

[MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 24, July 13, 2018]

IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FOR THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION SPECIAL PROVISION NO. 1 UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10964, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 31, Title III, Book IV of Executive Order (EO) No. 292, or the Administrative Code of 1987, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) shall be principally responsible for the administration and enforcement of immigration, citizenship and alien admission and registration laws in accordance with the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 613 or the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940;

WHEREAS, in his Veto Message for Republic Act No. 10964, or the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY 2018 GAA), the President acknowledged the important function of BI employees, particularly as the first line of defense in securing and protecting the country's territorial borders;

WHEREAS, the vital, exacting, and ceaseless nature of the functions of BI employees, and the constant flow of their clientele, require them to render extended hours of public service;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the BI Special Provision No. 1 of the FY 2018 GAA, the express lane fees and charges to be collected by the BI may be used to augment the salaries of BI personnel;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Immigration Act has not been updated since its passage in 1940, and the basic monthly pay of BI employees has remained extremely low in spite of the nature of their work, thereby leading to a large number of resignations and causing prejudice to the efficient delivery of frontline services;

WHEREAS, Congress has yet to pass an Immigration Modernization Law, which seeks, among others, to upgrade the current compensation system of the BI;

WHEREAS, there is a need for an interim measure to augment the salaries of BI employees, in recognition of the indispensability of their functions, the apparent disparity between the basic pay of BI employees and employees of agencies performing comparable functions, and to promote the continuous and unhampered delivery of basic government services;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA, Executive Secretary, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Augmentation Pay to BI Personnel. The Department of Justice and the Department of Budget and Management shall adopt the following guidelines in the implementation of Special Provision No. 1 of the FY 2018 GAA as regards the use of express lane fees and charges to augment the salaries of BI personnel: