

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

16th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1102



Introduced by **REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is hereby declared the policy of the State that reverence and respect shall at all times be accorded the flag, the anthem, and other national symbols which embody the national ideals and traditions and which express the principles of sovereignty and national solidarity.

This bill is being filed to reiterate and strengthen respect on the use of our national symbols, such as the national flag, the anthem, motto, coat-of-arms, and other heraldic items for they not only link our collective consciousness to a history, but also as a reminder of how we, as a nation, must continuously strive for justice, equality, and freedom, which these symbols signify.

These proposed amendments to Republic Act No. 8491, otherwise known as the "Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines, are provided in the light of contemporary changes in attitudes and idioms.

For these reasons, the passage of the bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Escudero".

EVELINA G. ESCUDERO

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1102

Introduced by **REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE RULES ON THE PROPER USE AND DISPLAY OF OUR
NATIONAL SYMBOLS AND THE RENDITION OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8491, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE “FLAG AND HERALDIC CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. Sections 2 to 54 of Republic Act No. 8491 are hereby amended as follows:
2

3 “SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy* – **IT IS HEREBY DECLARED THE**
4 **POLICY OF THE STATE THAT [R]**Reverence and respect shall at all times
5 be accorded the flag, the anthem, and other national symbols which embody the
6 national ideals and traditions and which express the principles of sovereignty and
7 national solidarity. The heraldic items and devices shall seek to manifest the
8 national virtues and to inculcate in the minds and hearts of our people a just pride
9 in their native land, fitting respect and affection for the national flag and anthem,
10 and the proper use of the national motto, coat-of-arms and other heraldic items
11 and devices.

12
13 “SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms* – Whenever used in this Act, the term:
14

15 “[a) “Military” shall mean all branches of the Armed Forces of the
16 Philippines including the Philippine National Police, the Bureau of Jail
17 Management and Penology, and the Bureau of Fire Protection]

18
19 “(A) ‘**ADVERTISEMENT OR INFOMERCIAL**’ SHALL MEAN
20 **ADVERTISEMENT OR ANY INFORMATION MATERIAL IN PRINT,**
21 **RADIO, TELEVISION, CINEMA, VIDEO AND THE LIKE, OUTDOOR**
22 **AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA, SEEKING TO PROMOTE INDIVIDUALS,**

1 ENTITIES, PRODUCTS OR SERVICES FOR COMMERCIAL,
2 POLITICAL PURPOSES OR INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS;

3
4 “(B) ‘DISPLAY’ SHALL REFER TO THE MANNER IN WHICH
5 THE FLAG IS PUBLICLY PRESENTED AND VENERATED.

6 “[b)](C) ‘Festoon’ shall mean to hang in a curved shape between two
7 points as a decoration, CURTAIN, DRAPE, ETC.;

8
9 “[c](D) ‘Flag’ shall mean the Philippine National Flag, unless stated
10 otherwise;

11
12 “[d)] (E) ‘Fly’ shall mean the part of the flag outside the hoist or length;

13
14 “[e) ‘Symbol’ shall mean any conventional sign which reveals man’s
15 achievement and heroism (for orders and decorations), identification, authority
16 and a sign of dignity (for coat-of-arms, logo and insignias)]

17
18 “(F) ‘GOVERNMENT ENTITIES’ SHALL MEAN ALL
19 BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT, THEIR BUREAUS AND
20 ATTACHED AGENCIES, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES, LOCAL
21 GOVERNMENT OFFICES, GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND/OR
22 CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL
23 INSTITUTIONS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND THE ARMED
24 FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES INCLUDING ITS BASIC COMPONENT
25 UNITS;

26
27 “[f)](G) ‘Half-Mast’ shall mean lowering the flag to one-half the distance
28 between the top and bottom of the staff. IF THE FLAG IS DISPLAYED IN A
29 HANGING POSITION OR USED IN A PARADE AS A SIGN OF
30 MOURNING, HALF-MAST SHALL MEAN PLACING A BLACK
31 RIBBON ON THE BLUE FIELD HOIST SIDE;

32
33 “(H) ‘HALYARD’ SHALL MEAN THE LONG ROPE WHERE
34 THE FLAG FASTENS AND WHICH RUNS UP THE LENGTH OF THE
35 FLAGPOLE;

36
37 “(I) ‘HANGING POSITION’ SHALL MEAN THE WHITE FIELD
38 SHALL BE ON TOP, THE BLUE FIELD SHALL BE TO THE RIGHT
39 (LEFT OF THE OBSERVER) IN TIME OF PEACE; THE WHITE FIELD
40 SHALL BE ON TOP, AND THE RED FIELD TO THE RIGHT (LEFT OF
41 THE OBSERVER) IN TIME OF WAR.

1
2 “(J) ‘HERALDIC ITEMS/HERALDIC ITEMS AND DEVICES’
3 SHALL MEAN COAT-OF-ARMS, SEALS, LOGOS, INSIGNIAS,
4 BADGES, FLASHES, PATCHES, ORDERS AND DECORATIONS,
5 MEDALS, STARS, CITATIONS, LAPEL PINS, TROPHIES, DRY, WAX
6 OR WET SEALS, AND IMPRINTS ON LETTERHEADS, ENVELOPES
7 AND CARDS;

8
9 “[g)](K) ‘Hoist’ shall mean the part of the flag nearest the staff or the
10 canvass to which the halyard is attached;

11
12 “[h)](L) ‘Inclement Weather’ shall mean [that a typhoon signal is raised
13 in the locality] A WEATHER CONDITION SUCH AS RAIN OR STRONG
14 WIND THAT WILL BE UNFAVORABLE FOR THE RAISING OF THE
15 FLAG SINCE IT WILL LESSEN THE DIGNITY THAT SHOULD BE
16 ACCORDED TO THE FLAG;

17
18 “[i)](M) ‘National Anthem’ shall mean the Philippine National Anthem,
19 ENTITLED “LUPANG HINIRANG”;

20
21 (N) ‘NHCP’ SHALL MEAN THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL
22 COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES;

23
24 “[j)](O) ‘Official Residences’ shall mean Malacañang, and other
25 government-owned structures where the President resides, [and other structures
26 occupied by] the Philippine ConsulateS or Embassies abroad, AND OTHER
27 STRUCTURES OCCUPIED BY NATIONAL AND LOCAL PUBLIC
28 OFFICIALS;

29
30 “[k)](P) ‘Places of Frivolity’ shall mean places of hilarity marked by or
31 providing boisterous merriment or recreation; [and]

32
33 “[l) ‘Institute’ shall mean the National Historical Institute.];
34

35 “(Q) ‘PHILIPPINE SUN’ SHALL MEAN THE GOLDEN
36 SUNBURST WITH EIGHT EQUALLY SPACED RAYS DISPLAYED IN
37 THE FLAG. EACH RAY HAVING ONE MAJOR BEAM, TWICE AS
38 BROAD AS THE TWO MINOR BEAMS ON EITHER SIDE;

39
40 “(R) ‘SYMBOL’ SHALL MEAN ANY CONVENTIONAL SIGN

1 SHOWN OR DISPLAYED IN MEDALS, CITATIONS, ORDERS,
2 AND DECORATIONS OR IDENTIFICATION OR AUTHORITY SUCH
3 AS COAT- OF-ARMS, LOGOS AND INSIGNIAS;

4
5 “(S) ‘UNIFORMED SERVICE’ SHALL MEAN ALL BRANCHES
6 OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, THOSE OF THE
7 PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT
8 AND PENOLOGY, BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, BUREAU
9 OF IMMIGRATION, BUREAU OF CUSTOMS, PHILIPPINE
10 COAST GUARD, AND OF OTHER AGENCIES USING RANK INSIGNIA;

11
12 “(T) ‘VEXILLARY ITEMS’ SHALL MEAN NATIONAL, LOCAL,
13 HOUSE FLAGS, OR ADMINISTRATIVE, INSTITUTIONAL,
14 CORPORATE, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL BANNERS; AND

15
16 “(U) ‘100 TO 120 METRONOME’ SHALL MEAN THE
17 REGULATED AURAL, VISUAL OR TACTILE PULSE TO ESTABLISH
18 A STEADY TEMPO IN THE RENDITION OF THE NATIONAL
19 ANTHEM.”

20 21 CHAPTER I

22 THE NATIONAL FLAG

23 [A. Design of the National Flag]

24
25 “SEC. 4. *DESIGN OF THE NATIONAL FLAG* – The flag of the
26 Philippines shall be blue, white and red with an eight-rayed golden-yellow sun
27 and three five-pointed stars, as consecrated and honored by the people.”

28 29 [B. Hoisting and Display of the National Flag]

30
31 “SEC. 5. *HOISTING AND DISPLAY OF THE NATIONAL FLAG.* –
32 The flag shall be **HOISTED OR** displayed in all public buildings, official
33 residences, public plazas, and institutions of learning everyday throughout the
34 year.”

35
36 “SEC. 6. *WHERE FLAG SHOULD BE PERMANENTLY*
37 *DISPLAYED* – The flag shall be permanently hoisted, day and night throughout
38 the year, in front of the following: [at] (A) Malacañang Palace; [the] (B)
39 SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES BUILDING; [Congress of the Philippines]

1 (C) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES building; (D) Supreme Court building;
2 [the] (E) Rizal Monument in Luneta, CITY OF Manila; (F) Aguinaldo Shrine in
3 Kawit, Cavite; (G) Barasoain Shrine in Malolos, Bulacan; [the] (H) Tomb of the
4 Unknown Soldier, *Libingan ng mga Bayani* IN TAGUIG CITY, METRO
5 MANILA; (I) ALL MEMORIALS DEDICATED TO THE VETERANS OF
6 THE MILITARY; (J) *Mausoleo de los Veteranos de la Revolucion* IN THE
7 NORTH CEMETERY, CITY OF MANILA; (K) MARCELA
8 AGONCILLO HISTORICAL LANDMARK IN TAAL, BATANGAS; (L)
9 PINAGLABANAN HISTORICAL LANDMARK IN SAN JUAN CITY,
10 METRO MANILA; (M) all International Ports of Entry and (N) all other
11 places as may be SUBSEQUENTLY designated AND MARKED by the
12 [Institute] NHCP.

13
14 “The flag, ON THE ABOVE-STATED PLACES, shall be properly
15 illuminated at night.”

16 “SEC. 7. *DISPLAY OF FLAG IN PRIVATE BUILDINGS AND*
17 *OFFICES.* – The flag shall also be displayed in private buildings and
18 residences or raised [in the open on flag-staffs] ON FLAGPOLES in front of
19 said buildings [every April 9 (*Araw ng Kagitingan*); May 1 (Labor Day); May 28
20 (National Flag Day) to June 12 (Independence Day); last Sunday of August
21 (National Heroes Day); November 30 (Bonifacio Day); and December 30 (Rizal
22 Day); and December 30 (Rizal Day); on such other days as may be declared by
23 the President and/or the local chief executives] DURING FLAG DAYS, AS
24 PROVIDED IN SEC. 25 OF THIS ACT.

25
26 “The flag may also be displayed throughout the year in private buildings
27 or offices or raised [in the open on flag-staffs] ON FLAGPOLES in front of
28 private buildings: *Provided, That* [they] THE OCCUPANTS OF THE SAID
29 BUILDING SHALL observe flag-raising ceremonies in accordance with the
30 IMPLEMENTING rules and regulations (IRR) to be issued by the [Office of the
31 President] NHCP.”

32
33 [SEC. 8. All government agencies and instrumentalities, and local
34 government offices, government-owned corporations and local
35 government units are enjoined to observe flag day with appropriate ceremonies.
36 Socio-civic groups, non-government organizations and the private sector are
37 exhorted to cooperate in making the celebrations a success.]
38

1 “SEC. [9] **8. DISPLAY OF FLAG ON SEAFARINGVESSELS.** – The
2 flag shall be flown on [merchant ships] **ALL SEAFARING VESSELS** of
3 Philippine registry [of more than one thousand (1000) gross tons and on all naval
4 vessels].

5
6 “On board [naval] **SEAFARING** vessels, the flag shall be displayed on
7 the flagstaff at the stern when the ship is at anchor. The flag shall be hoisted
8 to the gaff at the aftermast when the ship is at sea.

9
10 “SEC. [10] **9. THE BLUE, RED AND WHITE FIELDS OF THE**
11 **FLAG** – The flag, if [flown from a flagpole] **HOISTED** shall have its blue field
12 on top in time of peace and the red field on top in time of war; if in a hanging
13 position, **THE WHITE FIELD SHALL BE ON TOP**, the blue field shall be to
14 the right (left of the observer) in time of peace, and the **WHITE FIELD SHALL**
15 **BE ON TOP**, and the red field to the right (left of the observer) in time of war.”

16
17 [The flagpole staff must be straight and slightly tapering at the top.]

18
19 “SEC. [11]**10. FLAGPOLE IN THE OPEN FIELD.** – If planted on the
20 ground, the flagpole shall be at a prominent place and shall be of such
21 height as would give the flag the commanding position in relation to the buildings
22 in the vicinity. **THE FLAGPOLE STAFF MUST BE STRAIGHT AND**
23 **SLIGHTLY TAPERING AT THE TOP.**

24
25 “If attached to a building, the flagpole shall be on top of its roof or
26 anchored on a sill projecting at an angle upward.

27
28 “If on stage or platform or government office, the flag shall be at the left
29 **OF THE OBSERVER** (facing the stage) or left of the office upon entering.

30
31 “SEC. [12]**11. THE PHILIPPINE FLAG WHEN FLOWN WITH**
32 **ANOTHER FLAG.** – When the Philippine flag is flown with another flag, the
33 flags, if both are national flags, must be flown on separate staffs of the same
34 height and shall be of equal size. The Philippine flag shall be **TO THE LEFT**
35 **OF THE OBSERVER AND** hoisted first and lowered last.

36
37 “If the other flag is not a national flag, it may be flown **DURING**
38 **SPECIAL OCCASIONS** in the same [lineyard] **HALYARD** as the Philippine
39 flag but below the latter and it cannot be of greater size than the Philippine flag.

1 “SEC. [13] 12. *THE PHILIPPINE FLAG WHEN DISPLAYED WITH*
2 *ANOTHER FLAG.* – When displayed with another flag, the Philippine
3 flag shall be on the right of the other flag (**LEFT OF THE OBSERVER**). If
4 there is a line of other flags, the Philippine flag shall be [in the middle of the line]
5 **AT THE LEFTMOST OF THE OBSERVER.**

6
7 “When carried in a parade with flags which are not national flags, the
8 Philippine flag shall be in front of the center of the line.

9
10 “**ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL FOR THE DISPLAY OF THE**
11 **PHILIPPINE FLAG SHALL BE CONTAINED IN THE IRR TO BE**
12 **ISSUED BY THE NHCP PURSUANT TO THE COMMON**
13 **PROVISIONS STATED IN THIS ACT.”**

14
15 “SEC. [14] 13. *PROPER USE, DISPOSAL AND REPLACEMENT OF*
16 *WORN OUT FLAG.* – **THE FLAG SHALL BE REPLACED**
17 **IMMEDIATELY BY THE CONCERNED AGENCY/**
18 **INSTITUTION/OFFICE WHEN IT BEGINS TO SHOW SIGNS OF WEAR**
19 **AND TEAR.**

20
21 [A] **THE** flag worn out through wear and tear shall not be thrown away. It
22 shall be **TURNU OVER TO THE APPROPRIATE BOY SCOUTS OR**
23 **GIRL SCOUTS LOCAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOUND IN THE**
24 **NEAREST SCHOOL WHO SHALL CONDUCT PROPER DISPOSAL**
25 **UTES ON THE WORN OUT FLAG/S** [solemnly burned] to avoid misuse or
26 desecration. [The flag shall be replaced immediately when it begins to show signs
27 of wear and tear.]

28
29 “**THE MANNER OF DISPOSAL OF THE WORN OUT FLAG**
30 **SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES TO BE ISSUED BY**
31 **THE NHCP.”**

32
33 “**FLAGS WHICH ARE OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE,**
34 **WHETHER LOCAL OR NATIONAL, SHALL BE PRESERVED OR**
35 **KEPT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES ON CONSERVATION**
36 **AND PRESERVATION OF THE NHCP.”**

37
38 “SEC. [15] 14. *APPROPRIATE TIME FOR FLAG RAISING AND*
39 *LOWERING* – The flag shall be raised at sunrise and lowered at sunset. It shall

1 be on the mast at the start of official office hours, **AND** shall remain flying
2 throughout the day.

3
4 “SEC. [16] **15. MANNER OF DISPLAYING THE FLAG.** – The flag
5 may be displayed:

6 “(a) Inside or outside a building or on stationary **OR MOVABLE**
7 flagpoles. If the flag is displayed indoors on a flagpole, it shall be placed at the
8 left of the observer as one enters the room;

9
10 “(b) From the top of the flagpole, which shall be at a prominent place or a
11 commanding position in relation to the surrounding buildings;

12
13 “(c) From a staff projecting upward from the window sill, canopy,
14 balcony or façade of a building;

15
16 “(d) In a suspended position from a rope extending from a building **OR**
17 **LAMPOST** to A pole erected away from the building;

18
19 “(e) Flat against the wall vertically with the sun and stars on top; and
20

21 “(f) Hanging in a vertical position across a street, with the blue field
22 pointing east, if the road is heading south or north, or pointing north if the road is
23 heading east or west.

24
25 “The flag shall not be raised [when the weather is inclement] **DURING**
26 **INCLEMENT WEATHER.** If already raised **PRIOR TO INCLEMENT**
27 **WEATHER,** the flag shall not be lowered.”

28
29 “SEC. [17]**16. MANNER OF HOISTING THE FLAG.** – The flag shall
30 be hoisted to the top briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

31
32 “The flag shall never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, flood,
33 water or other objects.

34
35 “After being lowered, the flag shall be handled and folded solemnly as
36 part of the ceremony.”

1 “SEC. [18] 17. *FLAG CEREMONY IN PUBLIC OFFICES AND*
2 *EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.* – All government offices and educational
3 institutions shall henceforth observe the flag-raising ceremony every Monday
4 morning and the flag lowering ceremony every Friday afternoon. The ceremony
5 shall be simple and dignified and shall include the playing [or] **AND**
6 **MANDATORY** singing of the Philippine National Anthem.”

7
8 [SEC. 19. The Office of the President upon the recommendation of the
9 Institute shall issue rules and regulations for the proper conduct of flag
10 ceremony.]

11
12 “SEC. [20] 18. *DIGNITY IN THE OBSERVANCE OF FLAG*
13 *CEREMONY.* – The observance of the flag ceremony in official or civic
14 gatherings shall be simple and dignified and shall include the playing [or] **AND**
15 **MANDATORY** singing of the **NATIONAL** anthem in its original Filipino lyrics
16 and march tempo.”

17
18 “SEC. [21] 19. *FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY.* – During the flag-raising
19 ceremony, the assembly shall stand in formation facing the flag. **PROPER**
20 **ANNOUNCEMENT SHALL BE MADE PRIOR TO THE SINGING OF**
21 **THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.** At the moment the first note of the anthem is
22 heard, everyone in the premises shall come to attention; moving vehicles shall
23 stop. All persons present shall place their right palms over their chests, those with
24 hats shall uncover, while those in military, scouting, security guard, and citizens
25 in military training uniforms shall give the salute prescribed by their regulations,
26 which salute shall be completed upon the last note of the anthem.

27
28 “The assembly shall sing the Philippine [n]National [a]Anthem,
29 accompanied by a band, if available, and at the first note, the flag shall be raised
30 briskly.

31
32 “The same procedure shall be observed when the flag is passing in review
33 or in parade.”

34
35 “SEC. [22] 20. *FLAG-LOWERING CEREMONY.* – During the flag
36 lowering, the flag shall be lowered solemnly and slowly so that the flag shall be
37 down the mast at the sound of the last note of the **NATIONAL** anthem. Those in

1 the assembly shall observe the same deportment or shall observe the same
2 behavior as for the flag-raising ceremony.”

3
4 [D. Half Mast]

5
6 “SEC. [23] 21. *FLAG IN HALF-MAST.* – The flag shall be flown at half-
7 mast as a sign of mourning on all the buildings and places [where it is displayed,
8 as provided for in this Act] **WHERE THE DECEASED WAS HOLDING**
9 **OFFICE**, on the day of official announcement of the death of any of the
10 following officials:

11
12 “(a) The President or a former President, **THE FLAG SHALL BE**
13 **FLOWN AT HALF-MAST** for ten (10) days;

14
15 “(b) The Vice-President, the Chief Justice, the President of the Senate, and
16 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, **THE FLAG SHALL BE FLOWN**
17 **AT HALF-MAST** for seven (7) days; and

18
19 “(c) [Other persons to be determined by the Institute,] **THE**
20 **INCUMBENT MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE CABINET,**
21 **THE SENATE OR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND SUCH**
22 **OTHER PERSONS AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE NHCP, THE**
23 **FLAG SHALL BE FLOWN AT HALF-MAST** for any period less than seven
24 (7) days;

25
26 [“The flag shall be flown at half-mast on all the buildings and places
27 where the decedent was holding office, on the day of death until the day of
28 interment of an incumbent member of the Supreme Court, the Cabinet, the Senate
29 or the House of Representatives, and such other persons as may be determined by
30 the Institute.]

31
32 “The flag when flown at half-mast shall be first hoisted to the peak for a
33 moment then lowered to the half-mast position. The flag shall again be raised
34 briskly to the peak before it is lowered for the day.”

35
36
37 [E. Casket]

38
39 “SEC. [24]22. *FLAG OVER THE CASKET.* – The flag may be used to
40 cover the caskets of the honored dead of the military veterans of previous wars

national artists, and of civilians who have rendered distinguished service to the nation, as maybe determined by the local government unit concerned. In such cases, the flag shall be placed such that the white triangle shall be at the head and the blue portion shall cover the right side of the caskets [.] **PROVIDED, THAT IN AN OPEN CASKET, TO VIEW THE CORPSE, THE NATIONAL FLAG SHALL BE FOLDED AND PLACED OVER IT.** The flag shall not be lowered to the grave or allowed to touch the ground, but shall be folded solemnly and handed over to the heirs of the deceased.”

[F. Pledge to the Flag]

“SEC. [25]23. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** – The following shall be the Pledge of Allegiance to the Philippine Flag:

*“Ako ay Pilipino
Buong katapatang nanunumpa
Sa watawat ng Pilipinas
At sa bansang kanyang sinasagisag
Na may dangal, katarungan at kalayaan
Na pinakikilos ng sambayanang
Maka-Diyos
Maka-tao
Makakalikasan at
Makabansa*

“[Such pledge] **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE PHILIPPINE FLAG** shall be recited while standing with the right hand with palm open raised shoulder high. Individuals whose faith or religious beliefs prohibit them from making such pledge must, nonetheless, show full respect when the pledge is being rendered by standing at attention.”

“SEC. 24. **OATH OF PATRIOTISM.** – **THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE THE OATH OF PATRIOTISM TO THE PHILIPPINES WHICH SHALL BE RECITED BY STUDENTS IN ALL LEVELS IN ADDITION TO THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE PHILIPPINE FLAG:**

INIIBIG KO ANG PILIPINAS.

ITO ANG AKING LUPANG SINILANGAN.

ITO ANG TAHANAN NG AKING LAHI.

1 AKO'Y KANYANG KINUKUPKOP AT TINUTULUNGAN
2 UPANG MAGING MALAKAS, MALIGAYA, AT
3 KAPAKIPAKINABANG.
4 BILANG GANTI, DIRINGGIN KO ANG PAYO NG AKING MGA
5 MAGULANG.
6 SUSUNDIN KO ANG MGA TUNTUNIN NG AKING PAARALAN.
7 TUTUPARIN KO ANG MGA TUNGKULIN NG ISANG
8 MAMAMAYANG MAKABAYAN AT MASUNURIN SA BATAS.
9 PAGLILINGKURAN KO ANG AKING BAYAN
10 NANG WALANG PAG-IIMBOT
11 AT NANG BUONG KATAPATAN.
12 SISIKAPIN KONG MAGING ISANG TUNAY NA PILIPINO,
13 SA ISIP, SA SALITA, AT SA GAWA.

14
15 THE OATH OF PATRIOTISM SHALL BE RECITED WHILE
16 STANDING WITH THE RIGHT HAND WITH THE PALM OPEN
17 RAISED SHOULDER HIGH. IT SHALL BE RECITED IN ALL BASIC
18 EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AFTER THE SINGING OF THE
19 NATIONAL ANTHEM. INDIVIDUALS WHOSE FAITH OR RELIGIOUS
20 BELIEFS PROHIBIT THEM FROM MAKING SUCH OATH MUST,
21 NONETHELESS, SHOW FULL RESPECT WHEN THE OATH IS BEING
22 RENDERED BY STANDING AT ATTENTION.”

23
24 [G. Flag Days]

25
26 “SEC. [26] 25. *FLAG DAYS*. – The period from May 28 (NATIONAL
27 FLAG DAY) to June 12 (INDEPENDENCE DAY) of each year is declared as
28 Flag Days, during which period all offices, agencies and instrumentalities of
29 government, business establishments, institutions of learning and private homes
30 are [enjoined] OBLIGATED to display the flag; *PROVIDED, HOWEVER,*
31 THAT THE FLAG SHALL BE DISPLAYED IN PRIVATE BUILDINGS
32 AND RESIDENCES OR RAISED ON FLAGPOLES IN FRONT OF SAID
33 BUILDINGS EVERY APRIL 9 (*ARAW NG KAGITINGAN*); MAY 1
34 (*LABOR DAY*); MAY 28 (*NATIONAL FLAG DAY*) TO JUNE 12
35 (*INDEPENDENCE DAY*); LAST SUNDAY OF AUGUST (*NATIONAL*
36 *HEROES DAY*); NOVEMBER 30 (*BONIFACIO DAY*); AND DECEMBER
37 30 (*RIZAL DAY*); AND ON SUCH OTHER DAYS AS MAY BE

1 DECLARED BY THE PRESIDENT AND/OR LOCAL CHIEF
2 EXECUTIVES.”

3
4 “SEC. 26. *OBSERVANCE OF FLAG DAYS.* – ALL GOVERNMENT
5 AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
6 OFFICES, GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND/OR CONTROLLED
7 CORPORATIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS ARE
8 ENJOINED TO OBSERVE FLAG DAY WITH APPROPRIATE
9 CEREMONIES. SOCIO-CIVIC GROUPS, NON-GOVERNMENT
10 ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE EXHORTED TO
11 COOPERATE IN MAKING THE CELEBRATION A SUCCESS.”

12
13 [H Specifications of the National Flag]

14
15 “SEC. 27. *FLAG PROPORTIONS.* – The flag shall have the following
16 proportions. The width of the flag, **ONE** (1); the length of the flag, **TWO** (2); and
17 the sides of the white triangle, **ONE** (1).”

18
19 “SEC. 28. *FLAG TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.* – The technical
20 specifications **OF THE FLAG** shall be as follows:

21
22 “The blue color shall bear Cable No. 80173; the white color, Cable No.
23 80001; the red color, Cable No. 80108; and the golden yellow, Cable No. 80068.”

24
25 “SEC. 29. *STANDARDS FOR FLAG REQUISITION.* – In order to
26 establish uniform criteria in the making of our national flag and to guarantee its
27 durability by the use of quality materials, the following standards and procedures
28 shall be observed:

29
30 “(a) All requisitions for the purchase of the Philippine National Flag must
31 be based on strict compliance with the design, color, craftsmanship and material
32 requirements of the [G] Government;

33
34 “(b) All submitted samples of flags by accredited suppliers offered for
35 purchase for government use shall be evaluated as to design, color and
36 craftsmanship specifications by the [Institute] **NHCP**, through its Heraldry and
37 Display Section, which shall stamp its approval or disapproval on the canvass
38 reinforcement of the flag sample submitted. The samples shall be sent to the
39 [Institute] **NHCP** by the requisitioning office, not by the flag supplier; and
40

1 “(a) To mutilate, deface, defile, trample on or cast contempt or commit
2 any act or omission casting dishonor or ridicule upon the flag [or over its
3 surface], **ANTHEM, SEAL, MOTTO, COAT-OF-ARMS, AND OTHER**
4 **HERALDIC ITEMS AND DEVICES;**

5
6 “(b) To dip the flag to any person or object by way of compliment or
7 salute;

8
9 “(c) To use the flag:

10 “(1). As [a] drapery, festoon, tablecloth;

11 “(2) As covering for ceilings, walls, statues or other objects;

12 “(3) As [a pennant] **DRAPERY** in the hood, side, back and top of
13 motor vehicles; **ALL CLOTH FLAGS SHOULD BE DISPLAYED**
14 **FREELY WAVING IN THE AIR;**

15 “(4) As a staff or whip;

16 “(5) **AS COVERING (F)** For unveiling **OF** monuments or statues;
17 and

18 “(6) As trademarks or for industrial, commercial or agricultural labels
19 or designs.

20 “(d) To display the flag:

21 “(1) Under any painting or picture;

22 “(2) Horizontally face-up. It shall always be hoisted aloft and be
23 allowed to fall freely;

24 “(3) Below any platform; or

25 “(4) In discotheques, cockpits, night and day clubs, casinos, gambling
26 joints an places of vice or where frivolity prevails.

27 “(e) To wear the Flag, **SEAL, COAT-OF-ARMS** [in whole or in part] as
28 **PART OF** a costume or [uniform] **AS A FASHION ACCESSORY OR**
29 **MERELY AS A DESIGN ELEMENT; PROVIDED, THAT THE FLAG,**
30 **SEAL, COAT-OF-ARMS, MAY BE INCORPORATED AS PART OF THE**
31 **UNIFORM OF FILIPINOS REPRESENTING THE PHILIPPINES IN**
32 **INTERNATIONAL SPORTS, CULTURAL OR SCIENTIFIC**
33 **COMPETITIONS OR OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS WITH THE APPROVAL**
34 **OF THE NHCP;**

35 “(f) To add any word, figure, mark, picture, design, drawings,
36 advertisements, or imprint [of any nature] on the flag[:], **SEAL, COAT-OF-**
37 **ARMS OR ANY REPRESENTATION THEREFORE;**

1 “(g) To print, paint or attach a representation of the flag, **SEAL, COAT-**
2 **OF-ARMS** on handkerchiefs, napkins, cushions, and other articles of
3 merchandise; **AND**

4 [h. To display in public any foreign flag, except in embassies and other
5 diplomatic establishments, and non offices of international organizations,]

6 “[i] (H). To use [,] **OR** display **THE FLAG, SEAL, COAT OF ARMS,**
7 or be part of any advertisement or infomercial [,] **WITHOUT THE**
8 **APPROVAL OF THE NHCP** [and].”

9 [j. To display the flag in front of buildings or offices occupied by aliens.]

10 CHAPTER II

11 THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

12
13
14 “SEC. [35]34. **TITLE OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.** – The National
15 Anthem is entitled *Lupang Hinirang*.”

16
17 “SEC. [36]35. **LANGUAGE AND LYRICS OF THE NATIONAL**
18 **ANTHEM.** – The National Anthem shall always be sung in the national language
19 within or [without] **OUTSIDE** the country. The following shall be the lyrics of
20 the National Anthem:

21 “*Bayang magiliw,*
22 *Perlas ng Silanganan,*
23 *Alab ng puso,*
24 *Sa dibdib mo’y buhay.*
25 *Lupang hinirang,*
26 *Duyan ka ng magiting,*
27 *Sa manlulupig,*
28 *Di ka pasisiil.*
29 *Sa dagat at bundok,*
30 *Sa simoy at sa langit mong bughaw,*
31 *May dilag ang tula,*
32 *At awit sa paglayang minamahal.*
33 *Ang kislap ng watawat mo’y*
34 *Tagumpay na nagniningning,*
35 *Ang bituin at araw niya.*
36 *Kailan pa ma’y di magdidilim[.].*
37 *Lupa ng araw, ng luwalhati’t pagsinta,*
38 *Buhay ay langit sa piling mo,*
39 *Aming ligaya na pag may mang-aapi,*

1 *Ang mamatay ng dahil sa iyo.*

2
3 “SEC. [37]36. **RENDITION OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.** – The
4 rendition of the National Anthem [whether played or sung shall be in accordance
5 with the musical arrangement and composition of Julian Felipe,] **SHALL BE IN**
6 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT AND**
7 **COMPOSITION OF JULIAN FELIPE, IN 2/4 BEAT WHEN PLAYED;**
8 **AND WITHIN THE RANGE OF 100 TO 120 METRONOME, IN 4/4 BEAT**
9 **WHEN SUNG. THE NHCP IN COORDINATION WITH THE PROPER**
10 **GOVERNMENT AGENCY, SHALL DISSEMINATE AN OFFICIAL**
11 **MUSIC SCORE SHEET THAT REFLECTS THE MANNER IN WHICH**
12 **THE NATIONAL ANTHEM SHOULD BE PLAYED OR SUNG.”**

13
14 “SEC. [38]37. **MANNER OF SINGING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.** –
15 When the National Anthem is played at a public gathering, whether by a band [or
16 by singing or both,] or [reproduced by any means,] **THROUGH THE**
17 **PLAYING OF A RECORDING IN ANY FORMAT,** the attending public shall
18 sing the **NATIONAL** anthem. The singing **SHALL BE MANDATORY AND**
19 must be done with fervor.

20
21 “As a sign of respect, all persons shall stand at attention and face the
22 Philippine flag, if there is one displayed, and if there is none, they shall face the
23 band or the conductor. At the first note, all persons shall execute a salute by
24 placing the right palms over their left chests. [Those in military, scouting,
25 citizen’s] **THE MILITARY AND THOSE** in military training and security
26 guard uniform shall give the salute prescribed by their regulations. The salute
27 shall be completed upon the last note of the anthem.

28
29 “**INDIVIDUALS WHOSE FAITH OR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS**
30 **PROHIBIT THEM FROM SINGING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM MUST,**
31 **NONETHELESS, SHOW FULL RESPECT WHEN THE NATIONAL**
32 **ANTHEM IS BEING SUNG OR PLAYED ON RECORD BY STANDING**
33 **AT ATTENTION.**

34
35 “The **NATIONAL** anthem shall not be played and sung [for]
36 **PRECEDING EVENTS OF** mere recreation, amusement or entertainment
37 purposes except on the following occasions:
38

1 “(a) International competitions where the Philippines is the host or has a
2 representative;

3
4 “(b) **NATIONAL OR [L] Local SPORTS** competitions;

5
6 “(c) During the “signing off” and “signing on” of radio broadcasting and
7 television stations;

8
9 “(d) Before the initial and last screening of films or before the opening of
10 theater performances; **PROVIDED, THAT THE OWNERS AND**
11 **MANAGEMENT OF THE ESTABLISHMENTS SHALL BE MANDATED**
12 **TO ENFORCE PROPER DECORUM AND IMPLEMENT THE**
13 **PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT;** and

14
15 “(e) Other occasions as may be allowed by the [Institute] **NHCP.**”
16

17 “SEC. [39]38. **STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH RULES FOR THE**
18 **RENDITION OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.** – All officials and employees of
19 the national and local governmentS, and any agency or instrumentality thereof,
20 including government-owned or controlled corporations, privately-owned entities
21 or offices displaying the national flag and government institutions of learning are
22 hereby directed to comply strictly with the rules prescribed for the rendition of
23 the anthem. Failure to observe the rules shall be a ground for administrative
24 discipline.”

25
26 “SEC. 39. **OBLIGATIONS OF EDUCATION REGULATION**
27 **AGENCIES.** – THE DEPED, CHED AND TESDA SHALL ENSURE THAT
28 THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, AS ADOPTED BY LAW, SHALL BE
29 COMMITTED TO MEMORY BY ALL STUDENTS OF BOTH PUBLIC
30 AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND PERFORMED
31 DURING THE FLAG CEREMONY CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE
32 WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ISSUED BY THE NHCP. IN
33 ADDITION, THEY SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE THE VOCAL, PIANO
34 OR BAND SCORES OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, AS ADOPTED BY
35 LAW, TO ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AS WELL AS THE
36 GENERAL PUBLIC.

37
38 CHAPTER III

39 THE NATIONAL MOTTO, THE NATIONAL COAT-OF-ARMS

1 “SEC. 44. *ADOPTION OF HERALDIC AND SIMILAR DEVICES.* –
2 Any government entity, including the military, may adopt appropriate
3 **HERALDIC ITEMS AND DEVICES SUCH AS MEDALS**, coat-of-arms,
4 administrative seals, logo, insignia, badges, patches, and banners; and initiate
5 awards, citations, orders or decorations; as may be authorized by Congress or the
6 Office of the President.”

7
8 “SEC. 45. *REPORTORIAL REQUIREMENTS.* – Such heraldic devices
9 and items shall be filed with the [Institute] **NHCP** for recording and evaluation as
10 to precedence, design, customs and traditions. The [Institute] **NHCP** shall
11 promulgate the corresponding rules and regulations which shall be submitted for
12 approval to the Office of the President or to Congress.”

13
14 “SEC. 46. *PURCHASE OF HERALDIC ITEMS AND DEVICES*
15 **FROM ACCREDITED SOURCES.** – All government offices including the
16 military are hereby ordered to purchase all heraldic items and devices from
17 manufacturers accredited and authorized by the [Institute] **NHCP**. Such items and
18 devices shall be subject to inspection by the purchasing agency’s internal
19 inspector and the COA representative using the design and specifications
20 approved by the Office of the President or by the Congress, through the [Institute]
21 **NHCP**.

22
23 [SEC. 47. No government official or employee shall accept any orders or
24 decorations from any foreign government without the consent of Congress, and
25 without prior evaluation and documentation of such order or decoration by the
26 Institute.]

27
28 CHAPTER [VII] V
29 PENALTIES

30
31 “SEC. [48] 47. *PUBLIC CENSURE/CANCELLATION OF PERMIT.* –
32 Failure or refusal to observe the provisions of this Act; and any violation of the
33 corresponding rules and regulations issued by the [Office of the President,]
34 **NHCP** shall after proper notice and hearing, be penalized by public censure
35 which shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation.”

36
37 “The Department of Education [Culture and Sports] (DepEd) and the
38 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), upon the recommendation of the

1 [Institute] NHI and after the proper notice and hearing, shall cause the
2 cancellation of the recognition or permit of any private educational institution
3 which fails or refuses to observe the provisions of this Act for the second time.”

4
5 [“SEC. 49 – The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS)
6 and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall ensure that the National
7 Anthem, as adopted by law, shall be committed to memory by all students of both
8 public and private educational institutions, and performed during the flag
9 ceremony conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations issued by the
10 Officer of the President. In addition, they shall make available the vocal, piano or
11 band scores of the National Anthem, as adopted by law, to all private and public
12 schools, as well as the general public.]

13
14 “SEC. [50] 48. *PUNISHMENT FOR VIOLATIONS.* – Any person
15 **WHO** or **ANY** juridical entity which violates any of the provisions of this Act
16 shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than [Five] **FIFTY**
17 thousand pesos [(P5,000)] (**PHP 50,000.00**) nor more than [Twenty] **ONE**
18 **HUNDRED** thousand pesos [(P20,000)] (**PHP 100,000.00**) [,] [or] **AND** by
19 imprisonment for not more than [one (1) year] **TWO (2) YEARS**: [or both such
20 fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court: *Provided*, That for any
21 second and additional offenses, both fine and imprisonment shall always be
22 imposed:] *Provided*, [further] That in case the violation is committed by a
23 juridical person, its President or Chief Executive Officer thereof shall be liable.

24
25 “**THE NHCP MAY PRESCRIBE IN THE IMPLEMENTING**
26 **RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THIS ACT OTHER ACTS OR**
27 **OMISSIONS WHICH SHALL BE DEEMED DISRESPECTFUL, AND**
28 **THUS PROHIBITED, RELATIVE TO THE FLAG, NATIONAL**
29 **ANTHEM, GREAT SEAL, COAT-OF-ARMS, NATIONAL MOTTO, AND**
30 **OTHER HERALDIC ITEMS AND DEVICES.”**

31
32 “**SEC. 49. CITIZEN'S ARREST.** – **ANY CITIZEN SHALL HAVE**
33 **THE POWER TO CONDUCT A CITIZEN'S ARREST IF A PERSON IS**
34 **ACTUALLY VIOLATING ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT IN**
35 **HIS/HER PRESENCE AND CAN SUMMON ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT**
36 **OFFICERS TO ASSIST HIM IN CONDUCTING CITIZEN'S ARREST.**
37 **ALL SECURITY PERSONNEL AND USHERS IN MOVIEHOUSES ARE**
38 **LIKEWISE AUTHORIZED TO ARREST THE VIOLATORS.”**

1
2 CHAPTER [VIII] VI
3 COMMON PROVISIONS
4

5 “SEC. [51] 50. *APPROPRIATIONS. — TO CARRY OUT THE*
6 *PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, THE AMOUNT OF FIFTEEN MILLION*
7 *PESOS (Php 15,000,000.00) SHALL BE INITIALLY APPROPRIATED*
8 *OUT OF THE FUNDS OF THE NATIONAL TREASURY. SUBSEQUENT*
9 *APPROPRIATIONS SHALL BE PROVIDED BY CONGRESS IN THE*
10 *ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE NHCP UNDER THE GENERAL*
11 *APPROPRIATIONS ACT.”*

12 “SEC. 51. *ISSUANCE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS AND*
13 *THEIR ENFORCEMENT.* – The [Institute] NHCP shall issue the necessary
14 rules and regulations [to implement the provisions of Act] within ninety (90)
15 days after [effectivity] **THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT.** The [Institute]
16 NHCP shall submit its rules and regulations to the Office of the President and the
17 Congress of the Philippines.”

18
19 “[SEC. 52 -] The [Institute] NHCP shall [also] be responsible for the
20 strict enforcement of the provisions of this Act. It may call upon any government
21 department, agency, office, or government instrumentality, including government
22 corporations and local government units, for such assistance as it may deem
23 necessary for the effective discharge of its functions under this Act.”

24
25 “[Sec. 53. *Separability Clause* – If any provision, or part hereof, is held
26 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act not otherwise affected
27 shall be valid and subsisting.]

28
29 “SEC 52. *SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.* – IF FOR ANY REASON, ANY
30 PORTION OR PROVISION OF THIS ACT SHALL BE DECLARED
31 UNCONSTITUTIONAL, OTHER PARTS OR PROVISIONS HEREOF
32 WHICH ARE NOT AFFECTED THEREBY SHALL CONTINUE TO BE
33 IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.”

34
35 “[SEC. 54. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
36 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation

1 contrary to part or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are
2 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.]

3
4 **“SEC. 53. *REPEALING CLAUSE.* – ALL LAWS, DECREES,**
5 **EXECUTIVE ORDERS, RULES AND REGULATIONS, PART OR PARTS**
6 **THEREOF, INCONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT,**
7 **ARE HEREBY REPEALED OR MODIFIED ACCORDINGLY.”**

8
9 SEC. 2. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its
10 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation,
11 whichever comes earlier.

12 *Approved,*