appear in person before the designated investigating officer at the time, date and place stated therein.

SEC. 90. *Authority to Issue Letter Order.* — The Commissioner may issue a letter order if he/she determines that a probable cause exists for the filing of deportation

1 charges against a foreigner for violation of immigration and other related laws, rules and
2 regulations or there is a strong probability that a deportable foreigner may flee from
3 his/her place of abode, go into hiding or surreptitiously leave the country.

4 **SEC. 91. Formal Charge of Deportation.** – A formal charge for deportation shall
5 be issued upon determination of the existence of a *prima facie* case against the foreigner.
6 Pending final determination of his/her deportation case, the foreigner shall, upon the
7 discretion of the Commissioner: (a) remain under detention; or (b) be released on bail or
8 recognizance. The bail may be revoked and confiscated in favor of the government if
9 there is sufficient evidence that the foreigner is evading the proceedings or is attempting
10 to abscond, in which case he/she shall be taken into custody and placed under detention
11 by order of the Commissioner.

12 **SEC. 92. Detention of a Foreigner Convicted of a Felony or an Offense.** –
13 After service of his/her sentence or compliance with the conditions of his/her parole or
14 probation, as the case may be, the foreigner shall be taken into custody and placed under
15 detention by order of the Commissioner. Pending final determination of the deportation
16 case, the foreigner may be ordered released under such terms and conditions prescribed
17 by the Commissioner.

18 **SEC. 93. Voluntary Deportation, When Authorized.** – In case the foreigner does
19 not contest the formal charge against him/her and opts to voluntarily leave the country at
20 his/her own expense, the Commissioner may waive the deportation proceedings and
21 order the departure within the period specified in the voluntary deportation order, except
22 in cases of violations of laws such as Republic Act No. 8042 otherwise known as the
23 "Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995": *Provided*, That he/she has not
24 committed any criminal offense or has no pending case in court: *Provided, further*, That

1 the said foreigner so deported shall be barred from re-entering the country without prior
2 written authorization from the Commissioner.

3 **SEC. 94. Contents of an Order or Warrant of Deportation.** – The order or warrant
4 of deportation shall be in the form prescribed by the Commissioner and shall state the
5 grounds therefor, the specific place where the foreigner is to be deported and the period
6 within which to execute such order.

7 **SEC. 95. Period to Enforce Order of Deportation.** – The order of deportation
8 shall be enforced immediately but in no case shall exceed three (3) months from the date
9 it has become final and executory. If deportation is not enforced within the prescribed
10 period for reasons beyond the control of the Commissioner, the foreigner shall remain in
11 custody.

12 **SEC. 96. Suspension of Deportation Order.** – Upon application and payment of
13 the prescribed fees by the concerned foreigner, the Commissioner may suspend the
14 implementation of the deportation order and order his/her release for good cause, taking
15 into account the following factors:

- 16 (a) Age, health, family or conduct;
- 17 (b) Period of detention;
- 18 (c) Impact on national security and public welfare;
- 19 (d) Unavailability of travel documents;
- 20 (e) Existence of an application for refugee status; or
- 21 (f) Other humanitarian considerations.

22 **SEC. 97. Reinstatement of a Deportation Order.** – A deportation order previously
23 implemented against a foreigner who unlawfully re-entered the Philippines shall be
24 deemed automatically reinstated and shall be implemented in accordance with this Act.

1 This provision shall also apply to a foreigner who departed voluntarily under Section 92
2 hereof.

3 **SEC. 98. Country of Destination of a Deportee.** – Except as provided for under
4 existing treaty or international agreement, a foreigner shall be deported to the country of
5 which he/she is a citizen or national, or to the country of his/her birth, or to the country of
6 which he/she is a resident, or to the country from which he/she embarked for the
7 Philippines, subject to the acceptance by the receiving country.

8 **SEC. 99. Existence of Danger in the Country Where a Foreigner is to be**
9 **Deported.** – No foreigner shall be deported to a country where there exists a danger to
10 his/her life or freedom on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or
11 membership in a particular political or social group, except in the following circumstances:

12 (a) The foreigner participated, induced or cooperated in the persecution of any
13 person on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a
14 particular political or social group in the country where he/she is to be deported;

15 (b) The foreigner is a fugitive from justice in the country where he/she is to be
16 deported;

17 (c) The foreigner committed a serious non-political crime in the country where
18 he/she is to be deported; or

19 (d) The foreigner is undesirable in and/or a danger to the national security of the
20 Philippines.

21 **SEC. 100. Cost of Deportation.** – The cost of deportation shall be borne by the
22 owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent or consignee of a vessel in case its foreign
23 crew member is to be deported for violation of Section 100 of this Act. In all other cases,
24 the cost of deportation shall be borne by the deportee himself/herself, the concerned

1 consular office, nongovernment organizations or people's organizations with which the
2 Commission has an agreement on this matter, or from the appropriations for the
3 enforcement of this Act.

4 **SEC. 101. Liability of Owner, Operator, Captain, Master, Pilot, Agent or**
5 **Consignee of a Vessel.** – Failure or refusal on the part of the owner, operator, captain,
6 master, pilot, agent or consignee of a vessel to take on board, guard safely and transport
7 the deportee to his/her country of destination, or to shoulder the cost of deportation of the
8 foreign crew member as provided in Section 99 hereof, shall be punished by an
9 administrative penalty prescribed under this Act.

10 **SEC. 102. Expenses of Accompanying Person.** – The Commissioner may, by
11 reason of the mental or physical condition of the deportee, direct an employee of the
12 Commission to accompany such deportee to the country of his/her destination, subject to
13 the provisions of the immediately preceding sections.

14 CHAPTER 3

15 INDIGENT FOREIGNERS

16 **SEC. 103. Deportation of Indigent Foreigners.** – At any time after entry, the
17 Commissioner may deport indigent foreigners from the Philippines to the country of which
18 they are citizens or nationals, or country of birth; or country of residence, as the case may
19 be. The cost of deportation may be charged against the available funds of the
20 Commission. Any foreigner deported under this section shall be barred re-admission
21 except upon written authorization of the Commissioner.

22 This provision shall not apply to a foreigner declared as an indigent by any
23 Philippine court for purposes of filing a case or to pursue a cause of action which
24 resulted in his/her indigency until such action is resolved with finality: *Provided, That no*

1 other grounds for deportation exist during the pendency of the same.

3 TITLE VI

4 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

5 CHAPTER 1

6 REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

7 **SEC. 104. Requirement of Registration.** — All foreigners must register with the
8 Commission or any Immigration Office nearest his/her place of residence on or before the
9 sixtieth (60th) day of his/her arrival in the Philippines.

10 **SEC. 105. Registration Form and Oath.** — Applications for registration shall be
11 under oath and in such form as prescribed by the Commission. Upon registration, a
12 certificate of registration shall be issued by the Commission to the registrant. In case of
13 loss or destruction of the certificate, a replacement thereof may be issued by the
14 Commission upon proper application and payment of prescribed fees.

15 **SEC. 106. Amendment of Registration.** — A registered foreign national shall
16 notify the Commission in writing of any change of information in his/her registration
17 documents not later than seven (7) days thereof.

18 **SEC. 107. Presentation of Certificate of Registration.** — Every foreigner
19 required to register under this Act or the parent or guardian of such foreigner shall, upon
20 demand of any authorized immigration official, present his/her certificate of registration,
21 and failure to do so without justifiable cause shall be dealt with in accordance with the
22 provisions of this Act.

23 **SEC. 108. Reportorial Requirements.** — Every foreigner registered under this
24 Act shall, within the first sixty (60) days of every calendar year, report in person to the

Commission subject to the payment of prescribed fees. The parent or legal guardian of foreigners below fourteen (14) years of age shall have the duty to comply with the requirements prescribed under this Act.

SEC. 109. Failure to Comply with Requirements. — A foreigner, or his/her parent or guardian, as the case may be, who, without justifiable reason, fails to comply with all the requirements under this Act, or who files an application for registration containing statements known by him/her to be false, or who utilizes registration documents other than his/her own, shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this Act and other existing laws.

SEC. 110. Cancellation of Registration of Foreign National. — In case of death of a foreigner registered under the provisions of this Act, his/her legal heir, representative or administrator must inform the Commission within sixty (60) days from death and the Commission shall cancel such registration. The Local Civil Registrar or other civil registry officer of the locality where said foreigner died shall furnish the Commission with a copy of the Certificate of Death within thirty (30) days from issuance thereof. Failure on the part of the persons concerned to comply with the requirements of this section shall be dealt with pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

CHAPTER 2

BONDS AND DEPOSITS

SEC. 111. Bonds, When Required. — The Commission shall have the authority to require cash bonds in such amounts and under such conditions as it may prescribe;

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

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

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

5 **SEC. 112. Requirement of Cash Deposits for Overtime Services.** – The
6 Commission shall likewise have the authority to require cash deposits in such amounts as
7 may be necessary from vessel's owner, operator, captain, master, pilot, agent, or
8 consignee or other persons served to cover payments for overtime services to be
9 performed by officers and employees of the Commission.

10 **SEC. 113. Cancellation and Forfeiture of Bonds.** – When the conditions of
11 the bond are fulfilled, or in case of a bond posted to insure against a foreigner becoming
12 a public charge, when the Commissioner decides that the likelihood no longer exists, or
13 death of the foreigner in whose behalf the bond is posted, the bond shall be cancelled
14 and released to the depositor or his/her legal representative. In case of violation of the
15 conditions of the bond, the same shall be forfeited and deposited in a trust fund account
16 which may be utilized for the purchase of passage tickets of indigent deportees and to
17 cover the costs of operations in the arrest of a deportee who jumps bail.

18 CHAPTER 3

19 RECOGNIZANCE

20 **SEC. 114. Petitions for Recognizance, Sanction for Breach of Conditions.**
21 — The Commissioner may order the release of a foreigner upon recognizance of
22 his/her lawyer or a person who is of good standing in the community, under such terms
23 and conditions as he/she may prescribe. Failure to comply with the terms and
24 conditions of the recognizance shall subject said lawyer or person to a fine of not less

1 than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos
2 (P100,000.00), without prejudice to other administrative sanctions and/or proceedings
3 against the erring party.

4 CHAPTER 4

5 COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER OFFICES

6 **SEC. 115. Working Cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs.** – For
7 purposes of efficient implementation and administration of this Act, the Commission shall
8 maintain a working cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

9 **SEC. 116. Working Cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education.** –
10 The Commission shall maintain a working cooperation with the Commission on Higher
11 Education with respect to accreditation of schools and learning centers for enrolment of
12 foreign students as authorized under this Act.

13 **SEC. 117. Coordination with Law Enforcement, Security and Other Offices.** —
14 The Commissioner shall have authority to maintain coordination with the National
15 Security Council, the Philippine National Police, and other law enforcement agencies of
16 the government.

17 CHAPTER 5

18 FEES AND CHARGES

19 **SEC. 118. Authority of the Commissioner to Prescribe, Impose and Collect**
20 **Fees and Charges.** — The Commissioner is authorized to prescribe, impose and collect
21 fees and charges for services rendered pursuant to the provisions of this Act, which shall
22 take effect fifteen (15) days after the last publication thereof for two (2) consecutive
23 weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

1 **SEC. 119. Head Fee.** — Every foreign national who is at least fourteen (14) years
2 of age and admitted to the Philippines for a temporary stay exceeding sixty (60) days
3 shall pay a head fee in an amount to be fixed by the Board.

4 **CHAPTER 6**

5 **ADMINISTRATIVE FINES AGAINST VESSELS**

6 **SEC. 120. Fine for Failure to Submit Crew List or Passenger Manifest, or**
7 **Failure to Account Every Passenger and Crew.** — Any pilot, master, agent, owner or
8 consignee of a vessel arriving at any port in the Philippines from a place outside thereof
9 who fails to submit to the immigration authorities a complete and accurate crew list or
10 passenger manifest, or fails to produce or account every crewmember or passenger
11 whose name appears in said list or manifest shall be subject to fines of One hundred
12 thousand pesos (P100,000.00) and Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) for each
13 unaccounted person, respectively.

14 **SEC. 121. Fine for Violation of Obligation on the Landing or Removal of**
15 **Foreigners.** — A pilot, master, agent, owner or consignee of any vessel arriving at a port
16 of the Philippines from a place outside thereof in violation of this Act shall be fined not
17 less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than Two hundred thousand
18 pesos (P200,000.00) for each violation.

19 **SEC. 122. Fine for Bringing Undocumented Foreigner, or Foreigner Afflicted**
20 **with Communicable or Contagious Disease, or Suffering from Mental Disorder.** —
21 The pilot, master, agent, owner or consignee of the vessel arriving at a port in the
22 Philippines from a place outside thereof bringing on board an undocumented foreigner
23 shall be fined One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) for each foreigner. If the
24 foreigner is afflicted with a communicable or contagious disease or is suffering from

1 mental disorder, the fine shall be not less than Two hundred thousand pesos
 2 (P200,000.00) but not more than Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) for each
 3 foreigner.

4 **SEC. 123. Fine for Bringing a Foreigner to Assist His Illegal Entry or**
 5 **Misrepresenting a Foreigner as a Member of the Crew.** — The pilot, master, agent,
 6 owner or consignee of the vessel arriving at any port in the Philippines from a place
 7 outside thereof bringing on board a foreigner bound for the Philippines to assist his/her
 8 illegal entry, or misrepresenting the foreigner to the immigration officer at the port of
 9 arrival as a *bona fide* member of the crew, shall be fined not less than One hundred
 10 thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos
 11 (P200,000.00) for each foreigner.

12 **SEC. 124. Fine for Violation of Other Provisions of this Act.** — The pilot,
 13 master, agent, owner or consignee of any vessel arriving at any port of the Philippines
 14 from a place outside thereof who violates any other provision of this Act not specifically
 15 provided in this Chapter shall be fined not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00)
 16 but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) for each violation.

17 CHAPTER 7

18 OTHER PENAL PROVISIONS

19 **SEC. 125. Other Prohibited Acts and Penalties Thereof.** — Any person who shall
 20 commit any of the acts specified hereunder shall, upon conviction, suffer the penalty of
 21 *prision correccional* in its maximum period to *prision mayor* in its minimum period or a fine
 22 of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Five
 23 hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the court:

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

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

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

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

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

13 (f) Knowingly makes under oath any false statement regarding any immigration
14 matter; or

15 (g) Brings into, or lands in the Philippines, or conceals, harbors, employs, or gives
16 comfort to any person not duly admitted by any immigration officer or not lawfully entitled
17 to enter into or resides within the Philippines, or attempts, conspires with, or aids another
18 to commit any such acts.

19 Where the offender of any acts specified in paragraph (g) of this section is a
20 corporation, company, partnership or other juridical entity, the president, general
21 manager, managing partner, or chief executive officer thereof shall be held liable.
22 Dismissal of the employee by the employer before or after apprehension shall not relieve
23 such employer from any liability arising from the offense: *Provided*, That if the offender is
24 the pilot, master, agent, owner, consignee, or other person in charge of the vessel which

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

7 Conviction by final judgment of any offense punishable under this Act or other
8 related laws shall result in the automatic revocation or cancellation of any immigration
9 document issued to the offender, including that of his/her spouse and unmarried children,
10 if applicable.

11 **SEC. 126. Penalty for Non-compliance of Subpoena.** — Any person who,
12 having been duly served with a *subpoena*, fails to comply without valid and justifiable
13 reasons shall, upon conviction, suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not more than fifteen
14 (15) days or a fine of not more than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00), or both, at the
15 discretion of the court.

16 **SEC. 127. Penalty for an Overstaying Crewmember.** — Any foreign
17 crewmember who wilfully remains in the Philippines beyond the period allowed him/her
18 for temporary landing shall, upon conviction, suffer the penalty of imprisonment of six (6)
19 months or fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One
20 hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.

21 **SEC. 128. Imposition of Maximum Penalty, When Applicable.** — A person
22 convicted under Republic Act No. 3019, as amended, otherwise known as the "Anti-Graft
23 and Corrupt Practices Act", or other laws against corruption and bribery who shall violate

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

3 CHAPTER 8

4 FUNDING

5 **SEC. 129. Funding.** — In addition to its annual budget under the General
6 Appropriations Act, the Commission is hereby authorized to retain and use thirty percent
7 (30%) of its income derived from collection of immigration fees, fines, penalties and
8 charges for maintenance and other operating expenses, intelligence and law
9 enforcement, information and communication technology infrastructure, transportation
10 facilities and other capital outlay expenditures. The Commission is likewise hereby
11 authorized to retain and use its income in excess of the prescribed collection target.

12 CHAPTER 9

13 TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

14 **SEC. 130. Staffing Pattern and Salary Schedule.** — To carry out the provisions
15 of this Act, the Commissioner shall submit a new staffing pattern and salary schedule for
16 personnel services to the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management for
17 approval, which shall be in accordance with the Salary Standardization Law and other
18 applicable laws under the National Compensation and Classification Plan.

19 **SEC. 131. Reorganization of the Commission.** — Upon approval of this Act, all
20 employees of Bureau of Immigration covered by the civil service law and regulations
21 shall continue to hold their present positions pending the reorganization of the
22 Commission in accordance with the new staffing pattern: *Provided*, That the salaries,
23 wages, allowances and other benefits of incumbent officers and employees of the
24 Commission shall not be subject to diminution: *Provided, further*, That in the event that

1 the positions are abolished in accordance with the reorganization, the affected
2 employees shall be *retained*. *Provided, finally*, That employees who have been dismissed
3 for cause shall no longer qualify for any position in the Commission.

4 **SEC. 132. *Inventory and Transfer of Properties, Accounts, Assets, Liabilities***
5 ***and Obligations to the Commission.*** — All buildings, properties, equipment, facilities,
6 accounts, other assets, liabilities and other obligations as well as records of the Bureau of
7 Immigration shall be properly inventoried and transferred to the Commission.

8 **SEC. 133. *Treaty or Agreement.*** — Any treaty or agreement entered into
9 between the Philippines and any foreign state before the effectivity of this Act shall
10 remain in force and effect.

11 **SEC. 134. *Pending Cases.*** — Any prosecution, suit, action, proceeding, or any act
12 or matter, civil or criminal, pending at the time of the effectivity of this Act shall not be
13 affected by the provision of this Act unless otherwise applicable.

14 CHAPTER 10

15 ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

16 **SEC. 135. *Administration and Implementation Abroad.*** — The administration
17 and implementation of this Act abroad, including the rules and regulations as well as
18 policies arising from it shall be the responsibility of the Department of Foreign Affairs
19 through Philippine diplomatic and consular establishments.

20 **SEC. 136. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — The Commission, upon
21 consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and other concerned government
22 agencies or offices and subject to the approval by the Secretary, shall promulgate the
23 rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act within one hundred twenty (120)
24 days from its effectivity.

CHAPTER 11

FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 137. Separability Clause. — If any of the provisions of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

SEC. 138. Repealing Clauses. — (a) Commonwealth Act No. 613, otherwise known as the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, as amended, is hereby repealed; (b) All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, memorandum orders, instructions, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 139. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved