

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6768, November 03, 1989]

AN ACT INSTITUTING A BALIKBAYAN PROGRAM

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

SECTION 1. *Balikbayan Program.*—A *Balikbayan* Program is hereby instituted under the administration of the Department of Tourism to attract and encourage overseas Filipinos to come and visit their motherland. This is in recognition of their contribution to the economy of the country through the foreign exchange inflow that they generate.

SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.*—For purposes of this Act:

- a. The term "*balikbayan*" shall mean a Filipino citizen who has been continuously out of the Philippines for a period of at least one (1) year, a Filipino overseas worker, or a former Filipino citizen and his family, as this term is defined hereunder, who had been naturalized in a foreign country and comes or returns to the Philippines; and
- b. The term "family" shall mean the spouse and the children of the *balikbayan* who are not *balikbayan* in their own right traveling with the latter to the Philippines.

SEC. 3. *Benefits and Privileges of the Balikbayan.*—The *balikbayan* and his family shall be entitled to the following:

- a. Tax-free maximum purchase in the amount of One thousand United States dollars (US\$1,000.00) or its equivalent in other acceptable foreign currencies at Philippine duty-free shops subject to the limitations contained in Section 4 hereof;
- b. The national flag air carrier shall establish a special promotional/incentive program for the *balikbayan*;
- c. For foreign passport holders with the exception of restricted nationals, visa-free entry to the Philippines for a period of one (1) year;
- d. Travel tax exemption as provided under Presidential Decree No. 1183, Executive Order No. 283, and other allied laws; and
- e. Especially designated reception areas at the authorized ports of entry for the expeditious processing of documents.

The privileges granted under this Act shall be in addition to the benefits enjoyed by the *balikbayan* under existing laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 4. *Limitations on Tax-Free Purchases.*—The tax-free purchases privilege shall be subject to the following limitations: