



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 12228

BY REPRESENTATIVES CHIPECO, SALUDO, FAJARDO, AMIN, RODRIGUEZ (O.), MENDOZA, BATERINA, YOUNG, BRIONES, QUIMPO, TULAGAN, CRUZ (T.), BUESER, LORENZO-VILLAREAL, JOSON, CRUZ-DUCUT, ROMAN, BERATIO, LAPUS, MARTINEZ, RODRIGUEZ (I.), ESPINOSA (E.), MACIAS, COSALAN, SHAHANI, CAGAS, GONZALES (N.), MALIKSI, VERGARA, PEREZ, ANDAYA (M.), ERMITA, AQUINO (A.), ANGPING, FUENTEBELLA, GULLAS, ANGARA-CASTILLO AND VILLAR, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1187

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP FOR CERTAIN ALIENS BY ADMINISTRATIVE NATURALIZATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as “The
2 Administrative Naturalization Law of 2000.”

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall control and
4 regulate the admission and integration of aliens into its territory and body
5 politic including the grant of citizenship to aliens. Towards this end, aliens
6 born and residing in the Philippines may be granted Philippine citizenship
7 by administrative proceedings subject to certain requirements dictated by
8 national security and interest.

7

1 SEC. 3. *Qualifications.* – Subject to the provisions of the
2 succeeding section, any person desiring to avail of the benefits of this Act
3 must meet the following qualifications:

4 (a) The applicant must be born in the Philippines and residing
5 therein since birth;

6 (b) The applicant must not be less than eighteen (18) years of age,
7 at the time of filing of his/her petition;

8 (c) The applicant must be of good moral character and believes in
9 the principles underlying the Constitution, and must have conducted
10 himself/herself in a proper and irreproachable manner during his/her entire
11 period of residence in the Philippines in his relation with the duly
12 constituted government as well as with the community in which he/she is
13 living;

14 (d) The applicant must have received his/her primary and
15 secondary education in any public school or private educational institution
16 duly recognized by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports,
17 where Philippine history, government and civics are taught and prescribed
18 as part of the school curriculum and where enrollment is not limited to any
19 race or nationality: *Provided, That,* should he/she have minor children of
20 school age, he/she must have enrolled them in similar schools;

21 (e) The applicant must have a known trade, business, profession or
22 lawful occupation, from which he/she derives income sufficient for his/her
23 support and if he/she is married and/or has dependents, also that of his/her

1 family: *Provided, however,* That this shall not apply to applicants who are
2 college degree holders but are unable to practice their profession because
3 they are disqualified to do so by reason of their citizenship;

4 (f) The applicant must be able to read, write and speak Filipino or
5 any of the dialects of the Philippines; and

6 (g) The applicant must have mingled with the Filipinos and
7 evinced a sincere desire to learn and embrace the customs, traditions and
8 ideals of the Filipino people.

9 SEC. 4. *Disqualifications.* – The following are not qualified to be
10 naturalized as Filipino citizens under this Act:

11 (a) Those opposed to organized government or affiliated with any
12 association or group of persons who uphold and teach doctrines opposing
13 all organized governments;

14 (b) Those defending or teaching the necessity of or propriety of
15 violence, personal assault or assassination for the success or predominance
16 of their ideas;

17 (c) Polygamists or believers in the practice of polygamy;

18 (d) Those convicted of crimes involving moral turpitude;

19 (e) Those suffering from mental alienation or incurable contagious
20 diseases;

21 (f) Those who, during the period of their residence in the
22 Philippines, have not mingled socially with Filipinos, or who have not

1 evinced a sincere desire to learn and embrace the customs, traditions and
2 ideals of the Filipinos;

3 (g) Citizens or subjects with whom the Philippines is at war, during
4 the period of such war; and

5 (h) Citizens or subjects of a foreign country whose laws do not
6 grant Filipinos the right to be naturalized citizens or subjects thereof.

7 SEC. 5. *Petition for Citizenship.* - (1) Any person desiring to
8 acquire Philippine citizenship under this Act shall file with the Special
9 Committee on Naturalization created under Section 6 hereof, a petition of
10 five (5) copies legibly typed and signed, thumbmarked and verified by
11 him/her, with the latter's passport-sized photograph attached to each copy
12 of the petition, and setting forth the following:

13 (a) The petitioner's name and surname, and any other name he/she
14 has used or by which he/she is known;

15 (b) The petitioner's present and former places of residence;

16 (c) The petitioner's place and date of birth, the names and
17 citizenship of his/her parents and their residences;

18 (d) The petitioner's trade, business, profession or occupation, and
19 if married, also that of his/her spouse;

20 (e) Whether the petitioner is single or married or his/her marriage
21 is annulled. If married, petitioner shall state the date and place of his/her
22 marriage, and the name, date of birth, birthplace, citizenship and residence

1 of his/her spouse; and if his marriage is annulled, the date of decree of
2 annulment of marriage and the court which granted the same;

3 (f) If the petitioner has children, the name, date and birthplace and
4 residences of his/her children;

5 (g) A declaration that the petitioner possesses all the qualifications
6 and none of the disqualifications under this Act;

7 (h) A declaration that the petitioner shall never be a public charge;
8 and

9 (i) A declaration that it is the petitioner's true and honest intention
10 to acquire Philippine citizenship and to renounce absolutely and forever
11 any prince, potentate, state of sovereign, and particularly the country of
12 which the applicant is a citizen or subject.

13 (2) The application shall be accompanied by:

14 (a) Duplicate original or certified photocopies of petitioner's birth
15 certificate;

16 (b) Duplicate original or certified photocopies of petitioner's alien
17 certificate of registration and native born certificate of residence;

18 (c) Duplicate original or certified photocopies of petitioner's
19 marriage certificate, if married, or the death certificate of his spouse, if
20 widowed, or the court decree annulling his marriage, if such was the fact;

21 (d) Duplicate original or certified photocopies of birth certificates,
22 alien certificate of registration or native born certificate of residence if any,
23 of petitioner's minor children, wherever applicable;

1 (e) Affidavit of financial capacity by the petitioner, and sworn
2 statements on the good moral character of the petitioner by at least two (2)
3 Filipino citizens of good reputation in his/her place of residence stating
4 that they have personally known the petitioner for at least a period of ten
5 (10) years and that said petitioner has in their own opinion all the
6 qualifications necessary to become a citizen of the Philippines and is not in
7 any way disqualified under the provisions of this Act;

8 (f) A medical certificate that petitioner is not a user of prohibited
9 drugs or otherwise a drug dependent and that he/she is not afflicted with
10 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS);

11 (g) School diploma and transcript of records of the petitioner in the
12 schools he attended in the Philippines. Should the petitioner have minor
13 children, a certification that his children are enrolled in a school where
14 Philippine history, government and civics are taught and are part of the
15 curriculum; and

16 (h) If gainfully employed, the income tax return for the past three
17 (3) years.

18 SEC. 6. *Special Committee on Naturalization.* – There shall be
19 constituted a Special Committee on Naturalization herein referred to as the
20 “Committee”, with the Solicitor General as chairman, the Secretary of
21 Foreign Affairs, or his representative, and the National Security Adviser,
22 as members, with the power to approve, deny or reject applications for
23 naturalization as provided in this Act.

1 The Committee shall meet, as often as practicable, to consider
 2 applications for naturalization. For this purpose, the chairman and
 3 members shall receive an honorarium of Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00)
 4 and One thousand five hundred pesos (P1,500.00), respectively, per
 5 meeting attended.

6 SEC. 7. *Powers/Functions of the Special Committee on*
 7 *Naturalization.* – An alien who believes that he has all the qualifications,
 8 and none of the disqualifications, may file an application for naturalization
 9 with the secretariat of the Special Committee on Naturalization, and a
 10 processing fee of Forty thousand pesos (P40,000.00). Thereafter, the
 11 petition shall be stamped to indicate the date of filing and a corresponding
 12 docket number. Within fifteen (15) days from the receipt of the petition,
 13 the Committee shall determine whether the petition is complete in
 14 substance and in form. If such petition is complete, the Committee shall
 15 immediately publish pertinent portions of the petition indicating the name,
 16 qualifications and other personal circumstances of the applicant, once a
 17 week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general
 18 circulation, and have copies of the petition posted in any public or
 19 conspicuous area. The Committee shall immediately furnish the
 20 Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Bureau of Immigration (BI), the
 21 civil registrar of the petitioner’s place of residence and the National
 22 Bureau of Investigation (NBI) copies of the petition and its supporting
 23 documents. These agencies shall have copies of the petition posted in any

1 public or conspicuous area in their buildings, offices and premises, and
2 shall, within thirty (30) days from the receipt of the petition, submit to the
3 Committee a report stating whether or not petitioner has any derogatory
4 record on file or any such relevant and material information which might
5 be adverse to petitioner's application for citizenship.

6 If the petition is found by the Committee to be wanting in substance
7 and form, the petition shall be dismissed without prejudice.

8 SEC. 8 *Approval or Disapproval of the Petition.* - Within sixty
9 (60) days from receipt of the report of the agencies which were furnished a
10 copy of the petition or the date of the last publication of the petition,
11 whichever comes in later, the Committee shall consider and review all
12 relevant and material information it has received pertaining to the petition,
13 and may, for the purpose call the petitioner for interview to ascertain
14 his/her identity, the authenticity of the petition and its annexes, and to
15 determine the truthfulness of the statements and declarations made in the
16 petition and its annexes.

17 If the Committee shall have received any information adverse to the
18 petition, the Committee shall allow the petitioner to answer, explain or
19 refute the information.

20 Thereafter, if the Committee believes, in view of the facts before it,
21 that the petitioner has all the qualifications and none of the
22 disqualifications required for Philippine citizenship under this Act, it shall

1 approve the petition and henceforth, notify the petitioner of the fact of
2 such approval. Otherwise, the Committee shall disapprove the same.

3 SEC. 9 *Decree of Naturalization and Naturalization Processing*

4 *Fee.* – Within thirty (30) days from the receipt of the notice of the approval
5 of his/her petition, the applicant shall pay to the Committee a
6 naturalization fee of One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) payable
7 as follows: Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) upon the approval of the
8 petition and Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) upon the taking of the oath
9 of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines, forthwith, a certificate of
10 naturalization shall be issued. Within sixty (60) days from the issuance of
11 the certificate, the petitioner shall take an oath of allegiance in the proper
12 form upon proof of payment of the required naturalization processing fee
13 and certificate of naturalization. Should the applicant fail to take the
14 abovementioned oath of allegiance within said period of time, the approval
15 of the petition shall be deemed abandoned.

16 SEC. 10. *Duty of the Bureau of Immigration.* – Within five (5) days

17 after the applicant has taken his oath of allegiance as required in the
18 preceding section, the BI shall forward a copy of the petitioner’s oath to
19 the proper local civil registrar. Thereafter, the BI shall cancel the alien
20 certificates of registration of the applicant.

21 SEC. 11. *Status of Alien Wife and Minor Children.* – After the

22 approval of the petition for administrative naturalization and cancellation
23 of applicant’s alien certificate of registration, applicant’s alien lawful wife

1 and minor children may file a petition for cancellation of their alien
 2 certificates of registration with the Committee subject to the payment of
 3 the filing fee of Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) and naturalization
 4 fee of Forty thousand pesos (P40,000.00) payable as follows: Twenty
 5 thousand pesos (P20,000.00) upon the approval of the petition and Twenty
 6 thousand pesos (P20,000.00) upon the taking of the Oath of Allegiance to
 7 the Republic of the Philippines.

8 SEC. 12. *Status of Alien Husband and Minor Children.* – If the
 9 applicant is a married woman, the approval of her petition for
 10 administrative naturalization will not benefit her alien husband but her
 11 minor children may file a petition for cancellation of their alien certificates
 12 of registration with the BI subject to the requirements of existing laws.

13 SEC. 13. *Cancellation of the Certificate of Naturalization.* – The
 14 Special Committee may cancel certificates of naturalization issued under
 15 this Act in the following cases:

16 (a) If it finds that the naturalized person or his duly authorized
 17 representative made any false statement or misrepresentation or committed
 18 any violation of law, rules and regulations in connection with the petition
 19 for naturalization, or if he otherwise obtains Philippine citizenship
 20 fraudulently or illegally, the certificate of naturalization shall be cancelled;

21 (b) If the naturalized person or his wife, or any or his minor
 22 children who acquire Filipino citizenship by virtue of his naturalization
 23 shall, within five (5) years next following the grant of Philippine

1 citizenship, establish permanent residence in a foreign country, that
 2 individual's certificate of naturalization or acquired citizenship shall be
 3 cancelled or revoked: *Provided*, That the fact of such person's remaining
 4 for more than one (1) year in his country of origin, or two (2) years in any
 5 foreign country, shall be considered *prima facie* evidence of intent to
 6 permanently reside therein;

7 (c) If the naturalized person or his wife or child with acquired
 8 citizenship allows himself or herself to be used as a dummy in violation of
 9 any constitutional or legal provision requiring Philippine citizenship as a
 10 condition for the exercise, use or enjoyment of a right, franchise or
 11 privilege, the certificate of naturalization or acquired citizenship shall be
 12 cancelled or revoked; and

13 (d) If the naturalized person or his wife or child with acquired
 14 citizenship commits any act inimical to national security, the certificate of
 15 naturalization or acquired citizenship shall be cancelled or revoked.

16 In case the naturalized person holds any hereditary title, or belong to
 17 any order of nobility, he shall make an express renunciation of his title or
 18 membership in this order of nobility before the Special Committee or its
 19 duly authorized representative, and such renunciation shall be included in
 20 the records of his application for citizenship.

21 SEC. 14 *Penalties.* - Any person who shall fraudulently make,
 22 falsify, forge, change, alter, or cause or aid any person to do the same, or
 23 who shall purposely aid and assist in falsely making, forging, falsifying,

1 changing or altering a naturalization certificate issued under this
 2 proceeding for the purpose of making use thereof, or in order that the same
 3 may be used by another person or persons, and any person who shall
 4 purposely aid and assist another in obtaining a naturalization certificate in
 5 violation of this decree, shall be punished by a fine of not more than Five
 6 hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) and by imprisonment for not more
 7 than five (5) years, and in the case that the person convicted is a
 8 naturalized citizen, his certificate of naturalization shall, if not earlier
 9 cancelled by the Special Committee, be ordered cancelled.

10 SEC. 15. Any person who failed to register his/her birth with the
 11 concerned city or municipal civil registrar may, within two (2) years from
 12 the effectivity of this Act, file a petition for the acquisition of the
 13 Philippine citizenship: *Provided*, That the applicant possesses all the
 14 qualifications and none of the disqualifications under this Act and subject
 15 to the requirements of existing laws.

16 SEC. 16. *Special Disposition of the Filing Fee.* – An amount
 17 equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%) of the filing fee to be paid by the
 18 applicants pursuant to Section 7 hereof shall accrue to the University of the
 19 Philippines Law Center and another twenty-five percent (25%) shall be
 20 allotted for the publication of the Journal of the House of Representatives.
 21 Said amount shall be treated as receipts automatically appropriated.

22 SEC. 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Special
 23 Committee on Naturalization is hereby authorized to promulgate such rules

1 and regulations as may be needed for the proper implementation of the
2 provisions of this Act.

3 SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.* – All provisions of existing laws,
4 orders, decrees, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with this
5 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

6 SEC. 19. *Separability Clause.* – If any part, section or provision of
7 this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the part, section or
8 provision not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

9 SEC. 20. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen
10 (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of
11 general circulation.

Approved,

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