

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6478**



Introduced by Representative LEILA M. DE LIMA

AN ACT
INSTITUTING A UNIFIED CORRECTIONS AND JAIL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM,
INTEGRATING THE NATIONAL PRISONS AND PENAL FARMS, AND THE
PROVINCIAL, SUB-PROVINCIAL, CITY, DISTRICT AND MUNICIPAL JAILS,
ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
CORRECTIONS AND JAIL MANAGEMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our prisons have become symbols not of justice, but of neglect. Behind their overcrowded walls, thousands of persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) live in conditions so inhumane that they mirror the very injustices our laws were meant to correct. What should be centers of reformation and redemption have instead become warehouses of despair—crumbling, congested, and chronically mismanaged. This is not merely a humanitarian crisis; it is a constitutional and moral failure demanding immediate reform.

The Philippines' correctional system continues to operate under a highly fragmented corrections and jail management structure. Our prisons and penal farms are under the supervision of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) of the Department of Justice¹; the provincial jails are managed by local governments²; while district, city, and municipal jails are under the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) of the Department of the Interior and Local Government³.

The country remains among the most overcrowded detention systems in the world, far exceeding international standards for humane detention.⁴ As of June 2025,

¹ Order No. 292 (Administrative Code of 1987), Section 26, Chapter 8, Title III, Book IV.

² Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code), Section 17, sub-section (3) (vi).

³ Republic Act No. 10575 (Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013) and Republic Act No. 6975 (Department of Interior and Local Government Act of 1990)

⁴ Penal Reform International (May 2025). Global Prison Trends. Retrieved from: https://cdn.penalreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/PRI_Global-prison-trends-2025.pdf

data from the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) show an average congestion rate of 242%, with 53,854 persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) confined in facilities built for only 15,732 inmates.⁵ The New Bilibid Prison (NBP) alone designed for 9,885 inmates currently houses 22,909 PDLs, representing a 132% congestion rate.⁶ These conditions stand in stark violation of the minimum standards set by the Nelson Mandela Rules. Similarly, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) reported in May 2025 that it manages 426 jails nationwide, with an average congestion rate of 296%, despite modest improvements in recent years⁷.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has consistently warned that extreme overcrowding, poor ventilation, and lack of medical access in detention centers continue to spread tuberculosis, skin infections, and other communicable diseases, while worsening mental health conditions among detainees⁸.

As a State Party to international human rights treaties, the Philippines is bound to uphold humane standards for detention. These include the Nelson Mandela Rules, the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders or the Bangkok Rules, and United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice or the Beijing Rules, all of which emphasize dignity, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

Our own 1987 Constitution, under Article III, Section 19(2), categorically commands that: “The employment of physical, psychological, or degrading punishment against any prisoner or detainee, or the use of substandard or inadequate penal facilities under subhuman conditions, shall be dealt with by law.”

Yet our current system stands in direct contradiction to these principles.

On top of the perennial problems of congestion and overcrowding, the 2024 Human Rights Situationer on Persons Deprived of Liberty released by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) revealed alarming reports of continued abuse within custodial facilities. The CHR documented 48 cases of alleged torture or maltreatment of persons deprived of liberty across the country.⁹

Of these, Region IV-A (CALABARZON) accounted for the highest number of incidents with 12 cases, followed by the National Capital Region (10 cases), Region III (8), Region XII (8), and CARAGA (6). Regions XI and IX each reported two (2) similar cases. Equally disturbing is that the majority of the alleged perpetrators were

⁵ Statistics on Prison Congestion as of 30 June 2025, Bureau of Corrections. Retrieved from: <https://bucor.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Statistics-on-Prison-Congestion-as-of-30-June-2025-07152025.pdf>

⁶ *ibid*

⁷ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (20 June 2025). Philippines: Understanding challenges in detention through Health Information System. Retrieved from: <https://www.icrc.org/en/article/philippines-understanding-challenges-detention-through-health-information-system?>

⁸ *Ibid*.

⁹ Commission on Human Rights. (10 October 2025). Human Rights Situationer on Persons Deprived of Liberty. Retrieved from: https://cdn1.chr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/17125548/CHR_VI_No_POL2025_016_2024_Human_Rights_Situationer_on_Persons_Deprived.pdf?

law enforcement and custodial personnel themselves. Of the 48 recorded cases, 32 involved members of the Philippine National Police (PNP), eight (8) involved BJMP personnel, and three (3) were attributed to BuCor.¹⁰

These figures underscore not only the persistence of violence and abuse within detention facilities, but also the systemic weaknesses caused by the fragmented management of the country's prison and jail systems—where oversight, accountability, and uniform enforcement of human rights standards remain uneven across agencies.

To address these deeply rooted issues, this measure seeks to establish a unified, professional, and humane correctional system by integrating the management of all jails and prisons under a single national authority.

Specifically, the bill proposes the following reforms:

1. **Integration and Centralization:** Consolidate all prisons and jails into one national correctional and jail management system under a single authority responsible for the custody, rehabilitation, and reformation of all PDLs, as well as for the professional supervision of personnel.
2. **Adoption of International Standards:** Institutionalize the implementation of internationally recognized human rights benchmarks, particularly the Nelson Mandela Rules, to ensure humane conditions, health safeguards, and effective rehabilitation in every facility nationwide.
3. **Creation of a Central Authority:** Establish the National Commission on Corrections and Jail Management (NCCJM) to replace the BuCor, BJMP, and provincial jail services as the central policy, administrative, and operational authority for corrections and jail management. This body shall ensure uniformity in standards, centralize accountability, modernize infrastructure, and professionalize personnel.

Additionally, the bill proposes the regionalization of facilities and rehabilitation programs, enabling PDLs to be detained and rehabilitated in facilities closer to their home provinces. This policy will not only decongest Metro Manila detention centers but also strengthen family ties, community support, and reintegration prospects.

A similar measure was filed in the 17th Congress by this Representation as Senate Bill No. 1879, and in the 18th Congress as Senate Bill No. 181, a reflection of continuing commitment to pursue long-overdue reforms in the country's correctional and jail management systems.

Ultimately, this measure envisions a correctional system that upholds the dignity of every person, transforms imprisonment into a genuine opportunity for reformation, and aligns the Philippines with the highest standards of justice and humanity.

¹⁰ Id at 9.

The approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


LEILA M. DE LIMA

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6478**

Introduced by Representative LEILA M. DE LIMA

AN ACT
INSTITUTING A UNIFIED CORRECTIONS AND JAIL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM,
INTEGRATING THE NATIONAL PRISONS AND PENAL FARMS, AND THE
PROVINCIAL, SUB-PROVINCIAL, CITY, DISTRICT AND MUNICIPAL JAILS,
ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
CORRECTIONS AND JAIL MANAGEMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Chapter I
Title, State Policy and Definition of Terms

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — *This Act shall be known as the "Unified Corrections and Jail Management System Act of 2025."*

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State adopts the following policies:

a) It shall uphold the welfare and well-being of all persons deprived of liberty regardless of their places of detention, whether in a national prison or correctional facility, or in a provincial, sub-provincial, city, district or municipal jail; and

b) It shall strengthen the government capability in the custody of detainees, the safekeeping and reformation of prisoners, the upgrading and regionalization of facilities, and the professionalization of its personnel through a unified corrections and jail management system in the country.

To implement these policies, this Act is being promulgated to fulfill the following objectives:

a) To adopt internationally recognized standards and rules in the treatment of all inmates in the different prisons and jails in the country;

1 b) To integrate into one corrections and jail system and centralize to one
2 government authority the management of all prisons and jails, the safeguarding of
3 detainees, the custody and rehabilitation of prisoners, and the control and supervision
4 over all administrative and technical personnel; and

5
6 c) To establish the National Commission on Corrections and Jail Management
7 as an independent central authority to carry out the unified correctional system, and
8 to plan and implement services and programs related to its custodial and reformatory
9 mandates, including the upgrading of its facilities and equipment, regionalization of its
10 facilities, and the professionalization of its officials and employees.

11
12 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the following terms have the
13 corresponding meanings, as follows:

14
15 a) *Person Deprived of Liberty (PDL)* — refers to any person deprived
16 of personal liberty as a result of conviction for an offense. It shall also refer to
17 a person arrested or detained by reason of a criminal charge, who is detained
18 either in police custody or in jail awaiting trial or has not yet been tried and
19 sentenced.

20
21 b) *Prisoner or an imprisoned person* — refers to any individual deprived
22 of personal liberty as a result of conviction for an offense.

23
24 c) *Detainee* - refers to any individual deprived of personal liberty who is
25 detained either in police custody or in jail awaiting trial or has not been tried
26 and sentenced.

27
28 d) *Correctional facility* - refers to an institution where persons convicted
29 of crimes serve their sentences. It includes the prisons and penal farms
30 currently under the Bureau of Corrections.

31
32 e) *Detention center* —refers to the facility where individuals are held or
33 endorsed for temporary deprivation of liberty after arrest.

34
35 f) *Municipal, city or district jail* - refers to the detention center where
36 persons deprived of liberty are detained while awaiting or undergoing trial.

37
38 g) *Provincial or sub-provincial jail* — refers to the correction facility
39 where persons deprived of liberty who are convicted of imprisonment for three
40 (3) years or below serve their sentences.

41
42 h) *National prison or regional facility* — refers to the facility where
43 persons deprived of liberty are committed after conviction for felonies or
44 crimes with sentence for a period exceeding three (3) years.

45
46 i) *Nelson Mandela Rules* — refers to the rules set out in the 2015 United
47 Nations (UN) Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

1 SEC. 4. *Creation of the National Commission on Corrections and Jail*
2 *Management.* - There is hereby instituted a unified corrections and jail management
3 system in the country. The National Commission on Corrections and Jail Management
4 (Commission) is hereby established to carry out such a system integrating the
5 correctional and jail services currently provided by relevant government agencies,
6 such as the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), the Bureau of Jail Management and
7 Penology (BJMP), and the provincial governments. It shall be the sole authority with
8 jurisdiction over all facilities and premises of national prisons and penal farms,
9 provincial, sub-provincial, city and municipal jails, and such other correctional facilities
10 that may be established hereafter. It shall also be responsible for the custody of
11 detainees, and the safekeeping and rehabilitation of prisoners. Likewise, it shall
12 exercise control and supervision over all its personnel.

13
14 The BuCor, BJMP, and the correctional and jail services of provincial
15 governments are hereby abolished.

16
17 The following facilities shall not, however, be part of the Commission: detention
18 centers and lock-up cells being maintained by the Armed Forces of the Philippines
19 (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), Boys Town, Girls Center, and other existing
20 youth rehabilitation centers.

21
22 SEC. 5. *Powers and functions of the Commission.* — The Commission shall
23 have the following powers, duties and functions:

- 24
25 a) To implement the unified corrections and jail management system,
26 and adopt such rules and regulations necessary to carry out the objectives of
27 this Act;
28 b) To recommend policies to improve the unified corrections and jail
29 management system in the country;
30 c) To be responsible for the safe and efficient custody of the detainees,
31 and the effective safekeeping and rehabilitation of the prisoners;
32 d) To exercise supervision and control over all facilities, equipment and
33 premises of national prisons and penal farms, provincial, sub-provincial, district,
34 city, and municipal jails;
35 e) To propose the establishment or abolition of prisons, correctional
36 facilities and jails;
37 f) To hire, discipline and manage competent and efficient personnel; and
38 g) To perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out its
39 mandate.

40
41 The Commission shall absorb and assume the functions and responsibilities of
42 the Bureau of Corrections, pursuant to Section 26, Chapter 8, Title III, Book IV of
43 Executive Order No. 292 (Administrative Code of 1987), and strengthened under
44 Republic Act No. 10575 (Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013); the Bureau of Jail
45 Management and Penology, pursuant to Republic Act No. 6975 (Department of Interior
46 and Local Government Act of 1990), and strengthened under Republic Act No. 9263
47 (Bureau of Fire and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Professionalization Act
48 of 2004); and provincial governments, which maintain provincial and sub-provincial jail
49 services pursuant to their mandate under Section 17, sub-section (3) (vi) of Republic
50 Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code).

1 SEC. 6. *Status and Nature of the Commission.* - The Commission shall be
2 independent and autonomous, which shall be attached to the Department of Justice
3 (Department) solely for program and policy coordination only.
4

5 SEC. 7. *Structure and Key Positions.* — The Commission shall be headed by
6 a Commissioner, with the rank of Undersecretary, who shall be assisted by two (2)
7 Deputy Commissioners, with the rank of Assistant Secretaries, all of whom shall be
8 appointed by the President upon recommendation by the Department Secretary;
9 *Provided, That* the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioners shall each be
10 appointed for a term of seven (7) years; *Provided, further, That* in times of war or
11 national emergency declared by Congress, the President may extend such term.
12

13 The Commissioner shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission and
14 the presiding officer in its *en banc* sessions and meetings. He/she shall head the
15 Operations and Legal Affairs Division, which shall be responsible for the custodial and
16 reformatory services, security and maintenance of the facilities, and legal affairs of the
17 Commission. One Deputy Commissioner shall be in charge of the Administration and
18 Finance Division, which shall be responsible for the management of the personnel,
19 finances and budgetary requirements of the Commission. The other Deputy
20 Commissioner shall head the Policy, Planning and Development Division, which shall
21 handle policy recommendation, and the preparation, implementation and monitoring
22 of commission-wide programs.
23

24 Within sixty (60) days from its constitution, in consultation with the Department
25 of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the
26 Commission shall approve the organizational structure, including the units under each
27 division, staffing pattern, and the corresponding functions and delineation of
28 responsibilities of the different units, officials and employees of the Commission.
29

30 In preparing and approving the organizational structure, staffing pattern, and
31 definition of responsibilities of its officials and employees, the Commission shall be
32 governed by applicable civil service rules and regulations, particularly on such matters
33 as non-diminution of rank, salary and benefits of affected employees, and
34 standardizations of base pay, retirement and other benefits of absorbed and newly
35 hired officials and employees.
36

37 SEC. 8. *Qualification Standards of the Commissioner and the Deputy*
38 *Commissioners.* - No person shall be appointed Commissioner or Deputy
39 Commissioner, unless one possesses the following minimum qualifications:
40

- 41 a) A citizen of the Republic of the Philippines;
- 42 b) A person of good moral character, and mental or psychological
43 fitness;
- 44 c) At least 40 years old;
- 45 d) Must possess a degree and relevant training in law, criminology,
46 penology, criminal justice, human rights, jail management, or correctional
47 service; and
- 48 e) Must have at least five (5) years of prior relevant experience working
49 in such fields as law practice, criminology, criminal justice, penology, human
50 rights, jail management, or correctional service.

1 SEC. 9. *Appointment of Personnel to the Commission.* - All officials and
2 employees shall be appointed by the Commission, upon recommendation of the
3 Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner in charge of the Division to which the official
4 or employee shall be assigned.

5
6 SEC. 10. *Professionalization and Upgrading of Qualification Standards in the*
7 *Appointment of Personnel to the Commission.* - In the appointment of personnel, the
8 Commission shall be governed by the provisions of Section 11 of Republic Act No.
9 10575, and Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9263.

10
11 In the training of its personnel, the Commission shall establish the Corrections
12 Training Institute, which shall be patterned after the BuCor's Corrections Training
13 School/Institute, and BJMP's National Jail Management and Penology Training
14 Institute.

15
16 The Commission shall conduct a study, and make recommendations to
17 Congress, through the Department Secretary, about the feasible establishment of the
18 Philippine Corrections Academy for its officers.

19
20 SEC. 11. *Performance Evaluation System.* — The Commission shall observe
21 the performance appraisal and rating system mandated by Section 18 of Republic Act
22 No.10575, and Section 11 of Republic Act No. 9263.

23
24 SEC. 12. *Promotion System.* — In the matter of personnel movement and
25 promotion, the Commission shall comply with the provisions of Section 17 of Republic
26 Act No. 10575, and Section 10 of Republic Act No. 9263.

27
28 Sec. 13. *Human Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty.* - Persons deprived of
29 liberty (PDLs) do not lose their fundamental human rights when they are placed under
30 detention, or when they are serving sentence. They continue to possess all human
31 rights for the protection and preservation of life and their inherent dignity as human
32 persons, which are not incompatible with the objective of reformation through
33 incarceration or detention. The revised UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment
34 of Prisoners, or the Nelson Mandela Rules, are hereby adopted to be the minimum
35 standard of conditions, treatment and rights available to prisoners and detainees. All
36 other UN guidelines, including those for non-custodial measures, are likewise adopted
37 and made applicable to all persons deprived of liberty.

38
39 All other basic rights, consistent with the requirements of detention or
40 incarceration, which are embodied in, or recognized under the Constitution, the laws,
41 particularly Republic Act No. 7438, and relevant jurisprudence shall likewise be
42 enjoyed by all persons deprived of liberty.

43
44 SEC. 14. *Services and Programs.*- As the central authority responsible for the
45 management of prisons and jails, and the custody and rehabilitation of prisoners and
46 detainees, the Commission shall develop and implement programs on safe and
47 effective custody of detainees and prisoners, and the rehabilitation and reintegration
48 of prisoners. It shall ensure that its programs and services shall place special
49 consideration to the following significant areas of concern:

- 1 a) Custody of persons deprived of liberty;
2 b) Reformation of prisoners;
3 c) Right to adequate food, water, living and work spaces, and other basic
4 necessities;
5 d) Right to adequate legal assistance, access to court, medical and
6 spiritual support;
7 e) Right to engage in productive work or livelihood; and
8 f) Right to reasonable contact with the outside world, including visitation,
9 subject to rules on proper administration and security of the detention facility.
10

11 SEC. 15. *Transfer, Merger, and Absorption of Offices and Personnel.* — All
12 properties, equipment and financial assets of the defunct BuCor and the national jails
13 and penal farms; of the provincial and sub-provincial jails; and of the defunct BJMP
14 and the existing district and city or municipal jails, shall be transferred to the
15 Commission. The transfer, merger, and/or absorption of the affected offices shall cover
16 the functions, official records, equipment, facilities, choses in action, assets, liabilities,
17 if any, and the existing personnel thereof. Those personnel whose positions or
18 functions are not included in the new organizational structure and staffing pattern
19 approved by the Department Secretary, or who are not reappointed, shall be allowed
20 to retire under existing laws, rules and regulations. Otherwise, they shall be deemed
21 separated from the service, and shall be paid a gratuity equivalent to one and one
22 fourth (1 ¹/₄) months basic salary for every year of service or a fraction thereof.
23

24 SEC. 16. *Retirement Age of Uniformed Personnel of the Defunct BuCor and*
25 *BJMP.* - Any uniformed personnel of the defunct BuCor and BJMP, who shall be
26 absorbed by the Commission may, upon reaching the age of fifty-six (56) years, retire
27 in accordance with Republic Act No. 6975 or Republic Act No. 10575. If he/she opts
28 to remain in the service, he/she shall be retired in accordance with Government
29 Service Insurance System (GSIS) Retirement System under Presidential Decree No.
30 1146, as amended.
31

32 SEC. 17. *Retirement Benefits.* — Upon compulsory retirement, any uniformed
33 officer of the Commission shall be entitled to retirement benefits computed on the
34 basis of one (1) grade higher than the position last held: *Provided*, That the retirement
35 pay shall be subject to adjustment based on the prevailing scale of base pay for
36 uniformed personnel in the active service.
37

38 SEC. 18. *Establishment and Maintenance of Prisons, Penal Farms and Jails.* -
39 The existing provincial, sub-provincial, district, city and municipal jails shall continue
40 to function as such, but under the authority and management of the Commission. The
41 Commission shall periodically conduct a study of the conditions of these jails, and, if
42 warranted, shall recommend to Congress the establishment of additional or
43 appropriate jails. The provincial and sub-provincial jails shall be the detention facilities
44 for prisoners serving sentences with penalties of imprisonment for three (3) years and
45 below. The district, city and municipal jails shall be for detainees who fail to post bail
46 and are awaiting sentences.
47

48 The national prisons and correctional facilities shall include the existing national
49 prisons and penal colonies such as the New Bilibid Prison; Correctional Institution for
50 Women; Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm; Davao Prison and Penal Farm; Sablayan

1 Prison and Penal Farm; Leyte Regional Prison; and San Ramon Prison and Penal
2 Farm. Following periodic studies on the conditions of these facilities, the Commission
3 may recommend to Congress the establishment of additional or appropriate prisons
4 or correctional facilities. These facilities shall be the detention centers of prisoners who
5 are serving sentences with penalties of imprisonment of at least three (3) years and
6 one (1) day.

7
8 SEC. 19. *Regional Correctional Facilities.* - The national prisons and penal
9 farms mentioned in Section 18 are hereby repurposed for use as regional correctional
10 facilities, without prejudice to the establishment of such additional facilities to be
11 recommended by the Commission and approved by Congress in appropriate
12 legislation. These regional facilities shall be established to serve all the administrative
13 regions in the country, including the National Capital Region (NCR), the Cordillera
14 Administrative Region (CAR), and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim
15 Mindanao (BARMM).

16
17 Prisoners shall be transferred to the regional facilities nearest their domicile or
18 prior habitual residence. The rules and guidelines for this disengagement of national
19 prisons and penal colonies, as well as the transfer of prisoners, shall be issued by the
20 Commission.

21
22 SEC. 20. *Power of the Commission to Classify Prisoners, and to Order their*
23 *Transfer.* - Upon the effectivity of this Act, the Commission shall issue rules and
24 regulations pertaining to the classification, commitment and transfer of the prisoners
25 and detainees, taking into account their age, mental health, incorrigibility or recidivism,
26 nature and gravity of the offense committed, penalty or sentence imposed on them,
27 and other such circumstances as may assist in determining to which correctional
28 facility they shall be properly placed, for the purpose of decongesting the prisons and
29 jails and promoting the welfare and well-being of the persons deprived of liberty.

30
31 Following a set of criteria and defined rules, the Commission may order the
32 transfer of a prisoner or detainee to another facility considering such circumstances
33 as the behavior of the prisoner or detainee, and such other relevant factors as the
34 security and orderly administration of his/her current place of detention.

35
36 SEC. 21. *Transition Monitoring Panel.* - A Transition Monitoring Panel shall be
37 created to be composed of the Secretary of Justice as Chair, and as members, the
38 Secretaries of the Department of Interior and Local Government and the DBM, the
39 Chair of the CSC, the Commissioner of the Commission, and the Chairs of the
40 committees of the Senate and House of Representatives on Justice, Human Rights
41 and Public Order. The Committee shall oversee the expeditious and efficient
42 implementation of the transfer to, and absorption by the Commission of the personnel,
43 properties, finances and records of the BuCor, including the national prisons and penal
44 farms; of the BJMP, including the existing district, city and municipal jails; and of the
45 provincial governments pertaining to provincial and sub-provincial jails. The report/s

1 of the Transition Panel shall be submitted to the Joint Congressional Oversight
2 Committee, with copies to be furnished to the Secretary of Justice and the
3 Commission.

4
5 SEC. 22. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.* - There is hereby created
6 a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor the implementation of this Act.
7 The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five (5) Senators and five (5)
8 Representatives to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the
9 House of Representatives, respectively. It shall be co-chaired by a Senator and a
10 Representative to be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the
11 House of Representatives, respectively. Its funding requirement shall be charged
12 against the appropriations of Congress.

13
14 SEC. 23. *Implementation.* — The implementation of this Act shall be carried out
15 in four (4) stages:

16
17 a) STAGE I - Inventory and absorption by the Commission of all personnel,
18 properties, equipment, records, appropriations, and finances of the transferred and
19 absorbed offices, to be completed within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

20
21 b) STAGE II - Recruitment of additional personnel to cover all prisons and jails,
22 to be completed within six (6) months from effectivity of this Act. To accomplish the
23 task of Stage II, special funds therefor shall be appropriated upon the effectivity of this
24 Act.

25 c) STAGE III - Approval by the Commission of its organizational structure, and
26 the preparation and filling up of staffing pattern, to be completed within twelve (12)
27 months from the effectivity of this Act.

28
29 d) STAGE IV - Conversion of the rank of the uniformed personnel of the defunct
30 BJMP and BuCor into its equivalent rank/position in the Commission, and the
31 rationalization of compensation and retirement systems, taking into consideration the
32 existing compensation schemes and retirement and separation benefit systems of the
33 transferred and absorbed offices, to ensure that no employee of the BuCor and BJMP
34 shall suffer any diminution in basic longevity and incentive pays, allowances and
35 retirement benefits due them before the creation of the Commission, to be completed
36 within (2) years from the effectivity of this Act.

37
38 Upon the effectivity of this Act, the present BuCor, as well as the BJMP, shall
39 cease to exist. The incumbent Director-General of the defunct BuCor shall act as the
40 Commissioner of the Commission until such time as he/she shall have been replaced
41 by the President.

42
43 SEC. 24. *Funding.* - For purposes of organizing and constituting the
44 Commission, and for carrying out the provisions of this Act, the appropriations for the

1 current fiscal year of the transferred and abolished offices hereof shall be transferred
2 to the Commission. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary to carry out the
3 provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
4

5 SEC. 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within six (6) months from the
6 effectivity of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations
7 necessary to ensure the effective implementation of this Act.
8

9 SEC. 26. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason, any section or provision of
10 this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions which
11 are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.
12

13 SEC. 27. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders,
14 proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent herewith
15 are repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
16

17 SEC. 28. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
18 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of
19 general circulation.
20

21 Approved,