

[Commonwealth Act No. 280, June 03, 1938]

AN ACT PENALIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE OF "COTTAS."

Be it enacted by the National Assembly of the Philippines:

SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful to construct or maintain any "cotta".

As used in this Act, "cotta" shall be understood as any structure built of sand, earth, stone, wood and/or bamboo or other similar material by any private person which is fortified and intended to be or is used as shelter or refuge by or for the protection of outlaws or persons defying the constituted authorities of the Government.

SEC. 2. Such "cottas" as may exist on the date of the approval of this Act, upon order of the President of the Philippines, shall be demolished; Provided, however, That "cottas" which in the judgment of the President are of historical value shall be exempted from the operation of this section.

SEC. 3. Any person or persons found guilty of violating the provisions of this Act shall be punished by a fine of not less than five hundred nor more than two thousand pesos with subsidiary imprisonment in case of insolvency or imprisonment of not less than six months, nor more than two years, or both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved, June 3, 1938.



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