

# [ Act No. 2754, February 23, 1918 ]

## **AN ACT FOR THE CREATION AND PROMOTION OF A NATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Legislature assembled and by the authority of the same:*

SECTION 1. For the purpose of creating and promoting a merchant marine that shall engage in the transportation of products, preferably articles of importation and exportation of the Philippine Islands, the Secretary of Commerce and Communications, with the consent of the presiding officers of both Houses of the Legislature and the approval of the Governor-General, is hereby authorized to—

(a) Organize a corporation or corporations for the purpose of engaging in the construction and repair of vessels or the acquisition thereof, or in the business of carrying passengers and freight by sea, or for all these purposes.

(b) Acquire stock or an interest, in behalf of the Government of the Philippine Islands, in corporations, companies, or associations engaged in any of the business activities mentioned in the last preceding subsection.

(c) Subsidize navigation lines to foreign countries.

(d) Retain and keep under domestic register merchant vessels which are now or may hereafter be registered in the ports of the Philippine Islands.

(e) Exercise any other powers that may be necessary to create, promote, and maintain the foreign maritime traffic of the Philippine Islands.

SEC. 2. Whenever public funds are invested or expended for the purpose of contributing to, cooperating with, aiding, or subsidizing shipping concerns in accordance with the preceding section, the following conditions shall be imposed:

(a) That all vessels belonging to said concerns shall at all times be subject to the exclusive service of the Government when the Governor-General shall certify that the public interest requires it.

(b) That said vessels shall give preference to the transportation of the mail and other freight of the Government and to the products of the country.

(c) That said vessels shall be constructed or repaired in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the Secretary of Commerce and Communications.

(d) Any other conditions which the Secretary of Commerce and Communications may see fit to impose.

SEC. 3. Whenever funds of the Government of the Philippine Islands are invested in any of the corporations or companies mentioned in section one of this Act, the power to vote the stock or interest of said Government shall be vested in a