

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 95, March 22, 1947]

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS

Whereas, there was developed at Geneva, Switzerland, on 22 August 1864, a convention by which the nations of the world were invited to join together in diminishing, so far as lies within their power, the evils inherent in war; Whereas, more than sixty nations of the world have ratified or adhered to the subsequent revision of said convention, namely the "Convention of Geneva of July 29, 1929 for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick of Armies in the Field" (referred to in this Charter as the Geneva Red Cross Convention);

Whereas, the Geneva Red Cross Convention envisages the establishment in each country of a voluntary organization to assist in caring for the wounded and sick of the armed forces and to furnish supplies for that purpose;

Whereas, the Republic of the Philippines became an independent nation on July 4, 1946 and proclaimed its adherence to the Geneva Red Cross Convention on February 14, 1947, and by that action indicated its desire to participate with the nations of the world in mitigating the suffering caused by war and to establish in the Philippines a voluntary organization for that purpose as contemplated by the Geneva Red Cross Convention;

Whereas, there has existed in the Philippines since 1917 a Chapter of the American National Red Cross which must be terminated in view of the independence of the Philippines; and

Whereas, the volunteer organizations established in other countries which have ratified or adhered to the Geneva Red Cross Convention assist in promoting the health and welfare of their people in peace and in war, and through their mutual assistance and cooperation directly and through their international organizations promote better understanding and sympathy among the peoples of the world: Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby created in the Republic of the Philippines a body corporate and politic to be the voluntary organization officially designated to assist the Republic of the Philippines in discharging the obligations set forth in the Geneva Red Cross Convention and to perform such other duties as are incumbent upon a national Red Cross society. The headquarters of this Corporation shall be located at the National Capital of the Republic of the Philippines.

SEC. 2. The name of this Corporation shall be "The Philippine National Red Cross"

and by that name shall have perpetual succession with the power to sue and be sued; to own and hold such real and personal estate as shall be deemed advisable and to accept bequests, donations and contributions of property of all classes for the purposes of this Corporation hereinafter set forth; to adopt a seal and to alter and destroy the same at pleasure; and to have the right to adopt and to use, in carrying out its purposes hereinafter designated, as an emblem and badge, a red Greek cross on a white ground, the same as has been described in the Geneva Red Cross Convention, and adopted by the several nations ratifying or adhering thereto; to ordain and establish by-laws and regulations not inconsistent with the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, and generally to do all such acts and things as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this Act and promote the purposes of said organization; and the corporation hereby created is designated as the organization which is authorized to act in matters of relief under said Convention. In accordance with Article 21 of the Geneva Red Cross Convention, the delivery of the brassard allowed for individuals neutralized in time of war shall be left to military authority. The red Greek cross on a white ground, as has been described in the Geneva Red Cross Convention is not, and shall not be construed as a religious symbol, and shall have equal efficacy and applicability to persons of all faiths, creeds, and beliefs. The Philippine National Red Cross shall have jurisdiction over the entire territory of the Philippines.

SEC. 3. That the purposes of this Corporation shall be as follows:

- (a) To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armed forces in time of war, in accordance with the spirit of and under the conditions prescribed by the Geneva Red Cross Convention to which the Republic of the Philippines proclaimed its adherence on February fourteen, nineteen hundred and forty-seven;
- (b) For the purposes mentioned in the preceding subsection, to perform all the duties devolving upon the Corporation as a result of the adherence of the Republic of the Philippines to the said Convention;
- (c) To act in matters of voluntary relief and in accord with the authorities of the Armed Forces as a medium of communication between the people of the Republic of the Philippines and their Armed Forces, in time of peace and in time of war, and to act in such matters between similar national societies of other governments and the Government and people and the Armed Forces of the Republic of the Philippines;
- (d) To establish and maintain a system of national and international relief in time of peace and in time of war and apply the same in meeting the emergency needs caused by typhoons, floods, fires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters and to devise and carry on measures for minimizing the suffering caused by such disasters; and
- (e) To devise and promote such other services in time of Peace and in time of war as may be found desirable in improving the health, safety and welfare of the Filipino people and as do not infringe upon the functions of government.

SEC. 4. Regular membership in the Philippine National Red Cross shall be open to all the adult population in the Philippines. Any contribution to the Philippine National