

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8511, February 13, 1998]

**AN ACT GRANTING THE STARLAND RACING CORPORATION A
FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A
RACETRACK FOR HORSE RACING IN THE PROVINCE OF
BATANGAS**

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

SECTION 1. *Nature and Scope of Franchise.* – Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, there is hereby granted to the Starland Racing Corporation, hereunder referred to as the grantee, its successors or assigns, a franchise to construct, establish, operate and maintain one racetrack in the Province of Batangas, to establish such branches thereof for booking purposes anywhere in the country, and to hold or conduct horse races therein with betting's whether on the results of the races directly or by means of mechanical, electric and/or computerized totalizator and to do and carry out all such acts, deeds and things as may be necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

SEC. 2. *Authority of the Philippine Racing Commission and the Games and Amusement Board.* – The races to be conducted by the grantee shall be under the supervision and regulation of the Philippine Racing Commission, which shall enforce the laws, rules and regulations governing horse racing, including the framing and scheduling of races, the construction and safety of the racetrack, the allocation of prizes of winning horses, and the security of racing as provided in Presidential Decree No. 420, as amended: Provided, That the Games and Amusement Board shall continue to supervise and regulate betting in horse races as provided in Sections 6, 8, 11, 15 and 24 of Republic Act No. 309, as amended.

SEC. 3. *Term of Franchise.* – This franchise shall be for a term of twenty-five (25) years from the date of effectivity of this Act, unless sooner revoked or cancelled. This franchise shall be deemed ipso facto revoked in the event the grantee fails to commence operations within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act or to operate continuously for two (2) years.

SEC. 4. *Offering, Taking or Arranging Bets for Races.* – The grantee or its duly authorized agent, may offer, take or arrange bets for races conducted in or outside the Philippines in person or by any electronic or other means of processing transactions, anywhere in the Philippines, whether within or outside the place, enclosure, or track where horse races are held, in on-track or off-track betting stations, a day in advance of and/or during scheduled races held or conducted within or outside the Philippines. No other entity or person other than the grantee or its duly authorized agents or licensees shall offer, take or arrange any bet on any horse participating in any race conducted by the same, or maintain or use a totalizator or any device, method or system to bet on any horse within its premises

or outside the same enclosure or track in the course of horse races and/or operated by the same grantee.

SEC. 5. *Penalties.* – Any person or persons found to have violated the provisions of the aforementioned section shall be punished by a fine of not less than Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000) or by imprisonment of a minimum of six (6) months and a maximum of one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court. If the offender is a corporation, partnership or association, the criminal liability shall devolve upon its president, managing partner or manager responsible for such violation.

SEC. 6. *Computerized and/or Mechanical Devices.* – The grantee shall provide and operate, and is hereby authorized to do and carry out all such acts, deeds and things as may be necessary for the effective conduct of the business under this franchise, and, to achieve an orderly, clean and honest horse racing in the conduct thereof, the grantee shall provide and operate any mechanical, electrical and/or computerized devices, equipment and facilities, including but not limited to:

- a. Photo patrol and/or other electronic devices or camera;
- b. Automatic starter;
- c. Electric totalizator;
- d. Photo finish devices;
- e. Machine, directly connected to a computer in a display board, for the sale of the tickets, including those sold from off-track stations;
- f. Facilities or devices for tattoo branding of horses for their proper identification;
- g. Facilities, laboratories and instruments for 'test of drugs';
- h. Weighing machines and devices for measuring of horses;
- i. Modern sound system and loud speaker facilities;
- j. Facilities that will bring safety, security, comfort and convenience to the public;
- k. Modern telecommunications and broadcast equipment and facilities, whether at the grantee's track or track betting stations, for receiving and transmitting, whether live or otherwise, messages, signals and pictures by any means now known or which in the future may be developed for the reception and transmission of messages, signals and pictures relating to the betting system, the actual conduct of horse races, the announcement of winning numbers and dividends paid or to be paid thereon, and any other information relating to the conduct and promotion of horse races within or outside the Philippines;
- l. Continuous and backup power supply, and such other instruments, devices, equipment, facilities and system; and
- m. Such other facilities, devices or instrument that will ensure clean, orderly and honest racing, within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, betting on horse races, or derivative games. In case of failure to provide and install any of the abovementioned equipment or facilities within the three-year period, the Philippine Racing Commission shall forthwith suspend and prohibit holding of races by the grantee until such time as the said equipment or facilities are provided and installed.

The Games and Amusement Board shall assign its auditors and/or inspectors to supervise and regulate the placing of bets, proper computation of dividends and the distribution of wager funds.

SEC. 7. *Terms of Sale of Betting Tickets.* – The grantee shall publish and display