

# [ Act No. 2616., February 04, 1916 ]

## **AN ACT ON SALVAGE AND RENDERING OF ASSISTANCE TO VESSELS AND CARGOES.**

*By authority of the United States, be it enacted by the Philippine Legislature, that:*

**SECTION 1.** When, in case of shipwreck, the vessel or its cargo shall be beyond the control of the crew, or shall have been abandoned by them, and picked up and conveyed to a safe place by other persons, the latter shall be entitled to a reward for the salvage.

Those who, not being included in the above paragraph, assist in saving a vessel or its cargo from shipwreck, shall be entitled to a like reward.

SEC. 2. If the captain of the vessel, or the person acting in his stead, is present, no one shall take from the sea, or from the shores or coasts, merchandise or effects proceeding from a shipwreck, or proceed to the salvage of the vessel, without the consent of such captain or person acting in his stead.

SEC. 3. He who shall save or pick up a vessel or merchandise at sea, in the absence of the captain of the vessel, owner, or a representative of either of them, they being unknown, shall convey and deliver such vessel or merchandise, as soon as possible, to the collector of customs, if the port has a collector, and otherwise to the provincial treasurer or municipal president.

SEC. 4. After the salvage is accomplished, the owner or his representative shall have a right to the delivery of the vessel or things saved, provided that he pays, or gives a bond to secure, the expenses and the proper reward.

The amount and sufficiency of the bond, in the absence of agreement, shall be determined by the collector of customs or by the judge of Court of First Instance of the province in which the things saved may be found.

SEC. 5. The collector of customs, provincial treasurer, or municipal president, to whom a salvage is reported, shall order:

(a) That the things saved be safeguarded and inventoried.

(b) The sale at public auction of the things saved which may be in danger of immediate loss or of those whose conservation is evidently prejudicial to the interests of the owner, when no objection is made to such sale.

(c) The advertisement within the thirty days subsequent to the salvage, in one of the local newspapers or in the nearest newspaper published, of all the details of the disaster, with a statement of the marks and number of the effects, requesting all interested persons to make their claims.

SEC. 6. If, while the vessel or thing saved are at the disposition of the authorities, the owner or his representative shall claim them, such authorities shall order their delivery to such owner or his representative, provided that there is no controversy