

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1655



Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR A REVISED FLAG AND HERALDIC CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8491, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "FLAG AND HERALDIC CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES"

Explanatory Note

It is the policy of the State to inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism. A way of instilling the love for our country is by emphasizing the significance of following the standard expressions of respect for our national symbols.

This bill seeks to repeal Republic Act No. 8491, otherwise known as the "Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines," to keep abreast with modern times while preserving our deep and sincere regard for our nation and its representations.

The proposed measure shall expand the coverage of, among others, the places where the flag should be permanently displayed, the prohibited acts for the inappropriate use, display and handling of the flag, anthem, seal, coat-of-arms, motto, and other heraldic items and devices, and the list of government officials and personnel for whom the flag is being flown at half-mast as a sign of mourning.

Further, the bill shall prescribe (a) the appropriate pledge of allegiance and oath of patriotism to the Philippine flag, (b) the formalities concerning the Philippine flag, (c) mandatory singing of the national anthem, and (d) the National Motto, National Coat-of-Arms, and the Great Seal, among others.

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

ROMAN T. ROMULO
Lone District, Pasig City

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CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES"

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

Chapter I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Revised Flag and Heraldic
Code".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – 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 national ideals and traditions and the principles of sovereignty and
national solidarity. Therefore, all heraldic items and devices shall seek to manifest the
national virtues and to inculcate in the minds and hearts of our people a just pride in their
native land, respect and affection for the national flag and anthem, and the proper use of the
national motto, coat-of-arms and other heraldic items and devices.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

(a) *Advertisement or Infomercial* refers to an advertisement or any information
material in print, radio, television, cinema, video, outdoor and electronic media, seeking to
promote individuals, entities, products or services for commercial, political purposes or
information campaigns;

(b) *Display* refers to the manner in which the flag is publicly presented and venerated;

1 (c) *Festoon* refers to the act of hanging in a curved shape between two points as a
2 decoration, curtain, or drape;

3
4 (d) *Flag* refers to the Philippine national flag, unless stated otherwise;

5
6 (e) *Fly* refers to the part of the flag outside the hoist or length;

7
8 (f) *Government entities* refer to all branches of the government, their bureaus and
9 attached agencies, constitutional offices, local government offices, government-owned and -
10 controlled corporations (GOCCs), government financial institutions, educational institutions,
11 and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) including its basic component units;

12
13 (g) *Half-mast* refers to lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and
14 bottom of the staff. If the flag is displayed in a hanging position or used in a parade as a sign
15 of mourning, half-mast shall mean placing a black ribbon on the blue field hoist side;

16
17 (h) *Halyard* refers to the long rope where the flag fastens and which runs up the length
18 of the flagpole;

19
20 (i) *Hanging position* refers to the situation where a white field shall be on top, the blue
21 field shall be to the right (left of the observer) in time of peace; the white field shall be on
22 top, and the red field to the right (left of the observer) in time of war;

23
24 (j) *Heraldic items or Heraldic items and devices* refer to the coat-of-arms, seals, logos,
25 insignias, badges, flashes, patches, orders and decorations, medals, stars, citations, lapel pins,
26 trophies, dry, wax or wet seals, and imprints on letterheads, envelopes, cards, and other
27 objects of similar nature;

28
29 (k) *Hoist* refers to the part of the flag nearest the staff or the canvas to which the
30 halyard is attached;

31
32 (l) *Inclement weather* refers to a weather condition such as rain or strong wind that
33 will be unfavorable to the raising of the flag since it will lessen the dignity that should be
34 accorded to the flag;

35
36 (m) *National anthem* refers to the Philippine national anthem, entitled "*Lupang*
37 *Hinirang*";

38
39 (n) *Official residences* refer to Malacañang and other government-owned structures
40 where the President resides, the Philippine consulates or embassies abroad, and the place
41 where the chief diplomatic or consular representative resides for the duration of the posting;

42
43 (o) *Philippine sun* refers to the golden sunburst with eight equally spaced rays
44 displayed in the flag. Each ray having one major beam, twice as broad as the two minor
45 beams on either side;

46 (p) *Places of frivolity* refer to places marked by or providing boisterous merriment or
47 recreation;

1
2 (q) *Seafaring vessels* refer to any kind, class or type of craft or artificial contrivance
3 capable of floating in water, designed and duly registered by the Maritime Industry Authority
4 for use in the carriage of passengers or cargo, or both, utilizing its own motive power or that
5 of another;

6
7 (r) *Symbol* refers to any conventional sign which reveals a person's achievement and
8 heroism usually shown or displayed in medals, citations, orders, and decorations or
9 identification or authority such as coat-of-arms, logos and insignias;

10
11 (s) *Uniformed service* refers to all branches of the AFP, those of the Philippine National
12 Police (PNP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of
13 Immigration, Bureau of Customs, Philippine Coast Guard, and of other agencies that uses
14 insignia to describe rank or position; and

15
16 (t) *Vexillary items* refer to national and local house flags, or administrative,
17 institutional, corporate, and other organizational banners.

18 19 Chapter II 20 THE NATIONAL FLAG

21
22 **SEC. 4. *Design of the National Flag.*** – The flag of the Philippines shall be blue, white
23 and red with an eight-rayed golden-yellow sun and three five-pointed stars, as consecrated
24 and honored by the people.

25
26 The flag shall have the following proportions: The width of the flag, one (1); the length
27 of the flag, two (2); and the sides of the white triangle, one (1).

28
29 The technical specifications of the flag shall be as follows: The blue color shall bear
30 Cable no. 80173; the white color, Cable no. 80001; the red color, Cable no. 80108; and the
31 golden yellow, Cable no. 80068.

32
33 **SEC. 5. *Standards for Flag Requisition.*** – In order to establish a criteria that shall be
34 observed in the fabrication of the national flag, and to guarantee its durability, the following
35 standards and procedures shall be observed:

36
37 (a) All requisitions for the purchase of the Philippine flag must be based on strict
38 compliance with the design, color and craftsmanship and material specifications and
39 performance standards as set by the government;

40
41 (b) All submitted samples of flags by accredited suppliers offered for purchase for
42 government use shall be evaluated as to design, color and craftsmanship and material
43 specifications and performance standards by the National Historical Commission of the
44 Philippines (NHCP), through its Heraldry Section, which shall stamp its approval or
45 disapproval on the canvas reinforcement of the flag sample submitted. The samples shall be
46 sent to the NHCP by the requisitioning office, not by the flag supplier; and
47

(c) The Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) shall evaluate the quality of material of all flag samples and certify whether the fabric for the blue, white, red and golden yellow colors, including the canvas submitted, conform to government requirement as to the quality of material. The samples shall be sent annually to the PTRI by the manufacturer. The laboratory test results shall be submitted by the said office to the NHCP.

SEC. 6. Flag Purchase Inspection. – All deliveries of the flags requisitioned by the government shall be inspected by the requisitioning agency's internal inspector using the flag stamped approved by the NHCP as reference.

In carrying out the above responsibilities, the NHCP and the DOST shall prepare guidelines to be approved by all the parties concerned.

SEC. 7. Strict Compliance with Requirements. – All government agencies and instrumentalities shall ensure that the requirements under this Act with respect to the standards, requisitions and delivery of the flag are strictly complied with.

SEC. 8. Hoisting and Display of the National Flag. – The flag shall be hoisted or displayed in all public buildings, official residences, public plazas, and institutions of learning every weekday from Monday to Friday throughout the year.

SEC. 9. Where Flag Should be Permanently Displayed. – The flag shall be permanently hoisted, day and night throughout the year, in front of the following:

- (a) Malacañang Palace;
- (b) Senate of the Philippines building;
- (c) House of Representatives building;
- (d) Supreme Court building;
- (e) Rizal Monument in Rizal Park, City of Manila;
- (f) Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City;
- (g) Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite;
- (h) Barasoain Church Historical Landmark in Malolos City, Bulacan;
- (i) Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, *Libingan ng mga Bayani* in Taguig City, Metro Manila;
- (j) All memorials dedicated to the veterans of the military;
- (k) *Mausoleo de los Veteranos dela Revolucion*, North Cemetery, City of Manila;
- (l) Marcela Agoncillo Historical Landmark in Taal, Batangas;
- (m) Battle of San Juan Del Monte, Pinaglabanan Shrine in San Juan City, Metro Manila;
- (n) Mt. Samat National Shrine in Pilar, Bataan;
- (o) Mactan Liberty Shrine in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu;
- (p) Old Legislative Building, City of Manila;
- (q) Angeles Heritage District in Angeles City, Pampanga;
- (r) Battle of Alapan Site in Imus City, Cavite;
- (s) Santa Barbara Plaza in Santa Barbara, Iloilo;
- (t) All international ports of entry; and
- (u) All other places as may be designated and marked by the NHCP.

1 At the above-stated places, the flag shall be properly illuminated at night.

2
3 **SEC. 10. *Display of Flag in Private Buildings and Residences.*** – The flag shall also be
4 displayed in private buildings and residences or raised on flagpoles in front of said buildings
5 during flag days, as provided for in Section 28 of this Act.

6
7 The flag may also be displayed throughout the year in private buildings or offices or
8 raised on flagpoles in front of private buildings: *Provided*, That the occupants of the said
9 building may observe flag-raising ceremonies in accordance with the implementing rules and
10 regulations to be issued by the NHCP.

11
12 **SEC. 11. *Display of Flag on Seafaring Vessels.*** – The flag shall be flown on all seafaring
13 vessels of Philippine registry.

14
15 On board seafaring vessels, the flag shall be displayed on the flag-staff at the stern
16 when the ship is at anchor. The flag shall be hoisted to the gaff at the aftermast when the
17 ship is at sea.

18
19 **SEC. 12. *The Blue, Red and White Fields of the Flag.*** – In time of peace, the blue field
20 of the flag shall be on top when the flag is hoisted. In a hanging position, the white field shall
21 be on top, and the blue field shall be to the right, which is to the left of the observer.

22
23 Conversely, in time of war, the red field should be on top when the flag is hoisted. In
24 a hanging position, the white field shall be on top, and the red field shall be to the right, which
25 is to the left of the observer.

26
27 **SEC. 13. *Flagpole in the Open Field.*** – If planted on the ground, the flagpole shall be
28 at a prominent place and shall be of such height as would give the flag the prominence in
29 relation to the buildings in the vicinity. The flagpole staff must be straight and slightly tapered
30 at the top.

31
32 If attached to a building, the flagpole shall be anchored on a sill projecting at an angle
33 upward.

34
35 If on a stage or platform, the flag shall be at the left side of the observer (facing the
36 stage) and in an office, must be placed on the left side when viewed by the observer upon
37 entrance thereto the office.

38
39 **SEC. 14. *The Philippine Flag when Flown with another Flag.*** – When the Philippine
40 flag is flown with another national flag, both must be flown on separate staffs of the same
41 height and shall be of equal size. The Philippine flag shall be placed to the left of the observer,
42 hoisted first, and lowered last.

43
44 If the other flag is not a national flag, it may be flown during special occasions in the
45 same halyard as the Philippine flag but below the latter and it cannot be of greater size than
46 the Philippine flag.

1 **SEC. 15. *The Philippine Flag when Displayed with another Flag.*** – When displayed
2 with another flag, the Philippine flag shall be placed to the right of the other flag (left of the
3 observer). If there is a line of other flags, the Philippine flag shall be placed at the leftmost of
4 the observer.

5
6 When carried in a parade with flags which are not national flags, the Philippine flag
7 shall be in front and at the center of the line.

8
9 Additional protocol for the display of the Philippine flag shall be contained in the
10 implementing rules and regulations to be issued by the NHCP.

11
12 **SEC. 16. *Proper Use, Disposal and Replacement of Worn-Out Flag.*** – The flag shall be
13 replaced immediately by the concerned agency, institution or office when it begins to show
14 signs of wear and tear.

15
16 A flag that is worn out through wear and tear shall not be thrown away. It shall be
17 turned over to the appropriate Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts Local Council Committee in the
18 nearest school which shall, in turn, conduct proper disposal rites to avoid misuse or
19 desecration of the worn-out flag.

20
21 The manner of disposal of the worn-out flag shall be in accordance with the rules to
22 be issued by the NHCP.

23
24 **SEC. 17. *Appropriate Time for Flag Raising and Lowering.*** – The flag shall be raised at
25 sunrise and lowered at sunset. It shall be on the mast at the start of official office hours and
26 shall remain flying throughout the day.

27
28 **SEC. 18. *Manner of Displaying the Flag.*** – The flag may be displayed only in the
29 following ways:

30
31 (a) Inside or outside a building or on stationary or movable flagpoles. If the flag is
32 displayed indoors on a flagpole, it shall be placed to the left of the observer as one enters the
33 room;

34
35 (b) From the top of a flagpole, which shall be at a prominent place or a commanding
36 position in relation to the surrounding buildings;

37
38 (c) From a staff projecting upward from the window sill, canopy, balcony or façade of
39 a building;

40
41 (d) In a suspended position from a rope extending from a building or lamppost to a
42 pole erected away from the building;

43
44 (e) Flat against the wall vertically with the sun and stars on top; and

45
46 (f) Hanging in a vertical position across a street, with the blue field pointing east, if the
47 road is heading south or north, or pointing north if the road is heading east or west.

1 The flag shall not be raised during inclement weather. If already raised prior to
2 inclement weather, the flag shall not be lowered.

3
4 **SEC. 19. *Manner of Hoisting the Flag.*** – The flag shall be hoisted to the top briskly and
5 lowered in the proper ceremony. After being lowered, the flag shall be handled and folded
6 solemnly as part of the ceremony.
7

8 The flag shall never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, flood, water or
9 other objects.
10

11 **SEC. 20. *Flag Ceremony in Public Offices and Educational Institutions.*** – All
12 government offices and educational institutions shall hold a flag-raising ceremony every
13 Monday or the next working day if Monday is declared a holiday, and a flag-lowering
14 ceremony every Friday or on the last working day of each week. The ceremony shall be simple
15 and dignified and shall include the playing and singing of the Philippine national anthem in its
16 original lyrics and tempo.
17

18 **SEC. 21. *Dignity in the Observance of Flag Ceremony.*** – Likewise, the observance of
19 the flag ceremony in official or civic gatherings shall be simple and dignified and shall include
20 the playing and mandatory singing of the national anthem in its original Filipino lyrics and
21 tempo.
22

23 **SEC. 22. *Flag-Raising Ceremony.*** – During a flag-raising ceremony, the assembly shall
24 stand in formation facing the flag. A proper announcement shall be made prior to the singing
25 of the national anthem. At the moment the first note of the anthem is heard, everyone in
26 the premises shall come to attention; moving vehicles shall stop. All persons present shall
27 place their right palms over their chest, those with hats shall uncover their heads; while those
28 in military, scouting, security guard, and citizens military training uniforms shall execute a
29 salute as prescribed by their regulations, which salute shall be completed upon the last note
30 of the anthem.
31

32 The assembly shall sing the national anthem, accompanied by a band, if available, and
33 at the first note, the flag shall be raised briskly.
34

35 The same procedure shall be observed when the flag is passing in review or in parade.
36

37 Individuals whose faith or religious beliefs prohibit them from singing the national
38 anthem must, nonetheless, show full respect when the singing is being rendered by standing
39 in attention.
40

41 **SEC. 23. *Flag-Lowering Ceremony.*** – The flag shall be lowered solemnly and slowly so
42 that the flag shall be down the mast at the sound of the last note of the anthem. Those in
43 the assembly shall observe the same deportment or behavior prescribed for the flag-raising
44 ceremony.
45
46

1 **SEC. 24. Flag in Half-Mast.** – The flag shall be flown at half-mast as a sign of mourning
2 on all the buildings and places where the deceased was holding office, on the day of official
3 announcement of the death of any of the following officials:

4
5 (a) For the President or a former President, the flag shall be flown at half-mast for ten
6 (10) days;

7
8 (b) For the incumbent and former Vice President, Chief Justice, President of the
9 Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, the flag shall be flown at half-mast for
10 seven (7) days;

11
12 (c) For the incumbent and former members of the Supreme Court, the Cabinet, the
13 Senate or the House of Representatives, and such other public officials or persons who have
14 rendered distinguished service of national import or historical significance to the nation, the
15 flag shall be flown at half-mast for any period less than seven (7) days; and

16
17 (d) For the incumbent and former elected officials of local government units (LGUs),
18 the flag shall be flown at half-mast for any period less than seven (7) days.

19
20 To give due recognition and tribute to the selfless dedication of teachers, faculty, and
21 administrators in all levels of education, the flag shall be allowed to be flown at half-mast as
22 a sign of mourning on the day of the official announcement of the death of an incumbent
23 teacher, faculty, and administrator for a period of not more than five (5) days in Department
24 of Education (DepEd)-supervised schools or district offices, or in higher education institutions
25 where the deceased was assigned to teach.

26
27 The flag when flown at half-mast shall be first hoisted to the peak for a moment then
28 lowered to the half-mast position. The flag shall again be raised briskly to the peak before it
29 is lowered for the day.

30
31 **SEC. 25. Casket.** – The flag may be used to cover the caskets of the honored dead who
32 have rendered distinguished service to the nation. In such cases, the flag shall be placed such
33 that the white triangle shall be at the head and the blue portion shall cover the right side of
34 the caskets. At the interment of the honored dead, the flag shall not be lowered to the grave
35 or allowed to touch the ground, but shall be folded solemnly, placed in a rectangular flag case,
36 and handed over to the heirs of the deceased. The rectangular flag case in which the flag is
37 enclosed may be placed by the heirs of the deceased in the appropriate area of their
38 residence or the latter's former office.

39
40 (a) The flag, placed as cover to the casket, shall be mandatory for the following:

- 41
42 1. Incumbent and past Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Republic of the
43 Philippines;
44 2. Incumbent members of the Senate, House of Representatives, and heads of
45 constitutional bodies;
46 3. Incumbent Justices of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, *Sandiganbayan*,
47 and the Court of Tax Appeals;

4. Incumbent cabinet members or officers of similar or equivalent rank;
5. Incumbent Philippine Ambassadors, Consuls General as head of consular post, and other foreign service personnel for meritorious service or deed to the nation as recommended by the Department of Foreign Affairs;
6. Incumbent governors, vice governors, members of the provincial board, mayors, vice mayors, and members of the municipal or city council;
7. Incumbent barangay chairpersons and *Sangguniang Kabataan* chairpersons;
8. National Scientists or *Pambansang Alagad ng Agham ng Pilipinas*, pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1003-A (dated December 16, 1976);
9. War veterans;
10. Military veterans;
11. National artists and recipients of other awards being implemented and administered by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines, such as, recipients of *Gawad Manlilikha Ng Bayan*, as provided under Republic Act No. 7355, or the "*Manlilikha ng Bayan Act*", and the Honors Code as expressed in Executive Order No. 236;
12. Members of the AFP and the PNP;
13. Incumbent career executive officials and career scientists; and
14. Athletes who have won in international sports competitions.

(b) The flag, placed as cover to the casket, shall be discretionary for the following:

1. Former members of the Senate, House of Representatives, and constitutional bodies;
2. Retired Justices of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, *Sandiganbayan*, and the Court of Tax Appeals;
3. Incumbent and retired judges of the regional trial courts, municipal trial courts, metropolitan trial courts, and municipal circuit trial courts;
4. Former governors, vice governors, members of the provincial board, mayors, vice mayors, and members of the municipal or city council;
5. Retired Philippine Ambassadors or Consuls General as former head of consular post;
6. Former cabinet members or officers of similar or equivalent rank;
7. Retired career executive officials and career scientists;
8. Former barangay chairpersons and *Sangguniang Kabataan* chairpersons;
9. Incumbent or former presidents of state universities and colleges;
10. Teachers and professors, whether active or retired, in the public schools or government recognized private schools;
11. *Bona fide* members of the media, as certified by the legitimate media organization to which the media practitioner is a member;
12. Athletes who represented the country in international competitions;
13. Filipinos, whether residing in the country or abroad, who have received awards or recognitions, or both, from internationally recognized award giving bodies for their commendable service to the community or to their contribution to society; and
14. Civilians who lost their lives while giving aid or assistance in times of calamity, national emergency, or to a person in serious need.

1
2 The flag to be used as cover for the casket, as well as the rectangular flag case of the
3 honored dead listed under paragraph (a) herein, shall be provided by the government office
4 to which the decedent had previously served. For the honored dead listed under paragraph
5 (b), the flag to be used as cover for the casket, as well as the rectangular case, shall be
6 provided by the family of the decedent.

7
8 **SEC. 26. Pledge of Allegiance.** – The following shall be the Pledge of Allegiance to the
9 Philippine flag:

10
11 *Ako ay Pilipino*
12 *Buong katapatang nanunumpa*
13 *Sa watawat ng Pilipinas*
14 *At sa bansang kanyang sinasagisag*
15 *Na may dangal, katarungan at kalayaan*
16 *Na pinakikilos ng sambayanang*
17 *Maka-Diyos*
18 *Makatao*
19 *Makakalikasan at*
20 *Makabansa.*

21
22 The pledge of allegiance shall be recited while standing with the right hand, palm open
23 and raised shoulder high. Individuals whose faith or religious beliefs prohibit them from
24 making such pledge must, nonetheless, show full respect when the pledge is being rendered
25 by standing at attention.

26
27 **SEC. 27. Oath of Patriotism.** – The following shall be the Oath of Patriotism to the
28 Philippines which shall be recited by students in all levels in addition to the Pledge of
29 Allegiance to the Philippine flag:

30
31 *Iniibig ko ang Pilipinas.*
32 *Ito ang aking lupang sinilangan.*
33 *Ito ang tahanan ng aking lahi.*
34 *Ako'y kanyang kinukupkop at tinutulungan*
35 *Upang maging malakas, maligaya,*
36 *At kapakipakinabang.*
37 *Bilang ganti,*
38 *Diringgin ko ang payo*
39 *Ng aking mga magulang.*
40 *Susundin ko ang mga tuntunin*
41 *Ng aking paaralan.*
42 *Tutuparin ko ang mga tungkulin*
43 *Ng isang mamamayang makabayan*
44 *At masunurin sa batas.*
45 *Paglilingkuran ko ang aking bayan*
46 *Nang walang pag-iimbot*
47 *At nang buong katapatan.*

1 *Sisikapin kong*
2 *Maging isang Tunay na Pilipino,*
3 *Sa isip, sa salita, at sa gawa.*
4

5 The oath of patriotism shall be recited while standing with the right hand, palm open
6 and raised shoulder high. It shall be recited in all basic education institutions after the singing
7 of the national anthem. Individuals whose faith or religious beliefs prohibit them from
8 making such oath must, nonetheless, show full respect when the oath is being rendered by
9 standing at attention.
10

11 The NHCP shall, in consultation with the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF), include
12 in the rules and regulations to be issued for the implementation of this Act the translation of
13 the pledge of allegiance and the oath of patriotism in the other Philippine languages or
14 dialects.
15

16 **SEC. 28. Flag Days.** – The period from May 28 (National Flag Day) to June 12
17 (Independence Day) of each year is declared as Flag Days, during which period all offices,
18 agencies and instrumentalities of government, business establishments, institutions of
19 learning and private homes shall display the flag: *Provided, however,* That the flag shall be
20 displayed in private buildings and residences or raised on flagpoles in front of said buildings
21 every April 9 (*Araw ng Kagitingan*); May 28 (National Flag Day) to June 12 (Independence
22 Day); last Monday of August (National Heroes Day); November 30 (Bonifacio Day); December
23 30 (Rizal Day); and on such other days as may be declared by the President or local chief
24 executives.
25

26 **SEC. 29. Observance of Flag Days.** – All government agencies and instrumentalities,
27 local government offices, GOCCs, and LGUs are enjoined to observe Flag Days with
28 appropriate ceremonies. Socio-civic groups, non-government organizations and the private
29 sector are exhorted to cooperate in making the celebration a success.
30

31 **SEC. 30. Flag Requisition Budget.** – All departments, agencies, offices, and
32 instrumentalities of the government, GOCCs, LGUs, including barangays, shall include in their
33 annual budgets the necessary outlay for the purchase of the flag.
34

35 Furthermore, all LGUs shall allocate appropriate sums for a public awareness program
36 on the Flag Code as well as on the proper implementation of the provisions of the Flag Code.
37

38 **SEC. 31. Prohibited Acts.** – The following Acts shall be prohibited:
39

40 (a) To burn, mutilate, deface, defile, trample on or cast contempt or commit any act
41 or omission casting dishonor, ridicule, or disrespect upon the flag, anthem, seal, motto, coat-
42 of-arms, and other heraldic items and devices;
43

44 (b) To dip the flag as a way of paying a compliment to any person or saluting an object;
45

46 (c) To use the flag *per se*:
47

1. As drapery, festoon, tablecloth;
2. As covering for ceilings, walls, statues or other objects;
3. As drapery in the hood, side, back and top of motor vehicles; all cloth flags should be displayed freely waving in the air;
4. As a staff or whip; and
5. As covering for unveiling of monuments or statues.

(d) To display the flag:

1. Under any painting or picture;
2. Horizontally face-up, instead, it shall always be hoisted aloft and be allowed to fall freely;
3. Below any platform; or
4. In discotheques, cockpits, night and day clubs, casinos, gambling venues, places of vice or those where frivolity prevails.

It shall likewise be prohibited to:

(a) Wear the flag, seal, coat-of-arms as part of a costume or as a fashion accessory or merely as a design element: *Provided*, That the flag, seal, coat-of-arms, may be incorporated as part of the uniform of Filipinos representing the Philippines in international sports, cultural or scientific competitions or official functions with the approval of the NHCP;

(b) Add any word, figure, mark, picture, design, drawings, advertisement, or imprint on the flag, seal, coat-of-arms or any representation therefor;

(c) Print, paint or attach a representation of the flag, seal, coat-of-arms on handkerchiefs, napkins, cushions, and other articles of merchandise; and

(d) Use or display the flag, seal, coat-of-arms, or be part of any advertisement or infomercial without the approval of the NHCP.

The NHCP shall be responsible for the strict enforcement of the provisions of this Act. It may call upon any government department, agency, office, or government instrumentality, including government corporations and local government units, for such assistance as it may deem necessary, for the effective discharge of its functions under this Act.

Chapter III THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

SEC. 32. Title. – The Philippine national anthem is entitled “*Lupang Hinirang*”.

SEC. 33. Language and Lyrics. – The national anthem shall always be sung in the national language within or outside the country using the following prescribed lyrics:

*Bayang magiliw, perlas ng silanganan,
Alab ng puso sa dibdib mo’y buhay.*

1 *Lupang hinirang, duyan ka ng magiting,*
2 *Sa manlulupig di ka pasisiil.*

3
4 *Sa dagat at bundok,*
5 *Sa simoy at sa langit mong bughaw,*
6 *May dilag ang tula,*
7 *At awit sa paglayang minamahal.*
8 *Ang kislap ng watawat mo'y*
9 *Tagumpay na nagniningning,*
10 *Ang bituin at araw niya*
11 *Kaylan pa ma'y di magdidilim.*

12
13 *Lupa ng araw, ng l'walhati't pagsinta,*
14 *Buhay ay langit sa piling mo;*
15 *Aming ligaya na pag may mang-aapi,*
16 *Ang mamatay nang dahil sa 'yo.*

17
18 **SEC. 34. Rendition.** – The rendition of the national anthem, whether played or sung,
19 shall be in accordance with the original musical arrangement composed by Julian Felipe.

20
21 The NHCP shall, in coordination with the proper government agency, disseminate an
22 official music score sheet that reflects the manner in which the national anthem should be
23 played or sung.

24
25 **SEC. 35. Manner of Singing.** – When the national anthem is played at a public
26 gathering, whether by a band or through the playing of a recording in any format, the
27 attending public shall sing the national anthem. The singing shall be mandatory and must be
28 done with fervor.

29
30 As a sign of respect, all persons shall stand in attention and face the Philippine flag, if
31 there is one displayed, and if there is none, they shall face the band or the conductor. At the
32 first note, all persons shall execute a salute by placing their right palms over the left part of
33 the chest. The members of the military, those in military training, and security guards in
34 uniform shall execute the salute prescribed by their regulations. The salute shall be
35 completed upon the last note of the anthem.

36
37 Individuals, whose faith or religious beliefs prohibit them from singing the national
38 anthem, must, nonetheless, show full respect when the anthem is being sung or played on
39 record by standing in attention.

40
41 The national anthem shall not be played and sung preceding events of mere
42 recreation, amusement or entertainment purposes except on the following occasions:

43
44 (a) International competitions where the Philippines is the host or has a
45 representative;

46
47 (b) National or local sports competitions;

1
2 (c) During the "signing off" and "signing on" of radio broadcasting and television
3 stations;

4
5 (d) Before the initial and last screening of films and before the opening of theater
6 performances: *Provided*, That the owners and management of the establishments shall be
7 mandated to enforce proper decorum and implement the pertinent provisions of this Act;
8 and
9

10 (e) Other occasions as may be allowed by the NHCP.
11

12 **SEC. 36. *Strict Compliance with Rules for the Rendition of the National Anthem.*** – All
13 officials and employees of the national and local governments, and any agency or
14 instrumentality thereof, including privately-owned entities or offices displaying the Philippine
15 flag and government institutions of learning are hereby directed to comply strictly with the
16 rules prescribed for the rendition of the national anthem. Failure to observe the rules shall
17 be a ground for administrative discipline.
18

19 **SEC. 37. *Obligations of Education Regulation Agencies.*** – The DepEd, the Commission
20 on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
21 (TESDA) shall ensure that the national anthem, as mandated by law, shall be committed to
22 memory by all students of both public and private educational institutions, and rendered
23 during the flag ceremony conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations issued by
24 the NHCP. In addition, they shall make available the vocal, piano or band scores of the
25 national anthem, as mandated by law, to all private and public schools.
26

27 **Chapter IV**
28 **THE NATIONAL MOTTO, THE NATIONAL**
29 **COAT-OF-ARMS, AND THE GREAT SEAL**
30

31 **SEC. 38. *The National Motto.*** – The national motto shall be "*Maka-Diyos, Maka-Tao,*
32 *Makakalikasan at Makabansa.*"
33

34 **SEC. 39. *The National Coat-of-Arms.*** – The national Coat-of-Arms shall have paleways
35 of two (2) pieces, azure and gules. It shall have a chief argent studded with three (3) golden
36 stars equidistant from each other, and in point of honor, ovoid argent over all the sun
37 rayonnant with eight minor and lesser rays. On the red field on the sinister side shall be
38 displayed the lion rampant of Spain; on the blue field on the dexter side, shall be displayed
39 proper the American eagle of the United States. A scroll with the words "*Republika ng*
40 *Pilipinas*" inscribed thereon shall be placed beneath the paleways.
41

42 **SEC. 40. *The Great Seal.*** – The Great Seal shall be circular in form, with the same
43 specification as the Coat-of-Arms as described in Section 39 hereof, but without the scroll
44 and the inscription thereon, and surrounded by a double marginal circle within which shall
45 appear the words "*Republika ng Pilipinas*". In using the Great Seal, the color of the Coat-of-
46 Arms shall not be deemed essential, but tincture representation must be used.
47

1 The Great Seal shall bear the national motto.

2
3 **SEC. 41. *Where to Affix the Great Seal.*** – The Great Seal shall be affixed to or placed
4 upon all commissions signed by the President and upon such other official documents and
5 papers of the Republic of the Philippines as may be provided by law, or as may be required
6 by custom and usage. The President shall have custody of the Great Seal.

7
8 **Chapter V**
9 **HERALDIC ITEMS AND DEVICES**
10

11 **SEC. 42. *Adoption of Heraldic and Similar Devices.*** – Any government entity, including
12 the military, may adopt appropriate heraldic items and devices such as medals, coat-of-arms,
13 administrative seals, logos, insignias, badges, patches, and banners; and initiate awards,
14 citations, orders or decorations, as may be authorized by Congress or by the Office of the
15 President.

16
17 **SEC. 43. *Reportorial Requirements.*** – Such heraldic devices and items shall be filed
18 with the NHCP for recording and evaluation as to precedence, design, custom and tradition.
19 The NHCP shall promulgate the corresponding rules and regulations which shall be submitted
20 for approval to the Office of the President or to Congress.

21
22 **SEC. 44. *Purchase of Heraldic Items and Devices from Accredited Sources.*** – All
23 government offices, including the military shall purchase all heraldic items and devices from
24 manufacturers accredited and authorized by the NHCP. Such items and devices shall conform
25 to the design and specifications approved by the Office of the President or by the Congress,
26 through the NHCP.

27
28 **Chapter VI**
29 **PENALTIES**
30

31 **SEC. 45. *Public Censure or Cancellation of Permit.*** – Failure or refusal to observe the
32 provisions of this Act and any violation of the corresponding rules and regulations issued by
33 the NHCP shall, after proper notice and hearing, be penalized by public censure which shall
34 be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation.

35
36 The DepEd, CHED, and TESDA shall, upon the recommendation of NHCP and after the
37 proper notice and hearing, cause the cancellation of the recognition or permit of any private
38 educational institution which fails or refuses to observe the provisions of this Act for the
39 second time.

40
41 **SEC. 46. *Administrative Penalties.*** – Any public official or employee who violates any
42 of the provisions of this Act shall be punished in accordance with existing Civil Service laws,
43 rules and regulations, without prejudice to the filing of an appropriate criminal case.

44
45 **SEC. 47. *Fine or Imprisonment.*** – In addition to the provisions on Section 46, any
46 person who, or entity which violates any of the provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction,
47 be punished by a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) nor more than One

1 hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00), or by imprisonment for not more than one (1) year,
2 or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court: *Provided*, That for any
3 second and additional offenses, both fine and imprisonment shall always be imposed:
4 *Provided, further*, That in case the violation is committed by a juridical person, its President
5 or Chief Executive Officer shall be liable.

6
7 **Chapter VII**
8 **FINAL PROVISIONS**
9

10 **SEC. 48. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*.** – Within ninety (90) days from
11 the approval of this Act, the NHCP shall, in consultation with the NCCA, KWF, DepEd, CHED,
12 TESDA, and representatives of the private sector, promulgate the rules and regulations to
13 implement the provisions of this Act.

14
15 **SEC. 49. *Separability Clause*.** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
16 unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in full force and effect.
17

18 **SEC. 50. *Repealing Clause*.** – Republic Act No. 8491, otherwise known as the “Flag and
19 Heraldic Code of the Philippines”, is hereby repealed. All other laws, decrees, orders and
20 rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
21 repealed or amended accordingly.
22

23 **SEC. 51. *Effectivity*.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
24 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
25

26 *Approved,*