

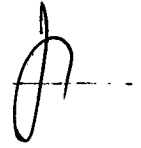
NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

25 FEB -4 12:34

SENATE

REC

S. No. 2977



Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

**AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, USE, AND STOCKPILING
OF BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS, PROVIDING PENALTIES
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

"The COVID-19 pandemic brought the world to its knees. Now imagine a different kind of disease – one that is both deliberately designed and can race through the global population even faster. Biological weapons are not the product of science fiction. They are a clear and present danger.¹"

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), formally known as the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction," is considered a cornerstone of multilateral disarmament regime banning weapons of mass destruction (WMD). It entered into force on March 1975 and supplemented the 1925 Geneva Protocol which had prohibited only the use of biological weapons. The BWC has reached almost universal membership with 187 States Parties and four Signatory States.

¹ United Nations Secretary-General's video message to participants of the Ninth Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference. 28 November 2022. Accessed through <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2022-11-28/secretary-generals-video-message-participants-of-the-ninth-biological-weapons-convention-review-conference>

States Parties to the BWC, including the Philippines, undertook never in any circumstances to develop, produce, stockpile or otherwise acquire or retain microbial or other biological agents, or toxins whatever their origin or method of production, of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes; and weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.²

Aside from this, each State Party to the Convention is required, in accordance with its constitutional processes, to take necessary measures to prohibit and prevent the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition or retention of biological weapons within its territory, under its jurisdiction or control³.

While accelerated advancements in biotechnology have been truly beneficial in terms of prolonging human life and addressing health concerns, such scientific breakthroughs may also be diverted and misused for non-peaceful pursuits with catastrophic effects crossing national boundaries. This proposed measure aims to strengthen existing policies and complement Republic Act No 11479 or the "Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020" and Republic Act No. 10697⁴ or the "Strategic Trade Management Act" which safeguard public safety and uphold national security.

The consideration and passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

² Article I, Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction

³ Article IV, Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction

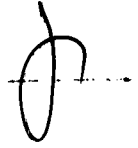
⁴ An Act Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction by Managing the Trade in Strategic Goods, the Provision of Related Services, and For Other Purposes

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**AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, USE, AND STOCKPILING
OF BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS, PROVIDING PENALTIES
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1
2
3 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Biological and Toxin*
4 *Weapons Act.*"

5 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and
6 promote the right to health of the people and to adopt the generally accepted
7 principles of international law as part of the law of the land by preventing and
8 prohibiting any development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, use, retention,
9 and/or transfer of biological agents or toxins for hostile purposes, under any
10 circumstances, consistent with the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention
11 and other relevant international commitments.

12 Sec. 3. *Scope and Coverage.* – This Act shall cover:

- 13 a) The development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, use, retention, and/
14 or transfer of biological agents and toxins, including biological weapons and
15 their facility; and,

1 b) Facilities or persons that will handle the biological agents and toxins, and
2 the manner/ handling of transfer in accordance with internationally accepted
3 standards, of any natural or juridical person operating within the Philippines,
4 who engage or intend to engage in the development, production,
5 stockpiling, acquisition, use, retention, transport or transfer of certain
6 biological agents and toxins, and/or control the transfer of certain dual-use
7 biological equipment and technology.

8 *Sec. 4. Definitions. – As used in this Act:*

9 a) "*Acquire*" shall mean to come into possession or control of biological and/or
10 toxin weapons, regardless of the means it was acquired.

11 b) "*Biological Agent*" shall mean:

12 i) any micro-organism (including any bacterium, virus, fungus,
13 rickettsia and parasite), any infectious substance (including any
14 prion), any component of a micro-organism or an infectious
15 substance (but not including any toxin); or

16 ii) any bioengineered component of any such microorganism, virus,
17 infectious substance or biological by-product that is capable of
18 causing death, disease, or other biological malfunction in human,
19 animal, and plant.

20 c) "*Biological Weapon*" shall mean:

21 i) microbial or other biological agents, or toxins whatever their origin
22 or method of production, of types and in quantities that have no
23 justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes;
24 or

25 ii) weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed to use such
26 agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.

27 d) "*Biosecurity*" shall mean strategic and integrated approach that
28 encompasses the policy and regulatory frameworks including instruments
29 and activities for analyzing and managing relevant risks to human, animal,
30 plant life and health, to the environment, and to the economy. It shall also
31 include the implementation of measures to prevent the loss of control over
32 any biological material which may be liable to misuse and the development

1 of a coordinated response designed to restore control and minimize harm
2 where such a loss has occurred.

3 e) "*Controlled biological agents and toxins list*" shall refer to the list developed
4 by the National Authority based on threats to national security, public health
5 and safety, and economic impact, under the following criteria:

6 i) effect of exposure on human, animal, or plant health, or on animal
7 or plant products;

8 ii) degree of contagiousness and method of transmission;

9 iii) availability and effectiveness of pharmacotherapies and
10 immunizations; and

11 iv) other criteria deemed appropriate, including the risk-group approach
12 of the World Health Organization, World Organization for Animal
13 Health, and the International Plant Protection Convention provided
14 that the National Authority shall publicly disclose and explain the use
15 of any such criteria.

16 The "controlled biological agents and toxins list" shall be included in the
17 implementing rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Act, and shall be
18 periodically reviewed and modified as necessary by the National Authority.

19 f) "*Develop*" shall mean the creation of biological and/or toxin weapons.

20 g) "*Equipment*" shall refer to tools used in the development, production,
21 acquisition, stockpiling, retention or transferring of biological agents and/or
22 toxins.

23 h) "*Juridical Person*" shall mean:

24 i) a group of persons, partnership, corporation, association, form, or
25 other legal entity recognized by law and which is granted a juridical
26 personality separate and distinct from that of the shareholders,
27 partner, or member; or

28 ii) the State or any of its political subdivisions, including government-
29 owned or controlled corporations.

30 i) "*Manufacture*" shall mean the production of biological and/or toxin
31 weapons.

- 1 j) "*National Authority*" shall mean the lead interagency body in the
2 implementation of the provisions of this Act, and shall be the national
3 coordinating body for effective liaison with the Implementing Support Unit
4 (ISU) and other State Parties to the BTWC.
- 5 k) "*Person*" shall mean any natural or juridical person.
- 6 l) "*Technology*" shall refer to information and processes necessary for the
7 development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention or transferring
8 of biological agents and/or toxins, and may take such forms as blueprints,
9 plans, diagrams, models, formulae, tables, engineering designs and
10 specifications, manuals, and instructions written or recorded on other media
11 or devices such as disk, tape, read-only memories.
- 12 m) "*Territory*" shall mean any area within the Republic of the Philippines, or
13 under its jurisdiction or control.
- 14 n) "*Toxin*" shall mean any poisonous substance that is produced and/or
15 extracted from any organisms.
- 16 o) "*Transfer*" shall mean the act of moving domestically the biological agent
17 and toxin, equipment, and/or technologies, agreeing to move them, any
18 supporting services being provided to the transport provider, and any other
19 act calculated to promote their supply or delivery if this contributes to WMD,
20 or means of their delivery, or to prohibited/restricted end-users.
- 21 p) "*Weapons of Mass Destruction*" shall refer to chemical, biological,
22 radiological and nuclear weapons which are capable of a high order of
23 destruction or causing mass casualties. It excludes the means of
24 transporting or propelling the weapon where such means is a separable and
25 divisible part from the weapon.

26 **CHAPTER II**

27 **BIOSECURITY**

28 *Sec. 5. Controlled biological agents, toxins, equipment and technology. –*

- 29 a) There shall be a list of controlled biological agents, toxins, equipment and
30 technology. The National Authority shall establish, consolidate, review and
31 maintain such list.

1 b) The National Authority shall initially adopt the National Biological Materials
2 of Concern List (controlled biological agents and toxins) and National
3 Strategic Goods List (controlled equipment and technology) and shall
4 periodically review and modify as necessary.

5 *Sec. 6. Licensing for controlled biological agents and toxins. –*

6 a) Every person or entity that develops, acquires, manufactures, possesses,
7 transports, transfers or uses controlled biological agents or toxins for
8 peaceful purposes, research, propagation and processing must have a
9 license issued by the National Authority. The implementing rules and
10 regulations shall prescribe the requirements, procedures, and other
11 parameters for the issuance thereof.

12 b) Every person seeking a license shall comply with the biosecurity and
13 biosafety regulations issued under this Act and its implementing rules and
14 regulations such as submission of facilities and personnel engaged in the
15 development, acquisition, manufacture, possession, transport, transfer or
16 use of controlled agents or toxins, to include research, propagation and
17 processing.

18 c) No license shall be required for reasons of public health, agricultural
19 emergencies, evidentiary purpose, and products licensed under food, drugs,
20 pesticides or other similar laws.

21 d) Immediate notice shall be given to the appropriate law enforcement agency
22 of any theft, loss or release of controlled agents or toxins.

23 *Sec. 7. Domestic Transfer of Controlled Agents and Toxins. –*

24 a) The National Authority shall prescribe measures for a secured, safe, and
25 closely monitored transfer of controlled agents and toxins.

26 b) Controlled agents and toxins shall only be transferred by licensed persons
27 and entities and their identified facilities within the territory of the Republic
28 of the Philippines.

29 c) All proposed domestic transfers of controlled agents and toxins shall be
30 subject to advance notification to the National Authority.

31 d) Domestic transfer of controlled agents and toxins shall only be undertaken
32 by licensed carriers by the National Authority.

1 e) Carriers licensed to transport controlled agents and toxins domestically shall
2 immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of any theft,
3 loss or release of controlled agents or toxins.

4 Any violation of the security protocols in Sections 6 and 7 shall be punishable
5 under Chapter IV of this Act, without prejudice to the applicable provisions of the
6 STMA.

7 *Sec. 8. Inspections and investigations. –*

8 a) To ensure compliance with this Act and all applicable biosecurity measures,
9 the implementing agencies shall facilitate the conduct of inspections and
10 investigations of all licensed individuals, entities, and carriers.

11 b) The implementing agencies shall designate inspectors whose powers shall
12 be prescribed in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

13 c) In case of any violation of this Act, licensed individuals, entities and carriers
14 shall provide all records required by the implementing agencies'
15 investigators.

16 *Sec. 9. Search, seizure, forfeiture and destruction. –*

17 a) The implementing agencies shall apply for a warrant with the proper courts
18 for the search and seizure of any biological agent or toxin or equipment or
19 technology or facility and property associated with any activity prohibited
20 under this Act.

21 b) Seized property shall be forfeited to the Government after due notice and
22 hearing.

23 c) The implementing agency may authorize the destruction or other
24 appropriate disposition of any biological agent or toxin or equipment or
25 technology or facility and property seized and forfeited under this section
26 upon approval of the court.

27 d) In the event of imminent danger to public health or national security, the
28 implementing agency may authorize the destruction or disposition of the
29 seized biological agents or toxins, equipment, and technology in accordance
30 with appropriate guidelines.

1 The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), either upon its own initiative or at
2 the request of the National Authority, is hereby authorized to issue an *ex parte* order
3 to freeze without delay:

- 4 a) any property or funds that are in any way related to any violations of Section
5 11 of this Act; and
- 6 b) property or funds of any person or persons in relation to whom there is
7 probable cause to believe that such person or persons are committing or
8 attempting or conspiring to commit, or participating in or facilitating the
9 commission of any violations of Section 11 of this Act.

10 The freeze order shall be effective for a period not exceeding twenty (20) days.
11 Upon a petition filed by the AMLC before the expiration of the period, the effectivity
12 of the freeze order may be extended up to a period not exceeding six (6) months upon
13 order of the Court of Appeals: Provided, That the 20-day period shall be tolled upon
14 filing of a petition to extend the effectivity of the freeze order.

15 The property or funds subject of the freeze order under the immediately
16 preceding paragraph shall be the subject of civil forfeiture proceedings, if warranted,
17 as provided under Republic Act No. 9160, as amended.

18 The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), either upon its own initiative or at
19 the request of the National Authority, is also hereby authorized to investigate:

- 20 a) any property or funds that are in any way related to any violations of Section
21 11 of this Act; and
- 22 b) property or funds of any person or persons in relation to whom there is
23 probable cause to believe that such person or persons are committing or
24 attempting or conspiring to commit, or participating in or facilitating the
25 commission of any violations of Section 11 of this Act.

26 For purposes of this section and notwithstanding the provisions of Republic Act
27 No. 1405, otherwise known as the "Law on Secrecy of Bank Deposits", as amended;
28 Republic Act No. 6426, otherwise known as the "Foreign Currency Deposit Act of the
29 Philippines", as amended; Republic Act No. 8791, otherwise known as "The General
30 Banking Law of 2000" and other laws, the AMLC is authorized to inquire into or
31 examine deposits and investments with any banking institution or non-bank financial
32 institution and their subsidiaries and affiliates without a court order.

1 **CHAPTER III**

2 **IMPLEMENTING STRUCTURE AND MECHANISM**

3 *Sec. 10. Establishment, mandate and enforcement powers of the National*
4 *Authority on Biological and Toxin Weapons (BTW). –*

- 5 a) A National Authority shall be established for the enforcement of this Act and
6 its implementing rules and regulations. The Anti-Terrorism Council (ATC) is
7 hereby designated as the National Authority.
- 8 b) The National Authority shall be chaired by the Executive Secretary and the
9 Department of Foreign Affairs shall be the Secretariat.
- 10 c) It shall be composed of the nine (9) regular ATC members and the following
11 Cabinet Secretaries from the following departments:
- 12 i) Department of Health;
 - 13 ii) Department of Trade and Industry;
 - 14 iii) Department of Environment and Natural Resources; and
 - 15 iv) Department of Agriculture;

16 The National Authority may invite in its deliberations the participation of
17 representatives from the academe, civil society, and the private sector.

- 18 d) The National Authority shall perform the following functions:
- 19 i) Formulate policies and programs for the implementation of the Act
20 and in the fulfilment of the country's obligations to the Convention;
 - 21 ii) Ensure the establishment of minimum biosecurity standards,
22 protocols, and procedures by the implementing agencies;
 - 23 iii) Monitor and evaluate the enforcement of this Act and its
24 implementing rules and regulations;
 - 25 iv) Provide policy advice to the President on matters relevant to this Act;
26 and,
 - 27 v) Perform any other tasks related to the implementation of this Act and
28 of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.
- 29 e) The National Authority shall designate implementing agencies to issue
30 license, transfer, transport, inspect, investigate, search, seize, dispose
31 and/or destroy BTW – related goods if there are no existing agencies
32 mandated to do so.

1 **CHAPTER IV**
2 **OFFENSES AND PENALTIES**

3 *Sec. 11. Offenses. –*

4 a) It shall be unlawful for any person, with or without intent to gain, to
5 knowingly and intentionally:

- 6 1) develop, produce, acquire, stockpile, use, retain or transfer, directly or
7 indirectly, any biological weapon;
- 8 2) engage in preparations to use any biological weapon;
- 9 3) construct, acquire or retain any facility intended for the production of
10 biological weapons;
- 11 4) weaponize any biological agent or toxin;
- 12 5) release biological agents or toxins for the purpose of causing death,
13 injury to human beings, animals or plants;
- 14 6) develop, produce, acquire, possess, manufacture, stockpile or retain,
15 transfer or use controlled biological agents or toxins without a license
16 granted for the purpose by the appropriate authority or in violation of
17 the conditions of the license or in violation of any other provision under
18 this Act;
- 19 7) transfer controlled biological agents or toxins within the Philippine
20 territory to unlicensed individuals or entities, or fail to notify the
21 appropriate authority of such transfer;
- 22 8) fail to transfer controlled biological agents or toxins domestically
23 through an approved carrier or fail to comply with any other provision
24 of Section 7 of this Act;
- 25 9) tamper with any facility, package, or containment vessel containing
26 controlled agents or toxins in order to cause their release; or
- 27 10) divert or steal controlled biological agents or toxins from a facility or
28 authorized transport vehicle, or use or take control of an authorized
29 transport vehicle containing controlled biological agents or toxins so as
30 to cause its release;
- 31 11) construct, acquire or retain any facility designed or intended for the
32 manufacture of or research on any controlled biological agent or toxin,

1 except in accordance with this Act and its implementing rules and
2 regulations issued or any other relevant laws;

3 12) fail to provide data, information or document to the appropriate
4 authority, or make false or misleading statement in relation to any data,
5 information, document or report prepared pursuant to this section;

6 13) omit any matter, knowing that such omission makes the data,
7 information, document or report false or misleading;

8 14) obtain data, information, documents or reports issued, and
9 communicate the data, information, documents or reports to any other
10 person without written consent, except:

11 i) for the purpose of enforcement or application of this Act,
12 including criminal investigations and intelligence assessments;

13 ii) in pursuance to international obligations of the Republic of the
14 Philippines; or

15 iii) to the extent that the data, information, documents or reports
16 are required to be disclosed or communicated in the interest of
17 public safety.

18 15) obstruct, cause hindrance, resistance, deception or provide false or
19 misleading information to the inspector or person/s accompanying him
20 during inspection of licensed facilities.

21 b) Financing – It shall also be unlawful for any person to, directly or indirectly,
22 willfully and without lawful excuse, possess, provide, collect or use property
23 or funds or make available property, funds or financial service or other
24 related services, by any means, with the unlawful and willful intention that
25 they should be used or with the knowledge that they are to be used, in full
26 or in part to develop, produce, acquire, stockpile, use, retain or transfer,
27 any biological weapon.

28 c) Unlawful Activities to Money Laundering – The offenses under Section 11
29 (a) of this Act shall be unlawful activities to money laundering under
30 Republic Act No. 9160, otherwise known as the Anti-Money Laundering Act
31 of 2001, as amended.

32 Sec. 12. *Penalties.* –

- 1 a) The penalty of life imprisonment without benefit of a parole, and a fine
2 ranging from Three (3) million to Five (5) million pesos shall be imposed
3 upon any person found guilty for violations of Section 11(1) to (5) of this
4 Act. The same penalty shall be imposed upon any person who shall order,
5 direct, induce, finance anyone to engage in any of the acts under Section
6 11(1) to (5) of this Act. If the acts result to death, serious injuries or
7 destruction to properties and the environment, he/she, in addition to the
8 penalty imposed, shall be fined ten (10) million pesos.
- 9 b) The penalty of twelve (12) years and a fine ranging from One (1) million to
10 Three (3) million pesos shall be imposed upon any person found guilty for
11 violations of any of the acts or omissions under Section 11(6) to (15) of this
12 Act.
- 13 c) Any person, who, not being a principal under Article 17 of the Revised Penal
14 Code, cooperates in the execution of the acts punished under Section 11(1)
15 to (5) of this Act shall be considered an accomplice and shall suffer the
16 penalty of imprisonment of 20 years and a fine of Three (3) million pesos
17 (P3,000,000.00).
- 18 d) Any person, who having knowledge of the commission of the acts prohibited
19 and without having participated therein, either as principal or accomplice
20 under Articles 17 and 18 of the Revised Penal Code, takes part subsequent
21 to its commission in any of the following manner:
- 22 i) by profiting himself of assisting the offender to profit by the effects
23 of the crime; or
- 24 ii) by concealing or destroying the body of the crime of the effects, or
25 instruments thereof, in order to prevent its discovery; or
- 26 iii) by harboring or concealing or assisting in the escape of the principal
27 or conspirator of the crime;
- 28 shall be considered an accessory and shall suffer the penalty of
29 imprisonment of twelve (12) years and a fine of Two million pesos (P
30 2,000,000.00).
- 31 e) If any of the offenses under Section 11 is committed by a partnership,
32 corporation, association or any other juridical person, the penalty of life

1 imprisonment without the benefit of parole and a fine of Ten million pesos
2 (P10,000,000.00) shall be imposed upon the partner, president, director,
3 manager, or any responsible officer who participated in the commission of
4 the offense, or knowingly permitted, or failed to prevent its commission.

- 5 f) If the offender is a public official or employee, he or she shall, in addition
6 to the imposable penalties, suffer dismissal from the service, forfeiture of
7 retirement benefits, cancellation of any government eligibility and perpetual
8 disqualification from holding public office.

9 **CHAPTER V**

10 **EXTRATERRITORIAL APPLICATION**

11 **AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL COOPERATION**

12 *Sec. 13. Application outside Philippine Territory.* – This Act shall apply to any
13 natural or juridical person in the territory of the Republic of the Philippines and shall
14 extend to:

- 15 a) any Filipino citizen outside the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines who
16 commits any of the offenses defined and penalized under this Act;
17 b) any individual person who, although physically outside the territorial limits
18 of the Philippines commits any of the offenses under this Act on board
19 Philippine ship or airship;
20 c) stateless persons whose habitual residence is the territory of the Republic
21 of the Philippines.

22 *Sec. 14. International Legal Cooperation and Assistance.* –

- 23 a) Any offense set forth in this Act shall be deemed to be included as an
24 extraditable offense in any extradition treaty between the Republic of the
25 Philippines and other States, if punishable under the laws of the other
26 contracting State.
27 b) The National Authority may collaborate with other State authorities and
28 international organizations to provide and/or receive relevant data or
29 information, and coordinate appropriate actions, regarding:
30 i) the development, acquisition, manufacture, possession, transport,
31 transfer or use of controlled biological agents and toxins;
32 ii) the controlled biological equipment and technology;

- 1 iii) the persons involved with items under subsections (a) and (b) for
2 crime prevention and criminal proceedings in the implementation of
3 this Act.
- 4 c) If a State has entered into the appropriate reciprocity agreement with the
5 Republic of the Philippines, the National Authority may provide, on its own
6 initiative or on request, the data or information described in subsection (b)
7 to that State so long as the other competent State authority provides
8 assurances that such data or information shall:
- 9 i) only be utilized for purposes consistent with this Act; and
10 ii) only be used in criminal proceedings on the condition that they are
11 obtained in accordance with those provisions governing international
12 judicial cooperation.
- 13 d) The National Authority may provide the data or information to international
14 organizations if the conditions set forth in subsection (c) are fulfilled, in
15 which case the requirement for a reciprocity agreement is waived.
- 16 e) None of the offenses in Chapter II of this Act shall be considered, for the
17 purposes of extradition or legal cooperation and assistance under this
18 section, as a political offense or as an offense connected with a political
19 offense or as an offense inspired by political motives.

20 **CHAPTER VI**

21 **FINAL PROVISIONS**

22 Sec. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The National Authority, with
23 participation of DOH, DOJ, and other appropriate agencies, shall promulgate the
24 implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act within ninety
25 (90) days after its effectivity.

26 Sec. 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held to be invalid
27 or unconstitutional, the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and
28 effective.

29 Sec. 17. *Suppletory Application.* – For purposes of this Act, the Revised Penal
30 Code and other applicable laws shall have suppletory application.

31 Sec. 18. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
32 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the

1 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly, except
2 the provisions of Republic Act 10697 or the Strategic Trade Management Act of 2015.

3 *Sec. 19. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
4 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,