

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8560, February 26, 1998]

**AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF GEODETIC
ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES**

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

ARTICLE I

TITLE

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Geodetic Engineering
Act of 1998."

ARTICLE II

DEFINITION OF TERMS

SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* -

- a. Practice of Geodetic Engineering - The practice of Geodetic Engineering is a professional and organized act of gathering physical data on the surface of the earth with the use of precision instruments. It is also the scientific and methodical processing of these data and presenting them on graphs, plans, maps, charts or documents. It shall embrace, but is not limited to, the following activities:
 1. Professional Geodetic Engineering services with the use of surveying and mapping equipment such as graduated rods, measuring tapes, transits, levels, theodolites, fathometers/echosounders, electronic distance meters, global positioning systems, stereoplotters and all other instruments that are used to determine metes and bounds of lands positions of points on the surface of the earth, water depths, underwater configuration, ground elevation, gravity, isostasy, crustal movements and the size and shape of the earth, and other instruments used for construction survey, and those instruments used to guide the installation of large industrial equipment and machineries;
 2. Horizontal and vertical control surveys and political boundary surveys;
 3. Land surveys to determine their metes and bounds and prepare the plans thereof for titling and for other purposes;
 4. Subdivision, consolidation and/or consolidation subdivision of titled properties;
 5. Submission of survey plans of subdivided, consolidated and/or consolidated-subdivision titled properties to the government agencies

- concerned; hereafter, such plans on surveyed titled properties submitted by geodetic engineers shall not be subject to verification and approval;
6. Preparation and making of sketch, lot and location plans;
 7. Conduction of engineering surveys and the technical preparation of engineering survey plans such as topographic, hydrographic, tidal, profile, cross-section, construction and boundary surveys;
 8. Parcellary surveys of lands traversed by infrastructure projects; and the preparation of subdivision plans;
 9. Conduction of gravimetric and photogrammetric survey and the technical preparation of such survey plan;
 10. Survey and mapping works such as the preparation of geographic and/or land information systems;
 11. Survey to determine and establish line and grade for the construction of buildings and other structures and its attachments;
 12. Construction of as-staked and as-built surveys for infrastructures;
 13. Conduction of mineral and mining surveys;
 14. Installation of machineries requiring the use of precision instruments;
 15. Engagement in the transfer of the knowledge and technology of geodetic engineering in any institution of learning;
- b. Geodetic Engineer - A Geodetic Engineer is a natural person who has been issued a Certificate of Registration by the Board of Geodetic Engineering and has taken the Oath of Profession of Geodetic Engineers.

ARTICLE III

BOARD OF GEODETIC ENGINEERING

SEC. 3. *Creation and Composition of the Board of Geodetic Engineering.* - There is hereby created a Board of Geodetic Engineering, hereinafter called the Board, to be composed of a chairman and two (2) members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of three (3) recommendees for each position, chosen, ranked in the order of preference and submitted by the duly integrated and accredited association of geodetic engineers. The Board shall be organized not later than six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Qualifications of Members of the Board.* - A member of the Board shall, at the time of his appointment, possess the following qualifications:

- a. Natural born citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- b. Must be at least forty (40) years of age;
- c. A registered Geodetic Engineer with a valid professional license and an active practitioner in Geodetic Engineering for not less than ten (10) years prior to appointment;
- d. Must not be a member of the faculty of any school, academy, institute, college or university where a regular course in Geodetic Engineering is being taught, nor have pecuniary interest in or administrative supervision over any such institution of learning;
- e. Must not, for a period of three (3) consecutive years prior to appointment, be connected with a review center or with any group or association where review classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examination are offered or conducted at the time of appointment; and
- f. Must not have been convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude.

SEC. 5. *Term of Office.* - The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified. Of the members of the Board first appointed under this Act, one (1) member shall be appointed and hold office for three (3) years; and one (1) member for two (2) years, one (1) member for one year.

The Chairman or member of the Board may be reappointed for another term but in no case shall he serve continuously for more than six (6) years. Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath of office prior to entering upon the performance of duties.

SEC. 6. *Compensation of the Board Members.* - The Chairman and members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to the compensation and allowances received by existing regulatory boards with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), hereinafter referred to as the Commission, as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Vacancy and Removal of Board Members.* - Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Board within the term of a member shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only. The President may remove any member of the Board, upon the recommendation of the Commission, on the following grounds:

- a. Neglect of duty or incompetence;
- b. Violation or tolerance of the violation of this Act or the Code of Ethics for geodetic engineers;
- c. Final judgment of a crime involving moral turpitude.

He shall be given due notice and hearing where his right to be heard and to defend himself, assisted by counsel, shall be respected in a proper administrative investigation. The Commission's decision may be appealed within fifteen (15) days from written notice, to the President, whose decision shall be final and executory.

SEC. 8. *Powers and Duties of the Board.* - The Board shall exercise the following specific powers, functions, duties and responsibilities:

- a. To promulgate and adopt the rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act;
- b. To supervise the examination, registration, licensure and practice of Professional Geodetic Engineering in the Philippines;
- c. To administer oaths in connection with the successful examinees entering the practice of Geodetic Engineering;
- d. To issue the Certificate of Registration to successful examinees;
- e. To issue, suspend or revoke the license for the practice of the Geodetic Engineering profession;
- f. To adopt an official seal of the Board;
- g. To look into the conditions affecting the practice of Geodetic Engineering profession and whenever necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement and maintenance of high professional and ethical standards of the profession;
- h. To ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), that all educational institutions offering Geodetic Engineering education comply with the policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;

- i. To prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethical and Professional Standards for the practice of the Geodetic Engineering profession;
- j. To hear and try administrative cases involving violations of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics for professional Geodetic Engineers and for this purpose, to issue subpoena and subpoena duces tecum to secure the appearances of witnesses and the production of documents in connection therewith;
- k. To prescribe guidelines in the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program in coordination with the integrated and accredited association for professional Geodetic Engineers;
- l. To prepare, adopt issue or amend the syllabi of the subjects for examination;
- m. To approve, issue, limit or revoke temporary license to practice Geodetic Engineering;
- n. Discharge such other duties and functions as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the Geodetic Engineering profession and the upgrading, development and growth of Geodetic Engineering education in the Philippines.

SEC. 9. *Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretariat and Support Services.* - The Board shall be under the administrative supervision of the Commission. All records of the Board, including the application for examination, examination papers and results, minutes of deliberation, administrative cases and other investigations involving Geodetic Engineers shall be kept by the Commission.

The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the secretariat and other support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Annual Report.* - The Board shall, at the close of each calendar year, submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines through the Professional Regulation Commission, giving detailed account of its proceedings and accomplishments during the year and make recommendation for the adoption of measures that will upgrade and improve the conditions affecting the practice of Geodetic Engineering in the Philippines.

ARTICLE IV

EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION AND LICENSE

SEC. 11. *Examinations Required.* - All applicants for registration for the practice of Geodetic Engineering shall be required to undergo and pass a written technical examination as provided for in this Act.

SEC. 12. *Qualifications of Applicant for Examination.* - Every applicant for examination shall establish the following:

- a. That he is a citizen of the Philippines;
- b. That he is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Geodetic Engineering in a school, academy, institute or college duly recognized by the Government.

SEC. 13. *Fraudulent Application.* - The Board may suspend or revoke a Certificate of Registration obtained through misrepresentation made in the application for examination.