

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10023, March 09, 2010]

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF FREE PATENTS TO RESIDENTIAL LANDS

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

SECTION 1. *Qualifications.* — Any Filipino citizen who is an actual occupant of a residential land may apply for a Free Patent Title under this Act: *Provided*, That in highly urbanized cities, the land should not exceed two hundred (200) square meters; in other cities, it should not exceed five hundred (500) square meters; in first class and second class municipalities, it should not exceed seven hundred fifty (750) square meters; and in all other municipalities, it should not exceed one thousand (1,000) square meters: *Provided, further*, That the land applied for is not needed for public service and/or public use.

SEC. 2. *Coverage.* — This Act shall cover all lands that are zoned as residential areas, including townsites as defined under the Public Land Act: *Provided*, That none of the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 705 shall be violated.

Zoned residential areas located inside or abandoned military camp, and those of local government units (LGUs) or townsites which preceded Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) law, shall also be covered by this Act.

SEC. 3. *Application.* — The application on the land applied for shall be supported by a map based on an actual survey conducted by a licensed geodetic engineer and approved by the Department of Environmental Natural Resources (DENR) and a technical description of the land applied for together with supporting affidavit of two (2) disinterested persons who are residing in the barangay of the city or municipality where the land is located, attesting to the truth of the facts contained in the application to the effect that the applicant thereof has, either by himself or through his predecessor-in-interest, actually resided on and continuously possessed and occupied, under a *bona fide* claim of acquisition of ownership, the land applied for at least ten (10) years and has complied with the requirements prescribed in Section 1 hereof.

SEC. 4. *Special Patents.* — Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary and subject to private rights, if any, public land actually occupied and used for public schools, municipal halls, public plazas or parks and other government institutions for public use or purpose may be issued special patents under the name of the national agency or LGU concerned: *Provided*, That all lands titled under this section shall not be disposed of unless sanctioned by Congress if owned by the national agency, or sanctioned by the sanggunian concerned through an approved ordinance if owned by the LGU.