

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

640



Introduced by CHRISTOPHER S. CO and RODEL M. BATOCABE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish an online system in the acquisition of clearance certificates from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and decentralizing the process to the municipal offices for a more efficient bureaucracy.

The NBI clearance is a necessity in a number of public and private transactions, one of which is employment in local and overseas companies. Because of this, NBI offices and kiosks serve millions of people everyday, and their seven- to ten-step process becomes susceptible to backlog and the proliferation of fixers.

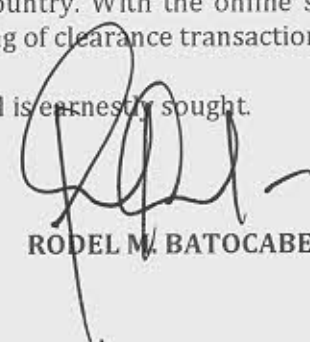
Moreover, there are very few NBI field offices in the provinces that some persons needing NBI clearance will have to travel and spend more than the amount of the clearance for transportation. In Luzon, for example, each region has an average of four (4) field offices, while in Visayas and Mindanao there are only two (2) for each region.

One of President Aquino's goals in his presidency is to reduce red tape and push for an efficient bureaucracy. The development of online government transactions is already being done, particularly in the Department of Foreign Affairs through the DFA Online Passport Appointment System. This is in the same line as the NSO hotline for birth certificate delivery, through which one can now order a birth certificate with just one call, to be delivered straight to one's residence.

The NBI Online Clearance System addresses the need for better services in the acquisition of the NBI clearance without having to spend billions to construct more additional field offices in the distant regions of the country. With the online system, NBI offices may start to expect decongestion and backlogging of clearance transactions.

The immediate and favorable passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


CHRISTOPHER S. CO


RODEL M. BATOCABE

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN ONLINE SYSTEM IN THE ACQUISITION OF CLEARANCE
CERTIFICATES FROM THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI)

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

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the "NBI Online Clearance System Act of 2013."

SEC. 2. State Policy. It shall be the policy of the State to promote and pursue an effective and efficient bureaucracy, free from unnecessary transactions and extended processes, and to render fast, efficient and honest service to all clients. Towards this end, all government offices and agencies must re-engineer their operating systems and procedures to ensure the effective implementation of the policy herein.

SEC. 3. Establishment of online system. The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), with the cooperation of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) shall establish an online system for the acquisition of clearance certificates from the NBI.

The NBI may enter into a public-private partnership to execute this system and may create a website different from its official website to house such system.

SEC. 4. Decentralization to local governments. The municipal/city treasurer shall collect the fees for the NBI clearance, and shall be responsible for the picture-taking provided, that the municipal/city government may hire additional manpower in case the municipal/city treasurer shall not be able to fulfill this responsibility.

The municipal/city government shall retain twenty percent (20%) of the amounts collected from the NBI clearance.

SEC. 5. Increase of payment for NBI clearance. The NBI is hereby authorized to increase its clearance fees to finance the online system, provided, that the increase shall not be more than fifty percent (50%) of the current fees.

The NBI shall retain twenty percent (20%) of the amounts collected from the NBI clearance to cover the operating expenses for the online system, and to provide the city/municipal government cameras for the picture

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,