

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10158, March 27, 2012]

AN ACT DECRIMINALIZING VAGRANCY, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE 202 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE

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

SECTION 1. Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code is hereby, amended to read as follows:

"Article 202. *Prostitutes; Penalty.* – For the purposes of this article, women who, for money or profit, habitually indulge in sexual intercourse or lascivious conduct, are deemed to be prostitutes.

"Any person found guilty of any of the offenses covered by this article shall be punished by *arresto menor* or a fine not exceeding 200 pesos, and in case of recidivism, by *arresto mayor* in its medium period to *prision correctional* in its minimum period or a fine ranging from 200 to 2,000 pesos, or both, in the discretion of the court."

SEC. 2. *Effect on Pending Cases.* – All pending cases under the provisions of Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code on Vagrancy prior to its amendment by this Act shall be dismissed upon effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Immediate Release of Convicted Persons.* – All persons serving sentence for violation of the provisions of Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code on Vagrancy prior to its amendment by this Act shall be immediately released upon effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, That they are not serving sentence or detained for any other offense or felony.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances, or any part thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

(Sgd.) FELICIANO BELMONTE JR.
*Speaker of the House
of Representatives*

(Sgd.) JUAN PONCE ENRILE
President of the Senate