

[Acts No. 1879, October 10, 1908]

AN ACT AMENDING ACT NUMBERED SEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT OF THE MORO PROVINCE," AS AMENDED, AND PROVIDING THAT THE PROPERTY ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE POWER TO PURCHASE MERCHANDISE AND SUPPLIES FOR USE OF THE PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS, COURTS OF FIRST INSTANCE, AND SO FORTH, HERETOFORE BY LAW DEVOLVING UPON THE ENGINEER OF THE MORO PROVINCE SHALL BE ASSUMED AND EXERCISED BY THE TREASURER OF THE MORO PROVINCE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section seven of Act Numbered Seven hundred and eighty-seven, as amended, is hereby amended so as to read as follows :

"SEC. 7. The provincial treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the province; he shall supervise the appraisement and assessment by the district treasurers and their deputies of all property in the province required by law to be assessed for taxation; he shall supervise the collection by the district treasurers of all taxes imposed in the province, either by the Insular Government, the provincial government, or the municipalities in the province, except only the customs duties, which shall be collected as now by the collectors of customs under the direction of the Insular Collector of Customs; he shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of his duties and accounting for all moneys coming into his custody and for the lawful disbursement thereof: he shall be the custodian of all the funds of the province deposited in the provincial treasury and shall pay no money out; of the treasury of the province except upon warrants drawn in accordance with law, which, duly indorsed by the payee named therein, shall be his voucher for the payment; he shall, on or before the tenth day of each month, render an account of the transactions of his office for the preceding month to the legislative council, hereinafter created, who by committee, shall examine such accounts and the cash, and if said accounts are found correct shall so certify on the face of the accounts. He shall forward one copy of each monthly account-current to the district auditor accompanied by supporting vouchers, receipts, and abstracts. The books, accounts, papers, cash, and all records of the provincial treasurer shall at all times be open to the inspection of the district auditor or his deputy.

"The provincial treasurer shall render such further accounts as the district auditor may require of him and as the Insular Auditor may by general regulations require of all such treasurers. Copies of all contracts approved by the legislative council shall be forwarded to the district auditor. He shall perform all other duties which may be provided by law of the legislative council.

"The provincial treasurer shall purchase all supplies, equipment, or property required for the official use of the provincial and district governments, for the Courts of First Instance, and for customs officials in the Moro Province upon the order of the legislative council. He shall certify that the money to pay for such supplies, equipment, or property has been duly appropriated, and that there are or will be funds available out of the revenues of the Moro Province to pay for same.

"Requisitions for material, equipment, and supplies for the construction or repair of public buildings, roads, bridges, or other public works shall be prepared by the provincial engineer; all requisitions for school equipment, supplies, or property shall be prepared by the superintendent of schools: and the provincial engineer and the superintendent of schools shall submit all such requisitions to the provincial treasurer for approval, who will in turn present the same to the legislative council for action, and upon the order of the council purchase the required property. The provincial treasurer shall keep a property account, in which he shall charge all responsible officials with supplies, equipment, or property delivered, held, or used by them, and shall render such returns and account for same as the Insular Auditor shall require, and shall comply in this respect with all the conditions and requirements proscribed in Act Numbered Seventeen hundred and ninety-two.

"Provided, however, That, in the execution of public works outside of the provincial capital, the provincial treasurer on recommendation of the provincial engineer, may authorize the provincial engineer or his accredited deputy to purchase public works supplies or materials as the exigencies of the construction work may require. The vouchers for such purchases shall state that said purchase were made in interest of economy, of time, or of money, and shall require subsequent approval of the provincial treasurer.

"He shall make his purchases of supplies through the Purchasing Agent, except where otherwise expressly authorized in writing by the legislative council or by the governor of the province, such authorization to be granted only in those cases where, in the opinion of the legislative council or of the governor of the province, substantial financial loss would be avoided thereby: *Provided, however,* That all purchases to be, made in the United States shall be made through the Purchasing Agent."

SEC. 2. Section eight of said Act, as amended, is hereby amended so read as follows:

"SEC. 8. The provincial engineer shall have supervision over the construction, repair and maintenance of the roads, bridges, ferries, public buildings, and other public improvements of the province. It shall be the duty of the engineer to make reports to the legislative council at least once a quarter, and oftener if deemed necessary by the council, of the condition of the roads, bridges, public buildings, and other improvements of the province, to recommend the repair and new construction which are necessary. Before a contract is let for the work it shall be the duty of the engineer to prepare plans and specifications and to make an estimate of

the cost thereof and to submit the same to the legislative council. All contracts for such construction, repair, or maintenance shall be let by the engineer with the approval of the legislative council hereinafter created, and no payment, partial or for any contract made for such public work shall be authorized except upon the certificate of the engineer that the same is due."

SEC. 3. Section fifteen of said Act, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 15. In each district of the Moro Province, there shall be appointed by the provincial governor, with the consent of the legislative council, a district governor and a district secretary. The office of district governor may be filled by proper detail of an Army District treasurer, officer with the consent of the legislative council. There shall also be a district treasurer who shall be appointed and his salary fixed by the provincial treasurer with the approval of the legislative council in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Laws and Rules. Whenever the legislative council shall decide that the duties of any district treasurer can be more economically or more efficiently performed by the provincial treasurer, or a deputy provincial treasurer, it may abolish the office of district treasurer in that district and require the duties thereof to be performed by the provincial treasurer, and may reestablish said office when it shall deem such action expedient. The governors and secretaries of the districts may be appointed without previous examination, but they shall be able after eighteen months of service to pass a satisfactory examination in the principal local dialect of their respective districts, and a failure to pass such an examination shall be sufficient cause for removal from office. All deputy provincial and deputy district treasurers shall be appointed by the provincial treasurer subject to the Civil Service Laws and Rules."

SEC. 4. Section seventeen of said Act, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 17. The secretary of the district shall be the custodian of the public records and documents of the district: he shall attest all official acts of the governor of the district and shall record all of those acts which are required by law to be recorded, and shall discharge generally all the duties usually appertaining to the office of secretary: he shall on demand furnish certified copies of all public records and documents of the district, for which he shall charge, to any private person but not to any public official needing the same for a public purpose, the amount of ten centavos for each one hundred words including the certificate, which amount shall be paid into the provincial treasury. In case of a vacancy in the office of governor, or of his absence from the district, or of his disability, the secretary shall perform the duties of district governor; he shall inspect civil affairs in the district and acquaint himself as far as possible with the language, and customs of the Moros and other non-Christian tribes living therein: when public works or public repairs are begun by direction of the legislative council, he shall, under direction of the engineer and as his deputy, supervise them, and see that the contracts under which they are being carried out are complied with: he