

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9139, June 08, 2001]

**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:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as "The Administrative Naturalization Law of 2000."

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

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

- a. The applicant must be born in the Philippines and residing therein since birth;
- b. The applicant must not be less than eighteen (18) years of age, at the time of filing of his/her petition;
- c. The applicant must be of good moral character and believes in the underlying principles of the Constitution, and must have conducted himself/herself in a proper and irreproachable manner during his/her entire period of residence in the Philippines in his relation with the duly constituted government as well as with the community in which he/she is living;
- d. The applicant must have received his/her primary and secondary education in any public school or private educational institution duly recognized by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, where Philippine history, government and civics are taught and prescribed as part of the school curriculum and where enrollment is not limited to any race or nationality: *Provided*, That should he/she have minor children of school age, he/she must have enrolled them in similar schools;
- e. The applicant must have a known trade, business, profession or lawful occupation, from which he/she derives income sufficient for his/her support and if he/she is married and/or has dependents, also that of his/her family: *Provided, however*, That this shall not apply to applicants who are college degree holders but are unable to practice their profession because they are disqualified to do so by reason of their citizenship;
- f. The applicant must be able to read, write and speak Filipino or any of the dialects of the Philippines; and

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

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

- a. Those opposed to organized government or affiliated with any association or group of persons who uphold and teach doctrines opposing all organized governments;
- b. Those defending or teaching the necessity of or propriety of violence, personal assault or assassination for the success or predominance of their ideas;
- c. Polygamists or believers in the practice of polygamy;
- d. Those convicted of crimes involving moral turpitude;
- e. Those suffering from mental alienation or incurable contagious diseases;
- f. Those who, during the period of their residence in the Philippines, have not mingled socially with Filipinos, or who have not evinced a sincere desire to learn and embrace the customs, traditions and ideals of the Filipinos;
- g. Citizens or subjects with whom the Philippines is at war, during the period of such war; and
- h. Citizens or subjects of a foreign country whose laws do not grant Filipinos the right to be naturalized citizens or subjects thereof.

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

- a. The petitioner's name and surname, and any other name he/she has used or by which he/she is known;
- b. The petitioner's present and former places of residence;
- c. The petitioner's place and date of birth, the names and citizenship of his/her parents and their residences;
- d. The petitioner's trade, business, profession or occupation, and if married, also that of his/her spouse;
- e. Whether the petitioner is single or married or his/her marriage is annulled. If married, petitioner shall state the date and place of his/her marriage, and the name, date of birth, birthplace, citizenship and residence of his/her spouse; and if his marriage is annulled, the date of decree of annulment of marriage and the court which granted the same;
- f. If the petitioner has children, the name, date and birthplace and residences of his/her children;
- g. A declaration that the petitioner possesses all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications under this Act;
- h. A declaration that the petitioner shall never be a public charge; and
- i. A declaration that it is the petitioner's true and honest intention to acquire Philippine citizenship and to renounce absolutely and forever any prince, potentate, State or sovereign, and particularly the country of which the applicant is a citizen or subject.

(2) The application shall be accompanied by:

- a. Duplicate original or certified photocopies of petitioner's birth certificate;
- b. Duplicate original or certified photocopies of petitioner's alien certificate of registration and native born certificate of residence;
- c. Duplicate original or certified photocopies of petitioner's marriage certificate, if married, or the death certificate of his spouse, if widowed, or the court decree annulling his marriage, if such was the fact;
- d. Duplicate original or certified photocopies of birth certificates, alien certificate of registration or native born certificate of residence if any, of petitioner's minor children, wherever applicable;
- e. Affidavit of financial capacity by the petitioner, and sworn statements on the good moral character of the petitioner by at least two (2) Filipino citizens of good reputation in his/her place of residence stating that they have personally known the petitioner for at least a period often (10) years and that said petitioner has in their own opinion all the qualifications necessary to become a citizen of the Philippines and is not in any way disqualified under the provisions of this Act;
- f. A medical certificate that petitioner is not a user of prohibited drugs or otherwise a drug dependent and that he/she is not afflicted with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS);
- g. School diploma and transcript of records of the petitioner in the schools he attended in the Philippines. Should the petitioner have minor children, a certification that his children are enrolled in a school where Philippine history, government and civics are taught and are part of the curriculum; and
- h. If gainfully employed, the income tax return for the past three (3) years.

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

The Committee shall meet, as often as practicable, to consider applications for naturalization. For this purpose, the chairman and members shall receive an honorarium of Two thousand pesos (P2,000) and One thousand five hundred pesos (P1,500) respectively, per meeting attended.

SEC. 7. *Powers /Functions of the Special Committee on Naturalization.* — An alien who believes that he has all the qualifications, and none of the disqualifications, may file an application for naturalization with the secretariat of the Special Committee on Naturalization, and a processing fee of Forty thousand pesos (P40,000). Thereafter, the petition shall be stamped to indicate the date of filing and a corresponding docket number. Within fifteen (15) days from the receipt of the petition, the Committee shall determine whether the petition is complete in substance and in form. If such petition is complete, the Committee shall immediately publish pertinent portions of the petition indicating the name, qualifications and other personal circumstances of the applicant, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, and have copies of the petition posted in any public or conspicuous area. The Committee shall immediately furnish the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Bureau of Immigration (BI), the civil registrar of the petitioner's place of residence and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) copies of the petition and its supporting documents. These