



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6509

BY REPRESENTATIVES COSCOLLUELA, ALFELOR, ZIALCITA, GATCHALIAN,
RODRIGUEZ AND JAVIER

AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS AS
AN AUXILIARY TO THE AUTHORITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF
THE PHILIPPINES IN THE HUMANITARIAN FIELD

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

1 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Principles and State Principles.* – The State
2 shall at all times act in conformity with the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and
3 their additional protocols, and shall establish and promote the development of
4 a duly recognized autonomous National Red Cross Society that shall provide
5 humanitarian relief and assistance in times of peace and armed conflict. The
6 State shall at all times respect the adherence by the National Red Cross Society
7 to the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality,
8 independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

9 SEC. 2. *Philippine National Red Cross.* – The Philippine National Red
10 Cross (PNRC) shall be recognized as the voluntary society officially
11 designated as an auxiliary to the authorities of the Republic of the Philippines
12 in the humanitarian field, to assist said authorities in discharging the
13 obligations set forth in the Geneva Conventions. Pursuant to the fundamental
14 principle of unity, the PNRC shall be the only national society of the Red

1 Cross in the Republic of the Philippines and shall perform the duties inherent
2 upon such states over the entire Philippine territory.

3 SEC. 3. *Tax Privileges.* – To allow it to fully realize its mandate under
4 the Geneva Conventions and this Act, the PNRC shall:

5 (a) Be exempt from payment of all direct and indirect taxes, all
6 provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding, including value-added tax
7 (VAT), fees and other charges of all kinds on all income from its operations,
8 including the use, lease or sale of its real property, and provision of services.
9 The PNRC shall also be exempt from direct and indirect taxes, including VAT,
10 duties, fees and other charges on importations and purchases for its exclusive
11 use.

12 Likewise, all donations, legacies and gifts made to the PNRC to support
13 its purposes and objectives shall be exempt from the donor's tax and shall be
14 deductible from the gross income of the donor for income tax purposes or from
15 the computation of the donor-decedent's net estate as a transfer for public use
16 for estate tax purposes.

17 Finally, the PNRC shall be exempt from the payment of real property
18 taxes on all real properties owned by it; and

19 (b) Be allotted by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office at least
20 one (1) lottery draw yearly for the support of its disaster relief operations in
21 addition to its existing lottery draws for the Blood Program.

22 SEC. 4. *Unlawful Solicitation.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to
23 solicit, collect or receive money, materials or property of any kind by falsely
24 representing or pretending himself to be a member, agent or representative of
25 the PNRC.

26 SEC. 5. *Red Cross Name and Emblem.* – The use of the name Red
27 Cross is reserved exclusively to the PNRC and the use of the emblem of the
28 Red Greek Cross on a white ground is reserved exclusively to the PNRC,

1 medical services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and such other
2 medical facilities or other institutions as may be authorized by the PNRC as
3 provided under Article 44 of the Geneva Conventions. It shall be unlawful for
4 any other person or entity to use the words Red Cross or Geneva Cross or to
5 use the emblem of the Red Greek Cross on a white ground or any designation,
6 sign or insignia constituting an imitation thereof for any purpose whatsoever.

7 SEC. 6. *Penal Clause.* – Any person, whether natural or juridical,
8 violating any section of this Act shall, upon conviction therefore, be liable to a
9 fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) or imprisonment for a
10 term not exceeding one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court for each
11 and every violation. In case the violation is committed by a corporation or an
12 association, the penalty shall devolve upon the president, director or any other
13 officer responsible for such violation.

14 SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared
15 invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
16 remain in full force and effect.

17 SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 95, entitled “An Act to
18 Incorporate the Philippine National Red Cross”, as amended, is hereby
19 repealed. All other laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and regulations
20 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
21 accordingly.

22 SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
23 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)
24 newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,

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