

## [ Act No. 2777, May 06, 1918 ]

### **AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN CLAIMS OF RIGHTS OF OWNERSHIP TO PARCELS OF LAND INCLUDED IN TOWN SITE RESERVATIONS MAY BE FILED IN THE PROPER COURT WITHIN THE PERIOD OF ONE YEAR, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.**

*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. In order to give an opportunity to persons or corporations claiming rights of ownership to parcels of land included within town site reservations, who have for any reason been unable to file such claims in the proper court within the time limit fixed by law, with the result that, on account of the non-presentation of such claims, such parcels have been declared, or are about to be declared, or may be declared, to be public land, by virtue of judicial proceedings instituted during the ten years last preceding the approval of this Act, the said judicial proceedings instituted with regard to such reservations under the provisions of section sixty-two of Act Numbered Nine hundred and twenty-six are hereby declared reopened only in so far as the parcel or parcels of land not alienated or otherwise disposed of by the Government are concerned, so that beginning with the date of the approval of this Act, the proper Court of First Instance shall begin said judicial proceedings *de novo* as if no action had been taken with regard to the said parcels.

SEC. 2. For the purposes of this Act, the Director of Lands shall, within one year from and after the date on which the same takes effect, determine the parcel or parcels of land within such reservations concerning which no claim has been filed or concerning which claims have been filed after the expiration of the time limit fixed therefor, and which have for this reason been declared, or are about to be declared, or may be declared, to be land of the public domain, and upon having determined the same, he shall so certify to the proper Court of First Instance and such certificate shall serve and be considered as a notice to said court for the reopening of the judicial proceedings provided for in the said section of Act Numbered Nine hundred and twenty-six.

SEC. 3. In order that a person or corporation may present and file in the competent court an application under the provisions of this Act, he shall pay, in addition to the fees prescribed by Act Numbered Four hundred and ninety-six, a proportional share of the cost of the survey of the reservation in which the land covered by the application is comprised, and of the publication of the notice announcing the creation of said reservation, and of other expenses in connection therewith, said proportional share to be fixed by the Bureau of Lands in the form provided for in the next following section.

SEC. 4. Immediately after the final approval of this Act, the Director of Lands shall proceed to fix the total expense incurred in each of the reservations referred to in the present Act, as regards their survey, the publication of notices announcing the creation of said reservations, and other expenses inherent to the same. As soon as such cost shall have been fixed, the Director of Lands shall appoint for each province where such a reservation exists a committee composed of one of the inspectors of said office, the provincial treasurer, and a member of the provincial board