

SOCIAL LEGISLATION — "The promotion of social justice to insure the well-being and economic security of all the people should be the concern of all the people should be the concern of the State."¹

In keeping with this policy enunciated in our fundamental law, our legislature has time and again enacted measures to alleviate the social conditions in this country, the most recent ones being the Land Reform Act of 1955 and the law creating agrarian courts.

Prior to the passage of the Land Reform Act, the Government had played only a passive role in the relations of landowner and tenant; it was merely authorized to enter into negotiations with owners of landed estates for the purpose of leasing such estates and to sublet the same to bonafide occupants or qualified persons.² Likewise, the Rural Progress Administration,³ as a Government agency, could "expropriate only such lands as bore direct relation to public safety, health and morals."⁴ Under the Land Reform Act of 1955, the Government plays an active role in adjusting the quarrels arising from tenancy relations and in apportioning an equitable distribution of farm lands. Under the new law, the Government is authorized to negotiate for the purchase of, or in proper cases to expropriate, big landed estates, for resale to tenants. And, *regardless of the area*, the Government is empowered to expropriate an estate if there should be justified agrarian unrest therein.

The Land Reform Act of 1955 is undeniably another expression of the social policy of the Government, which the courts have found in previous legislation. Without doubt, the same reasons which motivated the enactment of C.A. 378 also impelled the passage of the new law.

It is also a matter of past and contemporary history that feudalism has been the root cause of popular discontent that led to social disorders.

It was such lands taken for such purpose which we said the framers of the Constitution had in mind and which the National Government and, with appropriate legislative authority, the cities and municipalities, may condemn. We stated that it is economic slavery, feudalistic practices, endless conflicts between landlords and tenants, and allied evils which it is the authority, nay the duty, of the State to abolish by acquiring landed estates by purchase if possible or by condemnation if necessary.⁵

The Land Reform Act of 1955, it is hoped, will convert into a reality

¹ PHIL. CONST. Art. 2 § 5.

² C.A. No. 378.

³ EXEC. ORDER No. 191 (1939).

⁴ Guido v. Rural Progress Adm'n., 47 O.G. 1848 (1951).

⁵ Urban Estates, Inc. v. Montesa, G.R. No. L-3830, March 15, 1951.

the four-century-old dream of peasants to own the lands that they had been tilling.

In line with the same policy of the Government to arrive at a better solution of the vast social problems with which the nation is vitally concerned, Congress has also recently passed a law creating agrarian courts.

Perhaps, as critics observe, the two laws have still left much to be desired, but at least the initial step in the right direction has been taken and improvement will surely and more easily follow.

[R.A. NO. 1400]

AN ACT

DEFINING A LAND TENURE POLICY, PROVIDING FOR AN INSTRUMENTALITY TO CARRY OUT THE POLICY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION

SECTION 1. *Short title.*—This Act shall be known as the "Land Reform Act of 1955."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the declared policy of the State to create and maintain an agrarian system which is peaceful, prosperous and stable, and to this end the Government shall establish and distribute as many family-size farms to as many landless citizens as possible through the opening up of public agricultural lands and the division and distribution of private agricultural lands where agrarian conflicts exist, either by private arrangement with the owners or through expropriation proceedings.

THE LAND TENURE ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 3. *Creation and composition.* — For the purpose of carrying out the policy enunciated in this Act, there is hereby created a Land Tenure Administration, hereinafter called the Administration, which shall be directly under the control and supervision of and responsible to the President of the Philippines. The Administration shall consist of a Chairman and two members who shall be appointed by the President with the consent of the Commission on Appointments and shall hold office for a period of five years. They may be removed for cause or for incapacity to discharge the duties of their office.

SEC. 4. *Qualifications and compensation of members.* — No person shall be appointed Chairman or member of the Administration unless he is natural born citizen of the Philippines, at least thirty-five years of age, and not related by affinity or consanguinity within the fourth civil degree to any landowner who may be affected by this Act.

The Chairman shall receive an annual compensation of fifteen thousand pesos and the members shall receive an annual compensation of twelve thousand pesos.

SEC. 5. *Functions.* — It shall be the responsibility of the Administration to:

(1) Make studies on the land tenure problems throughout the Philippines, prepare over-all long range plans to solve such problems, and keep the President and the Congress of the Philippines fully informed of the progress of the land tenure reform program;

(2) Initiate immediately investigation in areas reporting land tenure difficulties and recommend appropriate action without delay;

(3) Inform the President and the Congress of the Philippines of any deficiency of the other departments or agencies of the Government in the implementation of legislation bearing on or affecting the land tenure reform;

(4) Prepare a plan for the systematic opening of virgin lands of the public domain for distribution to tenants, preference to be given to those tenants who are ejected by virtue of mechanization and to other landless citizens; and certain that the land shall not be acquired by the Administration.

(5) To implement and carry out the expropriation and the resale or lease of urban lands already authorized by existing laws.

SEC. 6. *Powers.* — In pursuance of the policy enunciated in Section 2 hereof, the Administration is authorized to:

(1) Purchase private agricultural lands for resale at cost to bona fide tenants or occupants, or in case of estates abandoned by the owners for the last five years, to private individuals who will work the land themselves and who are qualified to acquire or own lands but who do not own more than six hectares of lands in the Philippines;

(2) Initiate and prosecute expropriation proceedings for the acquisition of private agricultural lands in proper cases, for the same purpose of resale at cost: *Provided*, That the power herein granted shall apply only to private agricultural lands as to the area in excess of three hundred hectares of contiguous area if owned by natural persons and as to the area in excess of six hundred hectares if owned by corporations: *Provided, further*, That land where justified agrarian unrest exists may be expropriated regardless of its area.

(3) Prepare a schedule of areas of family-size farm units, not exceeding six hectares each, for different crops in different localities; and

(4) Promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the successful implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Appointment of subordinate officials and employees.* — To enable the Administration to implement the provisions of this Act more effectively, it shall have a Legal Staff, a Technical Staff and a Financial Staff, the personnel of which shall be appointed by the Administration which shall also fix their compensation.

The Administration shall appoint, subject to Civil Service rules and regulations, fix the compensation and determine the duties of such officials and employees as the exigencies of the service may require. The Administration shall establish and prescribe its own rules, regulations, standards and records for the employment, promotion, transfer, welfare and compensation of employees and officers of the Administration and provide a system of organization to fix responsibility and promote efficiency.

SEC. 8. *Assistance of other departments and agencies.* — The Administration may call upon any department or agency of the Government for assistance and cooperation on any matter connected with the functions and powers of the Administration.

NEGOTIABLE LAND CERTIFICATES

SEC. 9. *Issuance.* — The President, for the purposes provided for in this Act and upon recommendation of the Secretary of Finance and concurred in by the Monetary Board, is hereby authorized to issue negotiable land certificates upon the request of the Administration: *Provided*, That only sixty million a year will

be issued during the first two years, and thirty million each year during the succeeding years.

Negotiable land certificates shall be issued in denominations of one thousand pesos or multiples of one thousand pesos and shall be payable to bearer on demand and presentation at the Central Bank. These certificates if presented for payment after five years from the date of issue shall earn interest at the rate of four *per centum per annum*; if presented for payment after ten years from the date of issue shall earn interest at the rate of four and one-half *per centum per annum*; and if presented for payment after fifteen years from the date of issue shall earn interest at the rate of five *per centum per annum*.

SEC. 10. *Uses of certificates.* — Negotiable land certificates may be used by the holder thereof for any of the following purposes:

(1) Payment for agricultural lands or other properties purchased from the Government: *Provided, however*, That in the case of purchase of agricultural lands, the purchaser is not otherwise prohibited to own or hold agricultural lands under the Constitution;

(2) Payment for the purchase of shares of stock or of the assets of any industrial or commercial corporations owned or controlled by the Government;

(3) Payment of all tax obligations of the holder thereof, or of any debt or monetary obligation of the holder to the Government of any of its instrumentalities or agencies, including the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation and the Philippine National Bank: *Provided, however*, That payment of indebtedness shall not less than twenty *per centum* of the total indebtedness of the debtor; and

(4) As surety or performance bonds, in all cases where the Government may require or accept real property as bonds.

NEGOTIATED PURCHASE OF PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LANDS

SEC. 11. *Lands subject to purchase.* — The Administration, acting for and on behalf of the Government, may negotiate to purchase any privately owned agricultural land when the majority of the tenants therein petition for such purchase.

SEC. 12. *Action on the petition.* — Upon receipt of the petition, the Administration shall;

(1) Within thirty days, determine on the basis of the information contained in the petition, the suitability of the land for purchase, notify the petitioners and the landowners accordingly, and fix the date for preliminary negotiation;

(2) Within sixty days from the preliminary negotiation, conduct investigations and technical surveys to determine title to the land and its real value, taking into account (a) the prevailing prices of similar lands in the immediate area, (b) the soil conditions, topography and climate hazards, (c) actual production, (d) accessibility, and (e) improvements; and

(3) Fix, within ninety days from the preliminary negotiation, the date for final negotiation.

SEC. 13. *Deposit by tenants.* — Before fixing the date for final negotiation under Section 12 (3) and in the interest of public welfare, the Administration shall require the tenants to form a cooperative to be affiliated with a government financing cooperative agency. Such cooperative agency shall deposit with the Administration an amount not exceeding twenty-five percentum of the annual gross produce of the principal crop or crops of such land on the basis of the average of harvest of the three years immediately preceding the year the petition was filed. This deposit shall be credited to the selling price to the

tenants in accordance with the individual contribution of each to said deposit.

SEC. 14. *Payment.* In negotiating for the purchase of agricultural land, the Administration shall offer to pay the purchase price wholly in land certificates or partly in legal tender and partly in land certificates: *Provided*, That the amount to be paid in legal tender shall in no case exceed fifty per centum of the purchase price: *Provided, further*, That the landowner, if he desires and the Administration so agrees, may be paid, by way of barter or exchange, with such residential, commercial or industrial land owned by the Government as may be agreed upon by the parties.

SEC. 15. *Outstanding debts of tenants.* — In cases where the landowner is willing to accept payment wholly in land certificates, the Administration is authorized to include in the price to be paid the landowner all the outstanding debts, evidenced in writing, of the tenants to said landowner, the Administration to be thereafter reimbursed in accordance with such rules and regulations as it may promulgate: *Provided*, That the resulting increase in price by virtue of such inclusion will not be more than ten per centum of the total cost of the land agreed upon in the negotiated sale.

EXPROPRIATION OF PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LANDS

SEC. 16. *When proper.* — The Administration may initiate and prosecute expropriation proceedings for the acquisition of private agricultural land subject to the provisions of section six, paragraph (2), upon petition of a majority of the tenants and after it is convinced of the suitability of such land for subdivision into family-size farm units, and that public interests will be served by its immediate acquisition, when any of the following conditions exists:

(1) The landowner falling within the terms of Section 6 (2) continues to refuse to sell after all efforts have been exhausted by the Administration to negotiate for its purchase; or

(2) That the landowner is willing to sell under Sections 11 and 12 but cannot agree with the Administration as to the price and/or the manner of its payment.

SEC. 17. *Petition.* — The petition, in case the landowner refuses to sell, shall be filed in the manner and form to be prescribed by the Administration. However, before initiating expropriation proceedings, the Administration shall make one last effort to purchase the land by negotiated sale.

SEC. 18. *Possession of the land; procedure.* — The Administration after commencing the expropriation suit may take immediate possession of the land upon deposit, with the Court which has acquired jurisdiction over the expropriation, of money or a certificate of deposit of a depository of the Republic of the Philippines as provided in Section 3 of Rule 69 of the Rules of Court equal to the value of the land as provisionally and promptly determined by the Court taking into consideration the factors mentioned in Section 12 (2).

Thereafter the procedure in the Rules of Court with respect to eminent domain proceedings shall be followed. Pending judicial expropriation proceedings the owner of the land sought to be expropriated shall be given annually such allowance as his latest income tax return prior to the institution of the proceedings shows to be his net income from the land. Such allowance shall be approved by the court having jurisdiction and shall be deducted from the final amount awarded as compensation to the owner.

SEC. 19. *Payment.* — After the court has made a final determination of the just compensation for the land expropriated, it shall be paid wholly in cash un-

less the landowner chooses to be paid wholly or partly in land certificates, in which case section fifteen shall apply.

SEC. 20. *Prohibition against alienation.* — Upon the filing of the petition referred to in sections twelve and sixteen, the landowner cannot alienate any portion of the land covered by such petition except in pursuance of the provisions of this Act, or enter into any form of contract to defeat the purposes of this Act, and no ejectment proceedings against any tenant or occupant of the land covered by the petition shall be instituted or prosecuted until it becomes certain that the land shall not be acquired by the Administration.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 21. *Resale of lands purchased or expropriated subject to condition.* — It shall be a condition in all resale contracts and annotated on the Torrens titles of lands acquired and subdivided by authority of this Act that said lands shall not be subdivided, sold or in any manner transferred or encumbered without the prior consent of the Administration and only to qualified farmers or tenants or to government banking institutions or agencies.

SEC. 22. *Exemption from tax.* — All land certificates issued by authority of this Act shall be exempt from all forms of taxes. The purchase price paid by the Government for any agricultural land acquired for resale to tenants under the authority of this Act, whether through negotiation or expropriation, shall not be considered as income of the landowner concerned for purposes of the income tax.

SEC. 23. *Definition of terms.* — For the purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

(1) Agricultural lands — shall mean lands devoted to agricultural production and shall include the farm home lots.

(2) Family-size farm units — shall mean such area of farm land not exceeding six hectares as will permit the efficient use of the labor resources of the farm family, taking into account the addition of such supplementary labor as may be necessary either for seasonal peak loads or during the developmental and transitional stages of the family itself.

(3) At cost — shall mean the purchase price plus six per cent interest per annum for administration expenses, plus actual expenses for survey, subdivision and registration. The total, divided into twenty-five equal installments, shall be the annual cost to the tenant for twenty-five years.

SEC. 24. *Payment of family-size farms sold to veterans and other government employees.* — Veterans of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other government employees with backpay certificates from the Government are hereby authorized to use their backpay certificates in payment of family-size farms that may be acquired by them by authority of this Act.

SEC. 25. *Trust fund.* — All collections from the redistribution of the lands acquired by the Administration, after deducting the one per cent for administration expenses and the actual expenses for survey, subdivision and registration, shall be kept in the National Treasury as a special trust fund to be used exclusively for the redemption of the land certificate and bonds issued by authority of this Act.

SEC. 26. *Sinking fund; appropriation.* — A sinking fund shall be established in such manner that the total annual contribution thereto, accrued at such rate

of interest as may be determined by the Secretary of Finance in consultation with the Monetary Board, shall be sufficient to redeem at maturity the land certificates and bonds issued under this Act. Said fund shall be under the custody of the Central Bank which shall invest the same in such manner as the Monetary Board may approve; shall charge all expenses of such investment to said sinking fund; and shall credit the same with the interest on investments and other income belonging to it.

A standing annual appropriation not exceeding twenty million pesos is hereby made out of the general fund in the National Treasury to provide for the sinking fund created in this section and to carry into effect the purposes of this Act.

In addition, there is hereby appropriated out of the bond issue authorized under Republic Act Numbered One thousand, the sum of one hundred million pesos to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 27. Appropriation for the Administration. — There is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of three hundred thousand pesos for salaries, per diems, traveling expenses, furniture, office supplies and other expenses that may be incurred by the Administration for the fiscal year 1955-1956. The expenses of the Administration for the succeeding years shall be provided for in the corresponding annual general appropriation Act.

SEC. 28. Transfer of functions of the Division of Landed Estates, Bureau of Lands. — Upon the organization of the Administration, the Division of Landed Estates in the Bureau of Lands shall stand abolished and its functions, powers and duties, personnel, records, equipment and balances of appropriation shall thereupon be transferred to the said Administration.

SEC. 29. Repeal of Laws. — All Act or parts of Act which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 30. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

[R.A. No. 1267, AS AMENDED, R.A. No. 1409]

AN ACT CREATING THE COURT OF AGRARIAN RELATIONS,
PRESCRIBING ITS JURISDICTION, AND ESTABLISHING
ITS RULES OF PROCEDURE.

SECTION 1. Creation. For the enforcement of all laws and regulations governing the relation of capital and labor on all agricultural lands under any system of cultivation, there is hereby created a Court of Agrarian Relations which shall be under the executive supervision of the Department of Justice.

SEC. 2. The Court; its Composition. The Court shall consist of an Executive Judge and eight Associate Judges with the rank of Judges of the Court of First Instance, who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of the Congress. There shall be no seniority in rank among the Associate Judges by reason of service or otherwise.

The Judges may be suspended or removed in the same manner and upon the same grounds as the judges of the Court of First Instance.

The Court shall keep a record of its procedure and its orders or decisions shall

be appealable directly to the Supreme Court, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 12 and 13.

SEC. 3. Qualifications of Judges; their Tenure of Office; Compensation; Oath of Office; and Vacation Period. The Executive Judge and the Associate Judges shall have the same qualifications as Judges of the Court of First Instance and in addition, shall have engaged in the actual practice of law or shall have held a government position requiring the qualifications of a lawyer for at least ten years prior to their appointments and must be at least thirty five years of age. They shall hold office during good behavior until they reach the age of seventy years or become incapacitated to discharge the duties of their office.

The Executive Judge shall receive an annual compensation of eleven thousand pesos and the Associate Judges ten thousand pesos each. They shall be entitled to travelling expenses and per diems when performing their duties outside of their official stations.

Before entering upon the discharge of the duties of their office, the Judges shall take and subscribe to an oath of office wherein they declare, in addition to the matters prescribed in Section twenty-three of the Administrative Code and in the Constitution of the Philippines, that they shall faithfully and impartially perform the duties of their office, and that, except in the discharge of their functions, they will not disclose to any person any evidence or other matter brought before the Court.

The yearly vacation of the Court shall begin on the first day of April and close on the thirty-first day of May of each year, and four of the Judges may be allowed simultaneously to be on vacation. Before March fifteenth of each year, the Executive Judge shall designate by rotation the Judges who are to remain on duty during court vacation of that year, and, consistently with the requirements of the judicial service, the assignments shall be so made that no Judge shall be allowed to be on vacation, unless upon his own request, more frequently than once every two years.

SEC. 4. Vacancy in the Office of the Executive Judge. In case of a vacancy in the office of the Executive Judge of the Court, or in the event of his inability to perform the duties and powers of his office, the Associate Judges shall among themselves designate one to assume the duties of the office until such disability is removed or another Executive Judge is appointed and qualified.

SEC. 5. Judge's Certificate as to Work Completed. The Executive Judge and the Associate Judges of the Agrarian Court shall certify on their applications for leave, and upon salary vouchers presented by them for payment, or upon payrolls upon which their salaries are paid, that all petitions, motions and agrarian cases which have been under submission for decision or determination for a period of fifteen days exclusive of Sundays and holidays have been determined and decided on or before the date of the making of the certificate, and no leave shall be granted and no salary shall be paid without such certificate.

SEC. 6. The Court; its Seat. The Court of Agrarian Relations, except for the Executive Judge who shall sit in Manila and the adjacent provinces and perform the administration functions of the Court, shall have its seat in the capital of the province where each Judge is assigned. The Executive Judge shall assign at least one Judge to any province who shall hear and decide matters and/or cases brought before the Court under the provision of this Act. The decision of one Judge on any matter or case brought before the Court shall be the decision of the Court.

Whenever necessary in the interest of the public service, a Judge may hold court in the municipality where the landholding subject matter of the dispute

is located, utilizing the sala of the local Justice of the Peace Court for this purpose.

SEC. 7. *Jurisdiction of the Court.* The Court shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over the entire Philippines, to consider, investigate, decide, and settle all questions, matters, controversies or disputes involving all those relationships established by law which determine the varying rights of persons in the cultivation and use of agricultural land where one of the parties works the land, *Provided, However,* The cases pending in the Court of Industrial Relations upon approval of this Act which are within the jurisdiction of the Court of Agrarian Relations, shall be transferred to, and the proceedings therein continued in, the latter court.

SEC. 8. *The Power to Issue Subpoena; to Punish for Direct and Indirect Contempts, etc.* The Court or any Judge thereof shall have the power to administer oath in matters connected with the business of the Court; summon the parties to a controversy before the Court, issue subpoena, require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of such books, papers, contracts, records, statements of accounts agreements and statements as may be material to a just determination of the matter under investigation.

Any violation of any order or decision of the Court of Agrarian Relations shall, after such order or decision has become final, conclusive and executory, constitute contempt of court. The proceedings for contempt shall be without prejudice to the criminal liability of the offender should his act or acts constitute a violation of any other law.

The Court or any Judge thereof shall, furthermore, have all the inherent powers of a Court of Justice provided in paragraph 5 of Rule 125 of the Rules of Court, as well as the power to punish direct and indirect contempts as provided in Rule 64 of the same Rules of Court, under the same procedure and penalties provided therein.

SEC. 9. *Court Authorized to Seek Help from Other Offices.* The Court shall have the power to require the services of any government official or employee to help it in the performance of its duties without additional compensation.

All writs and processes issued by the Court shall be served and executed free of charge by provincial or city sheriffs, or by any person authorized by the Court, in the same manner as writs and processes of Courts of First Instance.

SEC. 10. *Rules of Procedure.* The Court of Agrarian Relations shall adopt its rules of procedure and shall have such other powers as generally pertain to a Court of Justice: *Provided, however,* That in the hearing, investigation and determination of any question or controversy and in exercising any duty and power under this Act, the Court shall in the hearing and determination of cases pending before it, not be bound strictly by the technical rules of evidence.

Immediately after the defendant has filled his answer to the complaint or immediately after the expiration of the time limit for the filing of an answer, the Court shall set the case for hearing and not more than two postponements, not exceeding a week each, shall be allowed for any party: *Provided, however,* That subsequent postponements shall be granted only upon any of the following special or similar reasons:

1. When a party involves twenty or more persons and there is no common cause of action or community of defense;

2. When it appears upon affidavit that the presence of a party or witness at the trial is indispensable and the character of his illness is such as to render his non-attendance excusable;

3. When upon affidavit the materiality of evidence expected to be obtained from a party or witness is shown, and that due diligence has been used to procure it.

The hearings of a case shall be completed within a period of thirty days, unless otherwise extended as herein-above provided, and an order or decision on the same issued by the Court within a period of fifteen days from the date of its submission.

SEC. 11. *Character of Order or Decision.* In issuing an order or decision, the Court shall not be restricted to the specific relief claimed or demands made by the parties to the dispute, but may include in the order or decision any matter or determination, which may be deemed necessary and expedient for the purpose of settling the dispute or of preventing further disputes, provided that said matter for determination has been established by competent evidence during the hearing.

SEC. 12. *Execution of Orders and Decisions.* At the expiration of fifteen days from the notice of the order or decision, judgment shall be entered in accordance therewith, unless during said fifteen days an aggrieved party shall move for a reconsideration of the order or decision or appeal therefrom to the Supreme Court as provided in the next succeeding section. The institution of an appeal shall not stay the execution of the order or decision sought to be reviewed, unless for a special reason the Court of Agrarian Relations or the Supreme Court, in its discretion, may require the appellant to deposit with the Clerk of Court such amount as would answer for the sum involved in the order or decision or require him to give bond in such form and of such amount as to insure compliance with the order or decision in case the same is confirmed; *Provided, however,* That an order or decision ejecting a tenant from his landholding shall not be executed until after the decision has become final and conclusive.

Any order or decision of the Court of Agrarian Relations after it has become executory may be enforced by a writ of execution or any other remedy provided by law in respect to enforcement and execution of orders, decisions, or judgments of the Courts of First Instance.

SEC. 13. Appeal may be taken from an order or decision of the Court of Agrarian Relations promulgated under the provisions of this Act and a review of such order or decision may be obtained in the Supreme Court by filing in such court within fifteen days from receipt of notice of such order or decision a written petition praying that it be modified or set aside in whole or in part. The review of the court shall be limited to questions of law, and findings of fact when the decision is not supported by substantial evidence.

SEC. 14. *Criminal and Civil Liability.* (Repealed.)

SEC. 15. *Personnel of the Court.* Upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Justice, the President of the Philippines, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of the Congress of the Philippines, shall appoint the commissioners of the Court and the Clerks of Court. The deputy clerks of said Court and such other employees as may be required in the interest of judicial service in addition to the personnel transferred from the tenancy division of the Court of Industrial Relations as provided in Section [Seventeen] of this Act shall be appointed by the Executive Judge, with the approval of the Court, subject to civil service rules and regulations.

A. *Commissioners of the Court: their qualifications, duties and compensation.* The Commissioners of the Court shall be members of the Philippine Bar and

must have engaged for five years in the practice of law or, for the same length of time, employed in the government in a position requiring the qualifications of a lawyer. They shall be assigned by the Executive Judge to assist the Judge in the hearing and investigation of cases. The Commissioners, upon designation by the Judge under whom they are assigned and subject to the latter's direction and supervision, shall hear the evidence of the parties in any case on any disputed point or issue and it shall be their duty to submit a report, together with the records, of all the cases heard by them within a certain period of time to be prescribed by the Court. The Commissioners, while conducting a hearing, may rule upon questions of pleading and procedure insofar as the same will not affect disposition on the merits of the case. Rules of postponement of hearings and time for decision should be as provided for in section ten hereof.

At least two Commissioners or as many as are required in the interest of the public service shall be assigned to each Judge, and, together with the personnel of the Court, shall hold office in the province of their assignment.

The Commissioners of the Court shall receive an annual compensation as follows: Six Commissioners at Six thousand pesos each; nine Commissioners at Five thousand one hundred pesos each; and nine Commissioners at Four thousand two hundred pesos each.

B. The Clerk of Court; his Qualifications and his Duties; his Compensation and his Bond. There shall be as many Clerks of Court as there are Judges. The Clerk of Court for the sala of the Executive Judge shall receive an annual compensation of Six thousand pesos and the other Clerks of Court four thousand eight hundred pesos each. He shall exercise the same powers and perform the same duties in regard to all matters within the jurisdiction of the Court as exercised and performed by the Clerk of Court of the Court of Appeals insofar as the same may be applicable, and in the exercise of these duties he shall be under the direction of the Court.

A Clerk of Court shall have the same qualifications as that of a Commissioner. Before entering upon the discharge of the duties of his office, he shall file a bond in the amount of ten thousand pesos in the same manner and form as required of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, such bond to be approved by, and filed with, the Treasurer of the Philippines which shall be subject to inspection by interested parties. The Clerk of Court shall require his deputy to give an adequate bond as security against loss by reason of any wrongdoing or gross negligence on the part of such deputy.

C. Deputy Clerk of Court; his Qualifications and Compensation. The Executive Judge shall appoint as many Deputy Clerks of Court as there are Clerks of Court. Deputy Clerks of Court shall have the same qualifications as the Clerks of Court, and, except in the sala of the Executive Judge where the Deputy Clerk shall receive a salary of Forty-two hundred pesos *per annum*, all Deputy Clerks of Court shall receive an annual compensation of Three Thousand seven hundred twenty pesos each.

SEC. 16. Expenses of the Court in the Province. All expenses incident to the establishment of the Court of Agrarian Relations in the provinces such as the courtroom, and court-offices, including all equipments for the Court and its personnel, shall be provided by the provincial government of the place wherein the seat of the Court is located and, whenever possible, in the same building housing the Court of First Instance. All expenses incident to the care, repair and alteration of the said offices, as well as the cost of all supplies for said

office including stationery, stamps, rent of telephone, cost of telegrams and costs of light and water shall be borne by the National Government.

SEC. 17. Abolition of the Tenancy Division of the Court of Industrial Relations. The Tenancy Division of the Court of Industrial Relations is hereby abolished and the power and functions thereof under Commonwealth Act No. 103, as amended, together with the appropriations, of the Tenancy Division of said Court provided for under Republic Act No. 1350, its personnel, with civil service eligibility, property and equipment, are hereby transferred to the Court of Agrarian Relations; *Provided, however,* That the aforementioned personnel who actually rendered service shall be entitled to payment upon certification of the Presiding Judge of the Court of Industrial Relations.

SEC. 18. Appropriations. In addition to the appropriation mentioned in the preceding section, the sum of four hundred thousand pesos, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of the unappropriated funds in the Philippine Treasury for salaries, per diem, travelling expenses, purchases of materials and equipment and other necessary sundry expenses that may be incurred in the carrying out of the provisions of this Act up to the last day of the fiscal year nineteen hundred and fifty-six. The expenses for the succeeding years shall be provided for in the current appropriations for such years.

SEC. 19. Applicability of General Laws. The provisions of existing laws shall apply to the contracts provided by this Act unless otherwise inconsistent therewith.

SEC. 20. Partial Invalidity. If for any reason, any section or provision of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, no other section or provision of this Act shall be affected thereby.

SEC. 21. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

REPUBLIC ACTS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT
DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRD CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, COVERING THE PERIOD FROM
JANUARY 24 TO MAY 19, 1955.

R.A. No. 1202. An act exempting from technical examination applicants for certificates as third mates and fourth engineers who are Filipino graduates of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, King's Point, New York, by amending subsection (d) of section 1,191, as amended by R.A. No. 97, and subsection (d) of section 1,192 of the Revised Administrative Code.

R.A. No. 1203. An Act creating the Municipality of Ma-ayon in the Province of Capiz.

R.A. No. 1204. An Act to amend the first paragraph of section 24 of Act No. 3992, as amended.

R.A. No. 1205. An Act converting all specially organized provinces into regularly organized provinces.

R.A. No. 1206. An Act changing the name of the Municipality of Trinidad, Province of Davao, to Jose Abad Santos.

R.A. No. 1207. An Act to change the name of the barrio of Pajarito, Municipality of Sibalom, Province of Antique, to Catmon.

R.A. No. 1208. An Act to amend item 21 of the public works projects for

the Province of Quezon, subsection (a) Title A, section 1 of R.A. No. 670.

R.A. No. 1209. An Act making elective the positions of Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Councilors in the City of Iloilo, amending for said purpose certain sections of C.A. No. 158, as amended.

R.A. No. 1210. An Act to amend certain sections of C.A. No. 39, otherwise known as the Charter of the City of Zamboanga, so as to make elective the positions of Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Councilor.

R.A. No. 1211. An Act to amend certain sections of R.A. No. 238, otherwise known as the Charter of the City of Basilian, so as to make elective the positions of Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Councilor.

R.A. No. 1212. An Act creating the Municipality of San Jose Province of Negros Oriental.

R.A. No. 1213. An Act repealing item 34 (e) subsection (a), Title C of section 1 of R.A. No. 920, and appropriating the amount of 45,000 pesos there-in provided for the construction of the Calanan-Tuga-Pinukpuk road in Mountain Province.

R.A. No. 1214. An Act to provide for additional compensation to the Provincial Auditor and Division Superintendent of Schools of Nueva Ecija who act as *ex officio* city superintendent of school, respectively, of the City of Cabanatuan.

R.A. No. 1215. An Act to change the name of the Concepcion High School in the Municipality of Concepcion, Province of Tarlac, to Aquino Memorial High School.

R.A. No. 1216. An Act to further amend section 1 of Act No. 3592, known as the "Port-Works Fund Act", as amended by C.A. No. 130, and to provide for the disbursement of said funds so as to exclude disbursement of port works fund for the investigation, construction, improvement and maintenance of airports and landing fields.

R.A. No. 1217. An Act amending item 64 of subsection (a) of section 1 of R.A. No. 670, entitled "An Act appropriating funds for Public Works."

R.A. No. 1218. An Act creating the barrio of Mainit in the Municipality of Compostela, Province of Davao.

R.A. No. 1219. An Act making the Vice-Mayor of Manila the Presiding Officer of the Municipal Board of the said city, amending for this purpose section 13 of R.A. No. 409.

R.A. No. 1220. An Act creating the Municipality of Mayorga in the Province of Leyte.

R.A. No. 1221. An Act to create the Municipality of Llanera in the Province of Nueva Ecija.

R.A. No. 1222. An Act creating the Municipal District of Potia in the Mountain Province.

R.A. No. 1223. An Act amending and repealing certain items in R.A. No. 920, regarding public works projects for the Province of Cebu.

R.A. No. 1224. An Act amending section 1 of R.A. No. 938, as amended.

R.A. No. 1225. An Act to grant to the La Union Electric Co., Inc., a franchise for an electric light, heat and power system in the municipalities of San Fernando, Bauang and San Juan, Province of La Union.

R.A. No. 1226. An Act increasing the number and fixing the salaries of assistant fiscals for the City of Iloilo, further amending for the purpose the

last paragraph of section 23 of the Charter of said city.

R.A. No. 1227. An Act appropriating the sum of 2,400 pesos to carry out the provisions of R.A. No. 988, regarding payment of life pension to the widow of the late Commissioner Pedro Guevara.

R.A. No. 1228. An Act creating an additional position of Assistant Provincial Fiscal in the Province of Batangas, amending for this purpose section 1674 of the Revised Administrative Code, as amended.

R.A. No. 1229. An Act creating the Municipality of San Nicolas, Province of Batangas.

R.A. No. 1230. An Act appropriating the sum of 17,000,000 pesos to carry out the provisions of R.A. No. 842 with respect to public school officials, teachers and other school personnel of the Bureau of Public Schools and Welfareville teachers, for the fiscal year 1955-1956.

R.A. No. 1231. An Act authorizing the President of the Philippines to appoint in the regular force reserve officer pilots who are graduates of the United States Air Force or Philippine Air Force Flying Schools.

R.A. No. 1232. An Act authorizing the payment of compensation equivalent to the salary of 6 months of any employee in the service of the National Government or in the service of the Government of a province, city, municipality or municipal district who is killed or dies of injuries received or sickness contracted in line of duty, amending for the purpose section 699 of the Administrative Code, as amended.

R.A. No. 1233. An Act to amend the Charter of the City of Cebu.

R.A. No. 1234. An Act creating the barrio of Manalo, Municipality of Puerto Princesa, Province of Palawan.

R.A. No. 1235. An Act providing that the street in the poblacion of the Municipality of Dao, Province of Antique, at present known as Libertador Street, shall hereafter be known as Ysulat Street.

R.A. No. 1236. An Act making elective the positions of Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Councilor in the City of Iligan, amending for said purpose certain sections of R.A. No. 525, as amended.

R.A. No. 1237. An Act changing the name of barrio Atelan, in the municipality of Echague, to San Miguel.

R.A. No. 1238. An Act creating the barrio of New Agutaya, Municipality of Taytay, Province of Palawan.

R.A. No. 1239. An Act requiring the registration of agents, contractors and dealers in logs, lumber and commercial piles.

R.A. No. 1240. An Act further amending section 107 of C.A. No. 141, by providing that when the power to sign patents or certificates for land granted under said Act is delegated by the President to the Secretary and Under-Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, such patents or certificates shall bear the official seal of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources instead of the great seal of the Republic of the Philippines.

R.A. No. 1241. An Act to amend certain provisions of R.A. No. 997, otherwise known as the "Reorganization Act of 1954" approved June 9, 1954, and for other purposes.

R.A. No. 1242. An Act to amend section 20 of C.A. 141, commonly known as the Public Land Act, as amended.

- R.A. No. 1243. An Act providing for the tenure of office of hospital residents in Government training hospitals under the Department of Health.
- R.A. No. 1244. An Act amending paragraph (c), section 1, part B, Title III of the "Foreign Service Act of the Philippines."
- R.A. No. 1245. An Act amending section 2219½ of the Revised Administrative Code and for other purposes.
- R.A. No. 1246. An Act changing the name of the Municipality of Concepcion, Province of Ilocos Sur, to Gregorio del Pilar.
- R.A. No. 1247. An Act amending R.A. 836, and for other purposes.
- R.A. No. 1248. An Act to create the Municipality of Upi in the Province of Cotabato.
- R.A. No. 1249. An Act changing the name of the Municipality of Moron, Province of Bataan, to Morong.
- R.A. No. 1250. An Act transferring the seat of the Municipality of Sto. Tomas, Province of Pampanga, from barrio San Matias to barrio Sto. Tomas.
- R.A. No. 1251. An Act amending sub-items (g), (i) and (j) of item 37, subsection (e), Title B, and item 55, group I, subsection (a), Title G, of section 1, R.A. No. 920, entitled "An Act appropriating funds for Public Works".
- R.A. No. 1252. An Act to amend certain sections of the Pasture Land Act, by requiring persons leasing or using Public Land for pasture to put up at least one head of large cattle belonging to the lessee or permittee for every five hectares thereof, and providing additional penalty for the violation of said Act.
- R.A. No. 1253. An Act condoning the payment of interest, penalties and surcharges on estate and inheritance taxes due from the estate of veterans, guerrillas or victims of Japanese atrocities who died during the Japanese occupation subject to certain conditions and other purposes.
- R.A. No. 1254. An Act to amend sub-items 1 to 16 of item (d) for the Province of Samar, subsection (e), Title B, section 1, R.A. No. 920, otherwise known as Public Works Act of 1953.
- R.A. No. 1255. An Act to change the name of the Municipality of Lucena, Province of Iloilo, to that of "New Lucena."
- R.A. No. 1256. An Act changing the name of Manuguit Street, a National Highway in the City of Manila, to Jose Abad Santos Street.
- R.A. No. 1257. An Act changing the name of San Fernando Diversion Road in the Municipality of San Fernando, Province of Pampanga, to Jose Abad Santos Boulevard.
- R.A. No. 1258. An Act to change the name of the barrio of Libertad, formerly known as barrio Umabay Exterior, Municipality of Mobo, Province of Masbate, to San Gregorio.
- R.A. No. 1259. An Act to change the name of barrio Bugsayon, Municipality of Masbate, Province of Masbate, to barrio B. Titong.
- R.A. No. 1260. An Act changing the name of Visita Street in the District of Paco, City of Manila, to Burgos Street.
- R.A. No. 1261. An Act changing the name of the Municipality of Oteiza, Province of Surigao, to Marihatag.
- R.A. No. 1262. An Act providing for the supply of data and publications by the various offices and branches of the Government and Government-owned or controlled corporations to the legislative reference division of each House

- of Congress by further amending the first paragraph of section 1692 of the Administrative Code, as amended.
- R.A. No. 1263. An Act changing the name of Mindanao Street in the City of Cagayan de Oro to Tiano Brothers Street.
- R.A. No. 1264. An Act constituting the sub-province of Siquijor into a separate, independent and regular highway engineering district, amending for the purpose Act No. 3143.
- R.A. No. 1265. An Act making flag ceremony compulsory in all educational institutions.
- R.A. No. 1266. An Act authorizing the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration (NARRA) to expropriate the Hacienda Del Rosario, situated at Valdefuente, Cabanatuan City, and sub-divide said hacienda into lots to be sold to bona fide occupants thereof.
- R.A. No. 1267. An Act creating the Court of Agrarian Relations, prescribing its jurisdiction, and establishing its rules of procedure.
- R.A. No. 1268. An Act directing the sale of a portion of the San Lazaro Friar Lands in the City of Manila, at the corner of Quezon Boulevard and C. Lerman Street, to actual occupants.
- R.A. No. 1269. An Act amending certain sections of R.A. No. 183 otherwise known as the Charter of Pasay City, as amended.
- R.A. No. 1270. An Act to amend section 13 of C.A. No. 146, otherwise known as the Public Service Act, as amended by C.A. No. 454.
- R.A. No. 1271. An Act granting the Misamis Lumber Company, Inc., a temporary permit to establish, maintain and operate private fixed point-to-point radio-telephone stations for the transmission and reception of wireless messages to and from said stations.
- R.A. No. 1272. An Act granting the Monserrat Broadcasting System, Inc., a temporary permit to construct, maintain and operate radio broadcasting stations in the Philippines.
- R.A. No. 1273. An Act to amend section 90 of C.A. No. 141, otherwise known as the Public Land Act.
- R.A. No. 1274. An Act to amend section 7 of R.A. No. 567, entitled "An Act to amend title VI of C.A. No. 466, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended."
- R.A. No. 1275. An Act to amend sections 38, 39 and 40 of C.A. No. 470 by allowing delinquent tax-payers to repurchase within two years from the date their real property was sold at public auction to satisfy taxes thereon.
- R.A. No. 1276. An Act increasing the limit of the bonded indebtedness of the Metropolitan Water District from 30,000,000 pesos to 40,000,000 pesos, amending for the purpose subsection (m) of section 2 of Act No. 2832, as amended.
- R.A. No. 1277. An Act amending section 1,686 of the Revised Administrative Code so as to include other lawyers to assist the fiscals.
- R.A. No. 1278. An Act appropriating an additional sum of 23,000,000 pesos as counterpart fund to carry out the purposes of R.A. No. 604.
- R.A. No. 1279. An Act amending section 1 of R.A. No. 839.
- R.A. No. 1280. An Act to amend section 8 of R.A. No. 588, entitled "An Act to amend certain sections of C.A. No. 466, otherwise known as the National

Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

R.A. No. 1281. An Act changing the name of barrio Malpag in the Municipality of San Miguel, Province of Leyte, to barrio Babulak.

R.A. No. 1282. An Act converting the sitios of Tuño, Jubay and Napantao, Municipality of San Francisco, Province of Leyte, into barrios of said municipality.

R.A. No. 1283. An Act creating the barrio of San Roque in the Municipality of Unisan, Province of Quezon.

R.A. No. 1284. An Act to exempt from amusement tax all athletic meets, school programs and exhibitions, and other educational activities conducted by public schools, by amending the National Internal Revenue Code.

R.A. No. 1285. An Act to amend sections 5, 9, 12, 14, 17, 18, 19 and 31 of R.A. No. 821.

R.A. No. 1286. An Act amending section 2 (d) of R.A. No. 401, as amended, by extending up to December 31, 1956, the voluntary payment without interests of pre-war obligations.

R.A. No. 1287. An Act granting a special privilege to any person who discovers or invents a new process, discovery or invention for the conversion of any native agricultural raw product into a product which will stabilize not only the national economy but also the dollar resources.

R.A. No. 1288. An Act to regulate the planting, gathering or selling of "tubli" and other poisonous plants and to penalize any violation thereof.

R.A. No. 1289. An Act to amend article 360 of the Revised Penal Code by amending the third paragraph thereof.

R.A. No. 1290. An Act appropriating the sum of 3,800,000 pesos, out of the proceeds of the bond issue authorized by R.A. No. 1000, to finance the re-establishment and rehabilitation by the Manila Railroad Company of its Cabanatuan branch extending from the Municipality of Plaridel, Province of Bulacan, to the City of Cabanatuan.

R.A. No. 1291. An Act to amend section 3 of R.A. No. 600, entitled "An Act to prescribe a graduated scale for the income tax on corporations by amending sections 24 and 54 of C.A. No. 466, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and for other purposes.

R.A. No. 1292. An Act to encourage Filipino retailers and to create the Filipino Retailers fund.

R.A. No. 1293. An Act granting the Lapu-lapu Broadcasting Co., Inc. a temporary permit to construct, maintain and operate radio broadcasting stations and stations for television in the Philippines.

R.A. No. 1294. Artesian Well Act of 1955.

R.A. No. 1295. An Act to establish the Abaca Corporation of the Philippines.

R.A. No. 1296. An Act to prohibit the importation of onions, potatoes, garlic and cabbages, except for seedling purposes, and to provide penalties for the violation thereof.

R.A. No. 1297. An Act authorizing the appropriation of 3,000,000 pesos for the construction of a building or buildings for the San Lazaro Hospital.

R.A. No. 1298. An Act authorizing the construction of the Marikina Multi-Purpose Project, authorizing the Marikina project coordinating committee to

serve as the implementing agency of this project, authorizing financing by entities concerned of their share of the cost of this project; and authorizing the construction of the Ilog river Multi-Purpose Project, and fertilizer plant, and financing of the same, after the completion of the necessary investigation and study of these projects and for other purposes.

R.A. No. 1299. An Act amending further section 246 of C.A. No. 466, as amended, by defining the words "minerals" and "mineral products."

R.A. No. 1300. An Act revising the Charter of the Philippine National Bank.

R.A. No. 1301. An Act granting Jorge Tirador a temporary permit to construct, establish, maintain and operate private fixed point-to-point and private coastal radio stations for the reception and transmission of radio communication within the Philippines.

R.A. No. 1302. An Act to convert the Municipal District of Mankayan, sub-province of Benguet, Mountain Province, into a Municipality.

R.A. No. 1303. An Act creating the barrios of Kalumboyan and Villareal in the Municipality of Bayawan, Province of Oriental Negros.

R.A. No. 1304. An Act granting the Manila Electric Company a franchise to construct, maintain and operate private fixed point-to-point and land based radio stations and land mobile service for the reception and transmission of radio communications within the Philippines.

R.A. No. 1305. An Act to provide additional appropriation to replenish the "Public Land Survey and Subdivision Fund," as recreated by R.A. No. 310, and intended to hasten the subdivision of public agricultural lands under C.A. No. 630, and for other purposes.

R.A. No. 1306. An Act amending sub-item (w), item 2 sub-section (a), Title H, section 1 of R.A. 920.

R.A. No. 1307. An Act converting certain sitios in the Municipality of Babak, Province of Davao, into barrios.

R.A. No. 1308. An Act to convert the sitios of Ilaya, Labac, Matalisay, Pajo and Cacawan in Isla Verde, in the Municipality of Batangas, Province of Batangas, to a barrio to be known as barrio San Antonio of the same Municipality.

R.A. No. 1309. An Act appropriating certain sums to be paid as compensation to the children of the late Representatives Lorenzo P. Ziga and Gregorio B. Tan.

R.A. No. 1310. An Act transferring the barrios of Basiawan, Kibulan and the sitios of Kimatay and Kilalag in the Municipality of Malita, to the Municipality of Malalag, Province of Davao.

R.A. No. 1311. An Act making the barrio of New Sabonga in the Municipality of Saug, Province of Davao, as a part of the Municipality of Compostela of the same province.

R.A. No. 1312. An Act creating the barrio of Madalanit, in the Municipality of Wright, Province of Samar.

R.A. No. 1313. An Act converting into barrios certain sitios in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte.

R.A. No. 1314. An Act changing the name of barrio Iraya Norte in the Municipality of San Vicente, Province of Camarines Norte, to San Jose of said municipality.

R.A. No. 1315. An Act converting the sitio of Patag to barrio of San Isi-

ince of Negros Occidental.

R.A. No. 1353. An Act granting Pedro A. Castro a franchise for an electric light, heat and power system in the Municipality of Cateel, Province of Davao.

R.A. No. 1354. An Act granting Adolfo A. Caubang a franchise for an electric light, heat and power system in the Municipality of Baganga, Province of Davao.

R.A. No. 1355. An Act authorizing the President of the Philippines to enter into a Revised Agreement with the President of the United State on the basis of the financial act of negotiations relative to the Revision of the 1946 Trade Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America, which was signed at Washington, D.C. on December 15, 1954.

R.A. No. 1356. An Act granting Francisco Benedicto a franchise for an electric light, heat and power system in the Municipality of Romblon, Province of Romblon.

R.A. No. 1357. An Act to grant Francisco Luansang a franchise for a electric light, heat and power system in the Municipality of Tudela, Province of Misamis Occidental.

R.A. No. 1358. An Act granting Amado Arsinas a franchise for an electric light, heat and power system in the Municipality of Cawayan, Province of Masbate.

R.A. No. 1359. An Act granting Cesar Altarejos a franchise for an electric light, heat and power system in the Municipality of San Jacinto, Province of Masbate.

R.A. No. 1360. An Act granting to the Talisay Electric Plant a franchise to install, operate, and maintain an electric light, heat and power system in the Municipality of Talisay, Province of Occidental Negros.

R.A. No. 1361. An Act authorizing the President of the Philippines to sell the National Government cottages in Baguio and the lots in which they are situated and the furniture and equipment.

R.A. No. 1362. An Act to further amend R.A. No. 65, commonly known as the Philippine Veterans Bill of Rights.

R.A. No. 1363. An Act to give preference to veterans in appointments in the Government, government-controlled or semi-government corporations and for other purposes.

R.A. No. 1364. An Act to regulate the practice of sanitary engineering in the Philippines.

R.A. No. 1365. An Act requiring all copra buyers to use moisture meters in all their domestic purchases on copra in the place where each such purchase is made, and for other purposes.

R.A. No. 1366. An Act converting the sitio of Son-oc, in the Municipality of Cortes, Province of Bohol, to a barrio to be known as barrio Fatima.

R.A. No. 1367. An Act appropriating the sum of 300,000 pesos for the construction of a leprosy research laboratory and training center building and for the expenses of its equipments and maintenance.

R.A. No. 1368. An Act to amend certain sections of C.A. No. 51 as amended, otherwise known as the Charter of the City of Davao.

R.A. No. 1369. An Act appropriating the sum of 30,000,000 pesos, out of the proceed of the sale of bonds to be issued under R.A. No. 1000 or form loan, for the purposes of financing the manufacture of coconut products and by-

products and the component parts of coconut trees, and otherwise for the industrialization of the coconut trees and coconut products and by products.

R.A. No. 1370. An Act creating a public corporation for the promotion of music, and appropriating the sum of 100,000 pesos for its initial expenses and for other purposes.

R.A. No. 1371. An Act to define, classify, fix and regulate the amount of all charges and fees in Philippine ports, other than customs duties, internal revenue taxes and tonnage dues.

R.A. No. 1372. An Act providing for the adjustment of the salaries of the members of the faculty of the Philippine Normal College in accordance with the salary scale of the University of Philippines.

R.A. No. 1373. An Act authorizing the Philippines Sportswriters Association to hold one benefit boxing show every year, the net proceeds of which shall constitute a trust fund for the benefit of disabled Filipino boxers.

R.A. No. 1374. An Act authorizing the execution of public works projects or part thereof on piece work or "Takay" basis.

R.A. No. 1375. An Act amending sections 1 and of R.A. No. 601, as amended by R.A. Nos. 1175 and 1179.

R.A. No. 1376. An Act appropriating 250,000 pesos for the establishment and maintenance of Provincial Soil Offices and Regional Soil Laboratories to bring the benefits of soils chemical analysis and other related services to the farming population for the purposes of increasing crop production.

R.A. No. 1377. An Act to amend section 20 of C.A. No. 186, as amended by R.A. No. 660, entitled "An Act to create and establish a 'Government Service Insurance System' to provide for its administration and to appropriate the necessary funds thereof.

R.A. No. 1378. An Act to regulate the trade of master plumber.

R.A. No. 1379. An Act declaring forfeiture in favor of the state any property found to have been unlawfully acquired by any public officer or employee and providing for the proceedings thereof.

R.A. No. 1380. An Act to further amend subparagraph (e) of section 9 of R.A. No. 340, as amended, so as to include service rendered in the American Red Cross for the purpose of retirement.

R.A. No. 1381. An Act converting the Odiogon High School in the Municipality of Odiogon, Province of Romblon, into a national agricultural school which shall be known as the Odiogon National Agricultural School.

R.A. No. 1382. An Act granting reserve officers with at least ten years of active accumulated commissioned service security from reversion.

R.A. No. 1383. An Act creating a public corporation to be known as the National Waterworks and Sewerage authority.

R.A. No. 1384. An Act adopting Mr. Ray Higgins as son of the Philippines, and conferring upon him all the privileges and prerogatives of Philippine citizenship.

R.A. No. 1385. An Act granting Jose Borres a franchise for an electric light, heat and power system in the Municipality of President Roxas, Province of Capiz.

R.A. No. 1386. An Act adopting the Honorable George A. Malcolm as son of the Philippines and conferring upon him all the rights, privileges and prero-

gatives of Philippine citizenship.

R.A. No. 1387. An Act providing for the establishment of the University of Mindanao in Dansalan City and authorizing the appropriation of funds therefor.

R.A. No. 1388. An Act converting the Pampanga Trade School in the Municipality of Bacolor, Province of Pampanga, into a regional school of arts and trades to be known as the Pampanga School of Arts and Trades, and to authorize the appropriation of funds for the purpose.

R.A. No. 1389. An Act creating the barrio of Bataan, Municipality of Rizal, Province of Zamboanga del Norte.

R.A. No. 1390. An Act appropriating the sum of 300,000 pesos as aid to the Philippine Tuberculosis Society for the improvement of its present buildings or the construction of new pavilions.

R.A. No. 1391. An Act appropriating the sum of 25,000 pesos as aid to the first Southeast Asia Music Conference to be held in the city of Manila in August, 1955.

CASE DIGEST

SUPREME COURT

CIVIL LAW — MARRIAGE — THE REGISTRATION OF AUTHORITY TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE HAS A TWO-FOLD PURPOSE: (1) TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER TO DISCHARGE HIS RELIGIOUS FUNCTIONS AND, (2) TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF ANY CHANGE IN HIS RELIGIOUS STATUS, IN ORDER TO LIFT THE INELIGIBILITY OF AN ECCLESIASTIC TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE, HIS OFFICIAL RESIGNATION FROM, AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF, HIS RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION MUST BE REGISTERED — In the general elections of 1951, Paraiso garnered the greatest number of votes, and was duly proclaimed mayor-elect of Rizal, Nueva Ecija, by the municipal board of canvassers. Petitioner Vilar won the second greatest number, and subsequently filed quo warranto proceedings against Paraiso on the ground that Paraiso is an ecclesiastic, and therefore ineligible for public office. Paraiso pleads that he has officially resigned from the United Church of Christ, and such resignation was accepted by the cabinet of said church. This resignation and acceptance, however, were not registered with the Bureau of Public Libraries. *Held*, the importance of registration with the Bureau of Public Libraries serves a two-fold purpose, and cannot be underestimated. This is especially so with authority to solemnize marriage. It is no argument to say that the duty to secure the cancellation of the requisite registration devolves, not upon respondent, but upon the head of his religious organization. Furthermore, he failed to attach to his certificate of candidacy a copy of the alleged resignation as minister knowing fully well that a minister is disqualified by law to run for a municipal office. **VILLAR v. PARAIISO**, G.R. No. L-8014, March 14, 1955.

CIVIL LAW — PROPERTY — WHERE THE ACTION TO RECOVER CHURCH PROPERTY SPRANG OUT OF A MERE DIVISION, NOT A SCHISM IN THE CHURCH, THE RULE OF DOCTRINAL ADHERENCE DOES NOT APPLY — Before the controversy, the Iglesia Filipina Independiente was a religious society adhering to a common, certain religious dogma under one supreme head who had the sole right to administer all the temporalities of the church. Rivalry ensued among the leaders of the church which culminated in a court proceeding, where bishop De los Reyes was confirmed the real and legal head of the religious society. This led to a bitter division among the members, out of which two factions emerged, each with a supreme head and governing body; each asserting rights over the temporalities of the original religious group. Petitioner, one of the leaders, contends that the faction led by bishop De los Reyes had adopted certain new doctrines and practices which are entirely different from that of the original Iglesia Filipina Independiente. They, therefore, have lost whatever rights they had to the properties of the original church. *Held*, in such cases, where there is a division which leads to a separation into distinct and conflicting bodies, the rights of such bodies to the use of the property must be determined by the ordinary principles which govern voluntary associations. If the principle of government in such cases is that the majority rules, then the numerical majority