

**[IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10575, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS "BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2013",
December 12, 2014]**

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RULE I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Short Title and Purpose - These Implementing Rules and Regulations, hereinafter called "these IRR", are hereby adopted and promulgated pursuant to Section 23 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10575, otherwise known as the "*Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013*", for the purpose of prescribing and applying the necessary rules and regulations for the strengthening of the correctional services.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy - It is the policy of the State to promote the general welfare and safeguard the basic rights of every inmate incarcerated in our national penitentiary by promoting and ensuring their reformation and social reintegration, creating an environment conducive to rehabilitation, and compliant with the International Best Practices and Minimum Standards in the Treatment of Prisoners. It also recognizes the responsibility of the State to strengthen government capability aimed towards the institutionalization of highly efficient and competent correctional services.

Towards this end, the State shall provide for the modernization, professionalization, and restructuring of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) by upgrading its facilities, increasing the number of its personnel, upgrading the level of qualifications of such personnel, and standardizing their base pay, retirement and other benefits to make the same at par with those of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

RULE II – DEFINITION OF TERMS

Section 3. Definition of Terms - For purposes of these IRR, the following terms or words and phrases shall mean or be understood as follows:

- a) Act** - refers to R.A. 10575, entitled "An Act Strengthening the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and providing Funds Therefor," otherwise known as "The Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013."
- b) Admission** - refers to the manner of receiving a national inmate, a detainee, or convicted person in a prison facility committed by courts or

other Competent Authority to serve sentence for a certain period or for temporary confinement.

- c) **Base Pay** - refers to a fixed amount of compensation for regular work rendered, designated in the Salary Schedule for Uniformed Personnel for all ranks computed on monthly or annual basis, excluding fringe benefits and other allowances.
- d) **Bureau of Corrections or BuCor** - refers to the central office, headed by the Director General of Corrections, which has control and supervision over the prison and penal farms.
- e) **Classification** - refers to the manner of categorizing inmates according to certain parameters, such as security risks, crimes committed, age, and health, among others.
- f) **Competent Authority** - refers to the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan, Regional Trial Court, Metropolitan Trial Court, Municipal Trial Court, Municipal Circuit Trial Court, Shari'a Court, Military Courts, and other courts of competent jurisdiction provided for by law.
- g) **DOJ** - refers to the Department of Justice.
- h) **Inmate** - refers to a person, also called Person Deprived of Liberty (PDL), confined in a national prison to serve sentence or for safekeeping.
- i) **IRR** - refers to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 10575.
- j) **Maximum Security Status** - refers to a security category that indicates highly dangerous or high security risk inmates, who are determined by the institutional classification board as requiring a high degree of control and supervision.
- k) **Medium Security Status** - refers to a security category that indicates intermediate security risk inmates, who are determined by the institutional classification board as requiring a moderate degree of control and supervision.
- l) **Minimum Security Status** - refers to a security category that indicates low security risk inmates or those determined by the institutional classification board as requiring a minimal degree of control and supervision.
- m) **National Inmate** - refers to an inmate sentenced by a court to serve a term of imprisonment of more than three (3) years or to pay a fine of more than one thousand pesos (P1,000); or an inmate who, regardless of the length of the sentence imposed by the court, has been sentenced for violation of customs law or other laws within the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Customs or enforceable by it, or for violation of immigration or election laws; or to one sentenced to serve two (2) or more prison sentences that, in their aggregate, exceed the period of three (3) years, whether or not said inmate appealed. It shall also include a person committed to the Bureau of Corrections by a Competent Authority for temporary confinement or for similar purpose.
- n) **Prison** - refers to a penal establishment, also known as penal colony, under the control and supervision of the Bureau of Corrections.
- o) **Reformation** - refers to the rehabilitation component of the BuCor's present corrections system. It shall refer to the acts that ensure the public (including families of inmates and their victims) that released national inmates are no longer harmful to the community by becoming reformed individuals prepared to live a normal and productive life upon reintegration to the mainstream society.
- p) **Safekeeping** - refers to the custodial component of the BuCor's

present corrections system. It shall refer to the acts that ensure the public (including families of inmates and their victims) that national inmates are provided with their basic needs, completely incapacitated from further committing criminal acts, and have been totally cut off from their criminal networks (or contacts in the free society) while serving sentence inside the premises of the national penitentiary. These acts also include protection against illegal organized armed groups that have the capacity of launching an attack on any prison camp of the national penitentiary to rescue their convicted comrade or to forcibly amass firearms issued to prison guards.

- q) **Secretary** - refers to the Secretary of Justice.
- r) **Seniority and Lineal List (SLL)** - refers to a document containing the names of all officers in the active corrections service, arranged by grade and in accordance with their relative seniority for each regular component, and by the service to which they are appointed.
- s) **Time-In-Grade** - the period of active non-commissioned or commissioned service rendered by an officer in a certain rank.

RULE III – MANDATES OF THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS

Section 4. The Mandates of the Bureau of Corrections - The BuCor shall be in charge of the safekeeping of, and institutionalization of reformation programs for national inmates sentenced to more than three (3) years.

- a) **Safekeeping of National Inmates** - The safekeeping of inmates shall include decent and adequate provision of basic necessities, such as habitable quarters, food, water, clothing, medical care, and proper observance of prescribed rights and privileges, such as visitation, communication, practice of one's religion and others, in compliance with established United Nations standards. It shall also involve the efficient processing of necessary documentary requirements and records for their timely release upon completion of the service of their sentence, parole or qualification to any other form of executive clemency. The security of the inmates shall be undertaken by the Custodial Force, consisting of Corrections Officers with a ranking system and salary grades similar to their counterpart in the BJMP.
- b) **Reformation of National Inmates** - The reformation programs, which will be institutionalized by the BuCor for the inmates, shall be comprised of the following:
 1. *Moral and Spiritual Program*. This refers to the moral and spiritual values-formation of inmates that shall be institutionalized by the Directorate for Moral and Spiritual Welfare (DMSW). Participating Religious Volunteer Organizations (RVO) and individuals shall be regulated and managed by the DMSW.
 2. *Education and Training Program*. This refers to the administration of formal and non-formal education, and skills development of inmates that shall be institutionalized by the Directorate for Education and Training (DET). Participating volunteer teachers, professors, instructors, and trainers shall be regulated and managed by the DET.
 3. *Work and Livelihood Program*. This refers to the administration of programs on work and livelihood for the generation of income of the

agency and the achievement of self-sufficiency of the inmates within the prison community. This shall be institutionalized by the Directorate for Work and Livelihood (DWL). Participating volunteer agencies and Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs) shall be regulated and managed by the DWL.

4. *Sports and Recreation Program*. This refers to the administration of physical and recreational activities to keep inmates alert, healthy, and uplifted in spirit. This shall be institutionalized by the Directorate for Sports and Recreation (DSR). Participating volunteer agencies, NGOs and individuals shall be regulated and managed by the DSR.
5. *Health and Welfare Program*. This refers to the administration of proper hygiene, sanitation, cleanliness and overall promotion of the good health of inmates. This also includes appropriate provision of medical care or hospitalization to sick inmates. This shall be institutionalized by the Directorate for Health and Welfare Services (DHWS). Participating volunteer agencies, NGOs and individuals shall be regulated and managed by the DHWS.
6. *Behavior Modification Program*. This refers to the administration of psychotherapy programs for the treatment of anti-social behavior and certain personality disorders of inmates who need such attention, to restore them to normal human behavior necessary for effective social and interpersonal relationship in the prison community. This program also includes Therapeutic Community Program Modality. This shall be institutionalized by the Directorate for Behavior Modification (DBM). Participating volunteer agencies, NGOs and individuals shall be regulated and managed by the DBM.

These “perimeter” reformation programs, which are deemed as the central or core reformation objectives, shall be administered for the effective treatment of anti-social behavior and destructive personality disorders of an inmate.

c) Corrections Technical Officers - The reformation programs shall be undertaken by Professional Reformation Personnel, consisting of Corrections Technical Officers with ranking system and salary grades similar to Corrections Officers.

1. *Corrections Technical Officers* are referred to in these IRR as personnel employed in the implementation of reformation programs and those personnel whose nature of work requires proximate or direct contact with inmates.
 - 1.1) Corrections Technical Officers shall be classified into the occupational group of Reformation Service to ensure continuity of projects and sustainability of operations in the corrections service.
 - 1.2) Reformation Officers shall work on a one-shift schedule (except for medical personnel or those whose nature of work requires a three- shift duty). However, in the interest of the service based on the nature of the emergency undertaking, personnel responsible for such undertaking could be called upon to address such emergency situation any time of the day or night without obligating the government for overtime or holiday compensation. Such undertakings include, among others, the immediate processing, even during holidays and weekends, of

inmates' release papers in order to avoid arbitrary detention (in such cases like expiration of sentence or grant of parole or pardon by the President), financial and logistical documents to effect the necessary and immediate transfer or movement of inmates, procurement of supplies and equipment for emergency purposes and other similar transactions, and repair of vital electrical, mechanical, communications and transportation equipment or facilities of the prison in order to sustain daily custodial and reformation operations.

1.3) There shall be a separate and distinct training program for each Corrections Technical Officer's professional line of expertise different from the training program of regular Corrections Officers.

2. Corrections Technical Officers include priests, evangelists, pastors, ministers, religious or lay teachers, instructors, professors, vocational placement officers, librarians, guidance counselors, physicians, nurses, medical technologists, pharmacists, dentists, therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, sociologists, social workers, engineers, electricians, agriculturists, veterinarians, lawyers, and those possessing similar professional skills relevant to the implementation of inmate reformation programs.

RULE IV - OPERATIONS AND STRUCTURE OF BUCOR

Section 5. Operations of the Bureau of Corrections - The major work flow in the BuCor, through the prescribed structure as provided for in the Act, is described hereunder:

- a) The BuCor shall operate with a directorial structure. It shall undertake reception of inmates through its Directorate for Reception and Diagnostics (DRD), formerly Reception and Diagnostic Center (RDC); provide their basic needs and security through its Security and Operations Directorates; administer their reformation programs through its Reformation Directorates; and prepare inmates for reintegration to mainstream society through its Directorate for External Relations (DER), formerly External Relations Division (ERD).
- b) The DRD shall be responsible for the classification of each and every inmate admitted to the BuCor. Inmates shall be classified according to security risk and sentence. The determination an inmate's skills or talents; physical, spiritual, social, mental, and psychological evaluation; and other behavioral assessments are included in the classification as reference of the DRD in the preparation of individual inmate and group reformation treatment programs.
- c) Aside from those borne of the provisions under Rule 8, Part I, Rules of General Application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (UNSMRTP), and of the existing regulation of the BuCor on security classification (i.e., maximum, medium and minimum security risk), inmates shall also be internally classified by the DRD and segregated according to crimes committed based on the related penal codes, such as Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against