Unofficial Translation

IMMIGRATION ACT,
B.E. 2522 (1979)\(^1\)

BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ, REX.
Given on the 24\(^{th}\) Day of February B.E. 2522 (1979)
Being the 34\(^{th}\) Year of the Present Reign

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is graciously pleased to proclaim that:
Whereas it is expedient to revise the law on immigration,
Be it, therefore, enacted by the King, by and with the advice and consent of the Parliament, as follows:

Section 1. This Act shall be called the “Immigration Act, B.E. 2522 (1979)”

Section 2. This Act shall come into force after the lapse of a period of ninety days from the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.\(^2\)

Section 3. There shall be repealed:
(1) The Immigration Act B.E. 2493 (1950);
(2) The Immigration Act (No. 2) B.E. 2497 (1954).

\(^1\) Translated by Center for Translation and Language Services, Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia, Mahidol University under contract for the Office of the Council of State of Thailand's Law for ASEAN project.- Initial version- pending review and approval.

\(^2\) Published in the Government Gazette, Vol. 96, Part 28, Page 45 Special Issue, dated 1\(^{st}\) March B.E. 2522 (1979)
The provisions of all other laws, rules, and regulations in so far as are already provided for in this Act or are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, shall be replaced by this Act.

Section 4. In this Act,

“Alien” means any natural person who is not of Thai nationality.

“Conveyance” means any vehicle or beast of burden or any other object which may be used in conveying a person from one place to another.

“Owner of conveyance” includes an agent of the owner, a rentee, an agent of the rentee, a possessor, or an agent of the possessor of the conveyance, as the case may be.

“Person in charge of conveyance” means the master of a vessel or the person responsible for the control of the conveyance.

“Crew of conveyance” means the person who has a duty, or works in the conveyance and, for the purpose of this Act, shall include the person in charge of conveyance driving the conveyance without a crew.

“Passenger” means any person who travels by the conveyance, whatever the case may be, other than the person in charge, or the crew of conveyance.

“Immigrant” means any alien who enters the Kingdom.

“Immigration Physician” means any physician appointed by the Director-General for the execution of this Act.

“Householder” means any persons who is the chief possessor of a house, whether in the capacity of owner, tenant, or in any other capacity whatsoever in accordance with the law on civil registration.

“Dwelling Place” means any place used for habitation such as a house, shed, vessel or floating house in which human beings dwell and which shall also include the precinct of the place used for dwelling, whether it be enclosed or not, in accordance with the Penal Code.

“Hotel” means all kinds of premises built for hire for travelers or persons.
looking for a place to harbor or lodge, in accordance with the law on hotels.

“Commission” means the Immigration Commission.

“Competent Official” means any officer appointed by the Minister for the execution of this Act.

“Director-General” means the Director-General of the Police Department.

“Minister” means the Minister in charge of this Act.

Section 5. The Minister of Interior shall be in charge and have control for the execution of this Act and shall have power to appoint competent officials, and issue Ministerial Regulations prescribing fees together with working fees and other expenses not exceeding the rates in the schedule attached to this Act and to prescribe other activities for the execution of this Act.

The Ministerial Regulations shall become effective after having been published in the Government Gazette.

Chapter 1

Immigration Commission

Section 6. There shall be established an Immigration Commission consisting of the Under Secretary of the Minister of Interior as Chairperson, with the following members: the Under Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Director-General of the Police Department, the Director-General of the Labour Department, the Director-General of the Public Prosecution Department, the Secretary General of the Board of Investment, the Secretary General of the National Security Council, the Director of the Tourism Organization of Thailand, and the Commander of the Immigration Division as member and secretary.
Section 7. The Commission shall have powers and duties to —

1. Revoke the permission for temporary stay in the Kingdom under Section 36 paragraph one.

2. Consider appeals under Section 36 paragraph two.

3. Permit aliens to enter and take up residency in the Kingdom under Section 41 paragraph one.

4. Prescribe criteria for qualifications of any aliens applying for residency in the Kingdom and prescribe conditions pertaining to national security, and prescribe other conditions under Section 41 paragraph two.

5. Prescribe criteria for application for residency of aliens temporarily entering the Kingdom under section 41 paragraph four.

6. Permit aliens to enter and take up residency in the Kingdom under Section 43 paragraph one and to prescribe regulations for their declaration of financial status under Section 43 paragraph two.

7. Permit the aliens, who are authorized to stay in the Kingdom temporarily, to take up residency, and to permit and prescribe conditions in granting permission to an alien who has applied for residency in the Kingdom to remain in the Kingdom for the time being under Section 45 paragraphs one and two.

8. Revoke the permission for residency in the Kingdom under Section 47 paragraph three.

9. Permit aliens, who used to have residency in the Kingdom, to continue such residency in the Kingdom under Section 51 paragraph one.

10. Consider revocation of a residence permit under Section 53.

11. Give advice, suggestions and opinions to the Minister on the formulation of regulations concerning performance of duties for checkpoint officials or other officials to maintain national security or in the issuance of Ministerial Regulations under this Act.

12. Consider giving opinions on immigration matters as assigned by the Council of Ministers or by the Minister.
Section 8. In the performance of duties of the Commission under this Act, the Commission member and secretary shall, without delay, submit matters under the jurisdiction of the Commission to the chairperson of the Commission, or, in a case where the chairperson is absent or unable to perform his or her duty, submit the same without delay to the Commission member assigned by the meeting, and the chairperson of the Commission or the Commission member so assigned shall convene a meeting in accordance with the urgency of the matter and the criteria prescribed by the meeting.

In a meeting of the Commission, if the chairperson is absent or is not in the meeting, the meeting shall elect one member to preside over the meeting.

At a meeting of the Commission, the presence of not less than one-half of the total number of members is required to constitute a quorum.

The resolution of the meeting shall be made by a majority of votes. Each member shall have one vote. In case of tied-vote, the person presiding over the meeting shall have an additional vote as a casting vote.

Section 9. The Commission may appoint a Sub-commission or may authorize a competent official for the execution of any assignment.

The provisions of Section 8 shall apply to meetings of the Sub-commission mutatis mutandis.

Section 10. In the performance of duties under this Act, the Commission shall have power to summon persons concerned in writing to provide facts or to submit documents pertaining to matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission.
Chapter 2
Entering and Exiting the Kingdom

Section 11. A person entering or exiting the Kingdom shall enter or exit through port of entry, immigration checkpoint, terminal area, station, or locality and at the prescribed times as published in the Government Gazette by the Minister.

Section 12. Aliens falling into any of the following categories are excluded from entering the Kingdom —

(1) Having no valid and subsisting passport or travel document or having the same but without a visa stamp by a Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate in a foreign country or from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, except in a case where a visa stamp is not required for certain types of aliens under special circumstances.

Visa stamping and its exemption shall be in accordance with the criteria, procedures and conditions prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Fees for visa stamping in (1) shall be paid as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.³

(2) Having no appropriate means of living on entering the Kingdom;

(3) Entering the Kingdom to earn livelihood as a labourer or to be hired to do physical work and not skilled, or technical work, or to do other works in violation of alien working laws;

(4) Being of unsound mind or having any of the diseases as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations;

(5) Having not been inoculated against smallpox or undergone vaccination or

³ Section 12 (1) paragraph three as added by the Immigration Act (No. 2), B.E. 2523 (1980)

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any other medical operation for protection against communicable diseases as provided by law and having not allowed the immigration physician to do so;

(6) Having been imprisoned by a judgement of a Thai court or by a lawful injunction or by a judgement of a court of foreign country, except for punishment for petty offence or offence committed through negligence or as provided as exemption in the Ministerial Regulations;

(7) Having been indicated under certain circumstances as likely to cause disruption jeopardizing public peace or safety or the Kingdom security or being a person with warrant of arrest issued by a foreign government;

(8) Having been indicated under certain circumstances as likely to engage in prostitution, woman or child trafficking, drug trafficking, evasion of customs duty, or to engage in other activities contrary to public order or good morals;

(9) Having no money or bond as prescribed by the Minister’s publication under Section 14;

(10) Being prohibited from entering the Kingdom by the Minister under Section 16;

(11) Being deported by the Government of Thailand or the Government of a foreign country, or the right of stay in the Kingdom or in foreign country having been revoked, or having been repatriated from the Kingdom by competent official at the expenses of the Government of Thailand, unless the Minister may consider exemption on a basis of special individual case.

The examination and diagnosis of physical disease or mental disorder including preventive operations against communicable disease, shall be conducted by the Immigration Physician.

Section 13. The following aliens shall be exempted from requirements to have a passport or travel document:

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(1) Person in charge of or the crew of a maritime or air conveyance making a call at port of entry, station or locality in the Kingdom and exiting therefrom.

For the purpose of controlling such persons, the competent official may issue a certificate for them to hold in accordance with the form as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

(2) A citizen of a country with its boundaries adjacent to Thailand making a temporary journey across the border in compliance with the agreement between the Government of Thailand and the Government of that country.

(3) A passenger of an international train holding a through ticket and making a transit journey across Thailand in compliance with the agreement between the Government of Thailand and the Government of the country concerned, including the person in charge and crew of such train.

Section 14. The Minister shall have power to publish in the Government Gazette requiring the aliens entering the Kingdom to have with them either money or bond, or shall have power to make exemption under any conditions.

The publication mentioned in paragraph one shall not apply to children under twelve years of age.

Section 15. Aliens entering the Kingdom with status listed below shall be exempted from complying with the requirements set forth for aliens in this Act, except for the compliance or prohibition provided in Section 11, Section 12 (1), (4) and (5), and Section 18 paragraph two.

(1) Persons on diplomatic missions dispatched by the Government of a foreign country to perform duties in the Kingdom or who are travelling through the Kingdom to perform duties in another country.

(2) Consular parties and their employees dispatched by the Government of a foreign country to perform duties in the Kingdom or who are travelling through the Kingdom
to perform duties in another country.

(3) A person which the Government of a foreign country has dispatched to perform duties or missions in the Kingdom with the approval of the Government of Thailand.

(4) A person performing duties or missions in the Kingdom for the Government of Thailand in accordance with the agreements of the Government of Thailand and the Government of the foreign country involved.

(5) Chief officer of the office of international organizations or departments performing duties in Thailand which are protected by Thai laws or which the Government of Thailand has given approval, including staff members, specialists or other persons who are appointed or assigned by such organizations or departments to perform duties or missions in the Kingdom for such organizations or departments or for the Government of Thailand under the agreements made by the Government of Thailand with such international organizations or departments.

(6) Spouse or children under patronage and are a part of the household of persons under (1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) (7), personal servants travelling from foreign countries to work regularly at the residence of the persons under (1) or any person with privileged status equal to that of the person with diplomatic position in accordance with the agreement that the Government of Thailand has made with foreign governments or with international organizations or departments.

Cases referred to in (1), (2), (6) or (7) shall be in compliance with international obligation and principle of mutual reciprocity.

The competent official shall have power to inquire and examine evidence to ascertain that the person entering the Kingdom is exempted under this Section.

Section 16. If, in the interests of the country or for reason of public order, good morals or culture, or for the happiness of the people, the Minister considers that any alien or group of aliens should not be permitted to enter the Kingdom, the Minister shall
have power to not permit such alien or group of aliens to enter the Kingdom.

**Section 17.** In a special case, the Minister, by the approval of the Council of Ministers, may permit any alien or any group of aliens to enter and remain in the Kingdom under certain conditions, or may grant exemption from complying with this Act in any case.

**Section 18.** The competent official shall have power to inspect persons entering or exiting the Kingdom.

For this purpose, persons entering or exiting the Kingdom shall submit a list as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations, and shall be inspected and approved by the competent official assigned to the immigration checkpoint of that route.

**Section 19.** In conducting inspection and considering whether an alien is prohibited from entering the Kingdom, the competent official shall have authority to permit said alien to stay at an appropriate place after the affirmation from the alien that he or she will come to see the competent official to acknowledge his or her order on a specified date, time, and place, or if the competent official deems appropriate he or she may call for a bond or a bond and security, or the competent official may detain said aliens at any place for further actions to be carried out under this Act.

For the purpose of the provisions of paragraph one, the competent official shall have power to call before him a person, whose statement the competent official reasonably believe may be useful in case of doubt, to give testimony under oath or affidavit.

If there is a reasonable suspicion that any alien has entered the Kingdom for the purpose of committing acts specified in Section 12 (8) or taking part therein, or any woman or child has entered the Kingdom for such purpose, the competent official may permit said person(s) a temporary stay in the Kingdom and order them to report in person and answer questions, or the competent official may order them to report and answer to the police officer at the police station with the jurisdiction over the locality in which they
reside at the time prescribed by the competent official but the time interval for each reporting and question answering session shall not be less than seven days.

**Section 20.** In a case where the competent official has detained any alien under the provisions of Section 19, the competent official shall have power to detain said alien in so far as it is necessary under the circumstances but not more than forty eight hours after the arrival of the alien at the office of the competent official. If necessary, the forty eight hour detention time may be extended but not to exceed seven days, and the competent official shall put in record the reason for such time extension.

If it is necessary to detain any alien longer than the period of time provided in paragraph one, the competent official shall apply to the court seeking power to further detain said alien. The court may grant power for further detention as necessary but not exceeding twelve days at a time. However, if the court deems fit, it may order a provisional release on bail bond or on bail bond and security.

**Section 21.** The expense for detaining an alien under Section 19 and 20 shall be borne by the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance bringing the alien into the Kingdom. If there appears to be no owner or person in charge of the conveyance, or the alien entered the Kingdom without a conveyance, the expense shall be borne by the alien.

**Section 22.** In a case where the competent official discovers that an alien who has entered the Kingdom is prohibited from entering the Kingdom under the provisions of Section 12, the competent official shall have power to order said alien by written notification to leave the Kingdom. If the said alien is not satisfied with such an order, the alien may appeal to the Minister except for cases under Section 12 (1) or (10). The order of the Minister shall be final. If the Minister does not issue an order within seven days as from the date of submitting the appeal, it shall be deemed that the Minister has ordered that the
said alien is not a prohibited person not permitted to enter the Kingdom under Section 12.

An appeal must be submitted to the competent official within forty eight hours from the time the order of the competent official has become known and it shall be in compliance with the form and payment of fees as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

When an appeal has been submitted by the alien, the competent official shall defer the expelling of that alien until an order for that case is given by the Minister.

While the order of the competent official is being complied with or while waiting for an order from the Minister, the provisions of Section 19 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* but not the provisions of Section 20.

Chapter 3
Conveyance

**Section 23.** The owner or the person in charge of a conveyance shall bring the conveyance into or out of the Kingdom through ports of entry, immigration checkpoints, terminal areas, stations, or localities, and at the prescribed times as published in the Government Gazette by the Minister.

**Section 24.** The competent official shall have power to inspect conveyances entering or leaving the Kingdom, or to check conveyances under reasonable suspicion that passengers are being taken in or out of the Kingdom, except in the case that such conveyance is being used for official activities of the Government of Thailand or of the Government of a foreign country with permission of the Government of Thailand.

**Section 25.** When any conveyance enters or leaves the Kingdom, the owner or the person in charge of said conveyance shall report the date and time of arrival.
or departure of the conveyance at the terminal, station, or locality in accordance with the form as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations to the competent official at the immigration office controlling the terminal, station or locality within the specified time as published by the competent official.

In the event of non-compliance with the provisions of paragraph one, the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance shall, in person, without delay, report to the competent official at the nearest immigration office.

If deemed fit, the Minister may grant exemption to report making under the provisions of this Section, or require compliance of certain conveyance under certain conditions.

Section 26. The owner or the person in charge of any conveyance entering or leaving the Kingdom shall submit a list in accordance with the form prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations and which shall be inspected by the competent official at the place and under the conditions published by the Director-General.

In the event the inspection must be conducted at place other than that published by the Director-General under paragraph one of this Section, it must be permitted by the Director-General or a competent official designated by the Director-General.

Section 27. For the purpose of inspection, the owner or the person in charge of any conveyance entering or leaving the Kingdom shall have the duty as follows

(1) Prevent passengers or crew from leaving the conveyance or the premises arranged with the approval of the competent official until permission is granted by the competent official, except in a case where the person in charge and crew of the conveyance is the same person, such a person, in the capacity of the person in charge of the conveyance, is allowed to leave the conveyance to notify the competent official in accordance with Section 25.

If the passengers or crew of said conveyance do not comply with or cause a...
disturbance, then the provisions of Section 29 paragraph two shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. The expense for the operations under the provisions of this paragraph shall be borne by the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance.

(2) Submit to the competent official a list of passengers and a list of the crew of the conveyance including the person in charge of the conveyance according to the form as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations and within the period of time prescribed and notified by the Director-General or a competent official.

(3) Provide facilitation to the competent official for the execution of this Act.

The provisions of this Section shall apply to the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance bringing the conveyance from or to the border with linking passage to other country and conveying passengers into the kingdom or taking passengers to the border in order to leave the Kingdom in connection with passengers entering or leaving the Kingdom only.

Section 28. While in the Kingdom, if there is an increase or decrease in the number of crew members or a change of crew members of the conveyance entering or leaving the Kingdom or if any of the crew members of the conveyance does not leave the Kingdom, the owner of the conveyance, or the person in charge of the conveyance in case the owner of the conveyance is not in the Kingdom, shall notify the competent official in accordance with the form as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

In a case where the crew of the conveyance shall not leave the Kingdom as mentioned in paragraph one and the crew of the conveyance are aliens, the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance, as the case may be, shall bring them to the competent official without delay.

If the said crew of the conveyance do not comply with the owner or the person in charge of conveyance in the course of operation under the provisions of paragraph two, then the provisions of Section 29 paragraph two shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. The expense for the operation under the provisions of this paragraph shall be borne by the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance.
Section 29. When the competent official discovers any alien being prohibited from entering the Kingdom or has a reasonable suspicion that an alien is prohibited from entering the Kingdom, the competent official shall have power to order the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance to detain the said alien in the conveyance, or to send the said alien to a place to detain for interrogation by the competent official, or send the said alien out of the Kingdom.

In a case where the alien mentioned in paragraph one does not comply or causes a disturbance, the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance or his or her agent may request the administrative or police officer to detain or arrest the said alien. If assistance from such officials cannot be immediately acquired, they shall have power to arrest and send the said alien over to administrative or police officer who shall without delay turn the said alien over to the competent official for the operation under this Act.

The expense for the operations under the provisions of this paragraph shall be borne by the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance.

Section 30. In a case where there is a reasonable suspicion that a violation of this Act has taken place, the competent official shall have power to order the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance to stop the conveyance or to take the conveyance to any place necessary for inspection.

The order under paragraph one may be made by a signal or any other understandable means.

Section 31. For any conveyance entering the Kingdom, from the time it has entered the Kingdom until the competent official has finished the inspection, no person who is not competent official having duty with the conveyance shall board the conveyance or bring another conveyance alongside or enter the area or premises arranged for the
inspection, except as permitted by the competent official.

The owner or the person in charge of the conveyance shall not consent to or be so inattentive that such action as mentioned in paragraph one is taken by any person.

Section 32. For any conveyance leaving the Kingdom, during the time the competent official is conducting inspection or after the competent official has finished conducting the inspection, if the conveyance is still in the Kingdom, no person who is not competent official having duty with the conveyance shall board the conveyance or bring another conveyance alongside, except as permitted by the competent official.

The provisions of paragraph one shall apply to the area or premises arranged for the inspection while the people who are leaving the Kingdom have not boarded the conveyance.

The owner or the person in charge of the conveyance shall not consent to or be so inattentive that such action as mentioned in this Section is taken by any person.

Section 33. In a case where a competent official has to conduct an inspection of a conveyance during non-official hours, or at places other than those published by the Director-General under Section 26 paragraph one, or has to be away from office premises in order to detain such conveyance, or is required to wait to conduct a conveyance inspection which is not the fault of the competent official, the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance shall have to pay working fees and other expenses as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.
Chapter 4
Temporary Stay in the Kingdom

Section 34. Aliens entering the Kingdom for a temporary stay may enter for the following activities

(1) Diplomatic or Consular Missions
(2) Performance of official duties
(3) Tourism
(4) Sports
(5) Business
(6) Investments as approved by Ministries and Departments concerned
(7) Investments or activities relating to investments subject to provisions of laws on investment promotion
(8) Being in transit passengers
(9) Being the person in charge of a conveyance or crew of a conveyance arriving at a terminal, port, or station in the Kingdom
(10) Education or observation
(11) Mass media duties
(12) Missionary work under approval of the Ministries and Departments concerned
(13) Scientific research or teacher training in a research or educational institute in the Kingdom
(14) Practicing of skilled craftsmen or specialists
(15) Other activities as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Section 35. The Director-General or the competent official designated by the Director-General shall have power to permit an alien, who has entered the Kingdom for

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a temporary stay under Section 34, to remain in the Kingdom under any prescribed conditions. The periods of time which one is permitted to stay in the Kingdom are as follows:

(1) Not exceeding thirty days for cases under Section 34 (4), (8) and (9)
(2) Not exceeding ninety days for case under Section 34 (3)
(3) Not exceeding one year for cases under Section 34 (5), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14) and (15)
(4) Not exceeding two years for case under Section 34 (6)
(5) For as long as necessary for cases under Section 34 (1) and (2)
(6) For as long as deemed reasonable by the Board of Investment, for a case under Section 34 (7)

In a case where it is necessary for an alien to stay in the Kingdom for a longer period of time than prescribed in subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4), the Director-General shall be the person to consider granting an extension of stay for a period of not exceeding one year, each time. After permission is granted, the Director-General shall send a report with reasons to the Commission for their information within seven days from the date the permission is granted.

Each application of an alien for extension of temporary stay shall be made in the form and with payment of fees as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations. The alien may be permitted to stay in the Kingdom pending the decision.

Section 36. If an alien who has been given permission to stay in the Kingdom temporarily behaved himself or herself in a way the permission to stay can be reasonably revoked, the Director-General or the Commission shall have power to revoke the permission that has been given regardless of it having been given by the Director-General or the person designated by the Director-General.

In a case where the Director-General has revoked the permission, the alien whose permission has been revoked may lodge an appeal to the Commission. The decision of the Commission shall be final. In a case where the Commission has revoked the permission...
permission, the order of the Commission is final.

The appeal against the order of the Director-General mentioned in paragraph two shall be lodged with the competent official within forty eight hours from the time the order of the Director-General is acknowledged. The appeal shall be made in the form and with payment of fees as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Upon revocation of permission under paragraph one, a written notice shall be given to the alien. In a case where such notice cannot be given to the alien, upon the expiration of the forty eight hour period after the competent official has posted the notice at the residence of the alien as notified to the competent official, it shall be deemed that such alien has acknowledged the revocation order.

Section 37. An alien who is permitted to stay in the Kingdom temporarily shall do the following —

1. Not engage in an occupation or employment except with permission from the Director-General or the competent official designated by the Director-General. In a case where there is alien working law providing otherwise, the permission shall have to be by virtue of that law.

2. Reside at the place notified to the competent official except where the reason for not residing at the place notified to the competent official is justifiable, change of residence shall be notified to the competent official within twenty four hours from the time of moving into the residence.

3. Notify the police officer at the police station of the locality jurisdiction in which the alien resides within twenty four hours from the time of moving in. In case of change of residence, if the new residence is not in the same locality jurisdiction as the locality of the former police station, the alien shall notify the police officer of the police station of the new locality jurisdiction within twenty four hours from the time of arrival.

4. If travel to any province and stay there longer than twenty four hours, an alien shall notify the police officer of the police station of the locality jurisdiction within

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forty eight hours from the time of arrival.

(5) Staying in the Kingdom longer than ninety days, an alien shall notify the competent official at the Immigration Division, of his or her residence, in writing, without delay, upon the completion of a ninety day period. This shall be repeated at every ninety day interval. If there is an immigration office in the locality, the notification may be made to the competent official of that immigration office.

For the provisions of subsections (3) and (4) not to be applicable to any of the cases mentioned in Section 34 and on what conditions, it shall be prescribed by the Director-General.

The notification under this Section may be made by the alien in person or in writing to the competent official as regulated by the Director-General.

Section 38. The householder, the owner or the possessor of a dwelling place or a hotel manager, who takes in, as a resident, an alien with permission to temporarily stay in the Kingdom, shall notify the competent official at the immigration office located in the locality in which the house, dwelling place, or hotel is located within twenty four hours from the time the alien has taken residence. If there is no immigration office located in that locality, the police officer at a police station of that locality jurisdiction shall be notified.

In a case where the house, dwelling place, or hotel where the alien is staying under paragraph one is located in Bangkok Metropolis locality, such notification shall be made to the competent official at the Immigration Division.

The notification mentioned in paragraphs one and two shall be made in accordance with the regulation prescribed by the Director-General.

Section 39. If, after having received permission for temporary stay in the Kingdom, the alien leaves the Kingdom, it shall be deemed that the temporary stay permission is terminated. But, if prior to leaving the Kingdom, the alien is granted permission
to re-enter by the competent official, and the re-entering alien is not a prohibited person under Section 12, and if the period of time previously permitted for a stay in the Kingdom is remaining, the alien shall be permitted to stay in the Kingdom for the time which is still remaining.

In requesting permission for the re-entry, the alien shall submit an application in the form and with payment of fees in accordance with the rate and criteria as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Chapter 5
Taking Residency in the Kingdom

Section 40. Subject to the provisions of Sections 42, 43 and 51, the Minister, by the approval of the Council of Ministers, shall have power to publish, in the Government Gazette, the immigration quotas for alien taking up residency in the Kingdom from year to year which shall not be more than one hundred persons per year from each country. For stateless persons, the number shall not exceed fifty per year.

For the purpose of determining the quota number of aliens, all colonies of one country together or each autonomous dominion shall be counted as one country.

Section 41. An alien shall not be allowed to take up residency in the Kingdom unless permitted by the Immigration Commission and by the approval of the Minister, subject to the immigration quota as published by the Minister in accordance with Section 40 and the receipt of a residence certificate in accordance with Section 47.

For best interests of the country in permitting aliens to take up residency in the Kingdom, the Immigration Commission shall prescribe criteria on the qualifications of aliens applying for residency in the Kingdom taking into account the income, properties, knowledge, occupational ability, and family status of the said aliens with the Thai nationals,
conditions on national security or other conditions, as deemed fit, which shall be used as criteria and conditions in considering granting permission for aliens to have residency in the Kingdom.

Aliens may apply for residency prior to entering the Kingdom or after having received permission for a temporary stay in the Kingdom.

For the purpose of this Act, the Commission shall have power to prescribe criteria in order that aliens who enter the Kingdom for temporary stay in any of the cases under Section 34 may submit an application for residency in the Kingdom.

Aliens who are permitted to have residency in the Kingdom prior to entering the Kingdom shall have the residency in the Kingdom only when they have entered the Kingdom and have submitted the list and passed the inspection and had the approval of the competent official under Section 18 paragraph two. The aliens shall not be the prohibited persons under Sections 12 and 44, and have already received the residence certificate in accordance with Section 47. The aliens are permitted to stay in the Kingdom pending the processing of the residence certificate.

Section 42. The following persons shall not be subject to the immigration quotas as published by the Minister under Section 40.

(1) An alien who has taken up residency in the Kingdom re-entering the Kingdom in accordance with Sections 48 or 51.

(2) A woman having Thai nationality by birth who has renounced Thai nationality upon marriage to an alien.

(3) A non sui juris child of a woman having Thai nationality by birth whether or not she has renounced Thai nationality upon marriage to an alien.

(4) A child of alien parents born while the mother was out of the Kingdom with evidence of an application notifying departure from the Kingdom for re-entering under Section 48, when that child arrives in the Kingdom with the father or the mother who re-enters within the specified time period in accordance with the evidence of an application.
Section 43. An alien who brings in an amount of not less than ten million baht in foreign currency for investment in the Kingdom, when considered by the Commission that it is not in violation of the provisions of this Act, the Commission with the approval of the Minister may permit such an alien to take up residency in the Kingdom in addition to the quota number of aliens published by the Minister under Section 40 but in each year, it shall not exceed 5 percent of the said number.

For the purpose of inspection of foreign currency brought in for investment, the alien who is permitted to take up residency in the Kingdom under paragraph one shall declare his or her financial status in accordance with the regulation prescribed by the Commission for a period of not less than two years but not exceed five years, as the Commission may deem expedient.

Section 44. No alien shall take up residency in the Kingdom, if it appears that such alien —

(1) was punished by imprisonment by a judgement of Thai court or lawful order or judgement of court in foreign country except for petty offence or offence committed through negligence, or offences exempted in the Ministerial Regulations.

(2) is unable to earn own living because of physical infirmity or mental defect or having any diseases as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

The provisions of subsection (2) shall not apply to an alien who is a father, mother, husband, wife, or child of the person having domicile within the Kingdom and with capability to support each other.

Section 45. An alien permitted to stay temporarily in the Kingdom, if wishes to take up residency in the Kingdom, an application as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations shall be submitted to the immigration office of the locality in which the alien
resides. In a case where the there is no immigration office of the locality, the application must be submitted to the nearest immigration office. When the Commission considers that the quota number of aliens is not exceeded in accordance with Sections 40 or 43, as the case may be, and the alien not being a person under Section 42 nor a prohibited person under Section 44, then it may permit the alien to take up residency in the Kingdom with the approval of the Minister.

For the alien who has submitted the application for residency in the Kingdom, if the period of time permitted for temporary stay in the Kingdom will expire while consideration is continuing, the alien may submit an application at the same immigration office requesting to stay in the Kingdom until the result of the consideration is known. The Commission or the designated competent official shall have power to grant permission for which the Commission or the designated competent official may set whatever conditions.

The submission of the application under paragraph one shall be subject to payment of fees as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Section 46. If while waiting to receive a residence certificate under Section 41 or waiting for the result of consideration of the Commission or competent official designated by the Commission under Section 45 paragraph two, the alien who entered the Kingdom has left the Kingdom, it shall be deemed that the grace period for temporary stay in the Kingdom under Section 41 paragraph five or Section 45 paragraph two is terminated, except that, prior to leaving the Kingdom, the alien has been granted permission to re-entry by the competent official and has re-entered with the time period specified by the competent official, then the alien shall continue to stay in the Kingdom as graced.

Section 47. The alien who is permitted to take up residency in the Kingdom shall apply for a residence certificate as evidence from the Director-General or from the competent official designated by the Director-General within thirty days from the date of receipt of written notification from the competent official.
In a case where an alien who is under twelve years of age has been granted with permission to take up residency in the Kingdom, the person exercising parental power or the guardian shall apply for a residence certificate on behalf of such alien. Such being the case, the Director-General may issue a separate residence certificate or a joint residence certificate with the person exercising parental power or the guardian.

If the residence certificate is not applied for, the Commission may extinguish the permission for residency in the Kingdom, such being the case, the grace period for the stay in the Kingdom under Section 41 paragraph five or Section 45 paragraph two shall be terminated.

The applicant for residence certificate shall pay fees at the rate and criteria prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Section 48. A residence certificate is perpetually valid. But if its holder has left the Kingdom, that residence certificate shall no longer be valid except that prior to leaving the Kingdom, the holder of the residence certificate has brought the residence certificate to the competent official to make evidence of notification for leaving the Kingdom in order to re-enter under Section 50. In such a case, if the alien re-enters the Kingdom within one year from the date the competent official made the evidence, and is not a prohibited person under Sections 12 or 44, that residence certificate shall still be valid.

The provisions of Section 12, specifically as provided in (1) concerning visa stamping in passport or travel document, and in (2), (3), and (4), shall not be applicable to cases in paragraph one.

Section 49. The residence certificate that is no longer valid under Section 48 shall be returned to the competent official by the holder or the person who has it in possession. The residence certificate of a deceased alien shall be returned to the competent official by the person who has it in possession.
Section 50. Any alien having lawfully taken up residency in the Kingdom wishes to leave and re-enter the Kingdom shall do as follows

(1) Present the residence certificate to the competent official for endorsement of departure and re-entry notification in the manner prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

(2) In a case where no residence certificate is available as the alien has been permitted to stay in the Kingdom prior to the stipulation of provisions requiring aliens to apply for residence certificate, the alien shall first apply for a residence certificate from the competent official and then proceed as provided in (1).

(3) In a case where there is no space left for the endorsement referred to in (1), the residence certificate holder shall first apply for a replacement of the residence certificate as mentioned in Section 52.

The departure and re-entry notification shall be valid for one year from the date the competent official has made the same and during that one year period the holder of the residence certificate can make as many departures and re-entries as desirable.

The application for evidence of departure and re-entry notification and the issuance of a residence certificate in (2) are subject to fee payments as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Section 51. An alien who had residency in the Kingdom but without evidence of departure and re-entry notification or does have evidence of departure and re-entry notification but did not re-enter within the time specified in Section 48, if wishes to have residency in the Kingdom as before, an application shall be filed in the manner prescribed by the Ministerial Regulations for consideration and permission. After consideration, when the Commission is of opinion that the alien has reasonable excuses and is not prohibited by Sections 12 and 44, it may permit such alien to continue to have residency in the Kingdom with the approval of the Minister, however, a new residence certificate shall be applied for. The provisions of Section 45 paragraph two shall apply.
mutatis mutandis during the application period.

The provisions of Section 12, specifically as provided in (1) concerning visa stamping in passport or travel document, and as provided in (2), (3), and (9), shall not be applicable to cases in paragraph one.

The applicant for a new residence certificate under paragraph one shall pay fees at the rate and criteria prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Section 52. If the documents issued to holders pursuant to this Act become lost or ruined and the holders wish to have a substitute or in the case a replacement of residence certification referred to in Section 50 (3) is required, upon being investigated to the satisfaction of the competent official, a substitute or a replacement of the residence certificate shall be issued whereby the applicant shall pay fees as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Chapter 6

Repatriation of Aliens from the Kingdom

Section 53. For an alien having residency in the Kingdom, who appears later on as being a person with any of the behaviours under Section 12 (7) or (8), or being a person under Section 12 (10), or fails to comply with the regulation prescribed by the Commission under Section 43 paragraph two, or being a prohibited person under Section 44, or being punished under Sections 63 or 64, the Director-General shall propose the matter to the Commission. If it is decided by the Commission that the permission for residency in the Kingdom should be revoked, the matter shall be proposed to the Minister for further revocation order.

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Section 54. Any alien entering or staying in the Kingdom without permission, or with permission that is expired or revoked, may be repatriated from the Kingdom by the competent official.

If an investigation is to be conducted for repatriation under paragraph one, the provisions of Sections 19 and 20 shall apply mutatis mutandis.

In a case where there is an order to repatriate an alien from the Kingdom, while waiting for the repatriation to take place, the competent official shall have power to permit the alien to reside at a place provided that such alien shall have to come to meet the competent official on the date, time and place as prescribed, with bond or with bond and security, or the competent official may detain such alien at a place for however long as is necessary. The detention expenses shall be borne by such alien.

The provisions of this Section shall not apply to aliens entering the Kingdom prior to the date the Immigration Act, B.E. 2480 (1937) came into force.

Section 55. In order to repatriate aliens from the Kingdom under this Act, the competent official may choose to do so by any conveyance or at any port of entry, as deemed appropriate.

The expenses for such repatriation of aliens shall be borne by the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance. If there appears to be no owner or person in charge of the conveyance, such expenses shall be borne by the offender under Sections 63 or 64. The competent official shall have power to claim repatriation expenses from any one offender in full or from all offenders jointly, as so wishes. The competent official may grant permission if such aliens choose to be repatriated by other conveyance or other port of entry at their own expenses.

Section 56. In a case where there is an exemption for visa stamping for an alien under Section 12 (1), and the alien has shown to the competent official any tickets or travel documents of any owner or person in charge of the conveyance or evidence of any
person in accordance with conditions prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations in order to use the same as guarantee for the repatriation of the said alien, the competent official shall have power to order the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance or the person issuing said tickets, documents, or evidence, as the case may be, not to cancel, refund, or change the essential elements of said tickets, documents, or evidence, doing so with or without any conditions.

The order under paragraph one shall be made by attaching or stamping the text of the order onto the said tickets, documents or evidence. After the competent official has made the order, if there is a cancellation, refund, or change the essential elements of the tickets, documents or evidence from the order of the competent official without approval of the competent official, such action shall not be cited against the competent official. The competent official shall have power to order the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance or the person issuing the tickets, documents or evidence, as the case may be, to comply with the original obligation in the tickets, documents or evidence, for the purpose of repatriating the alien from the Kingdom.

Chapter 7
Miscellaneous

Section 57. For the purpose of this Act, whoever claims to have Thai nationality, if there is insufficient evidence for the competent official to believe that the person has Thai nationality, it shall be presumed that the person is an alien until that person can verify that he or she has Thai nationality.

The verification mentioned in paragraph one shall be made by submitting an application with the competent official with payment of fees as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations. In the event the person is not satisfied with the order of the competent official, a petition may be filed with the court for court hearings.

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In a case where a petition is filed with the court, upon receiving the petition, the court shall notify public prosecutor. The public prosecutor is entitled to raise objections.

Section 58. Alien who does not have evidence of lawful entry into the Kingdom under Section 12 (1), or does neither have a residence certificate under this Act nor an identity certificate under the law on alien registration, shall be presumed to have entered the Kingdom in violation to this Act.

Section 59. The Director-General or the designated competent official shall have power to arrest and suppress any person violating this Act and shall have power to issue summons, arrest warrant, search warrant, or to arrest, search, or detain them, and shall also have power to investigate offences against this Act, in the same manner as the inquiry officials under the Criminal Procedure Code.

Section 60. If it is considered expedient by the Minister to exempt any fees under this Act, in any locality, the Minister shall have power to do so by publication in the Government Gazette.

Chapter 8
Penalty

Section 61. Whoever fails to comply with the summons under Section 10 shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand baht.

Section 62. Whoever fails to comply with the provisions of Sections 11 or 18 paragraph two shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding two years and a fine.

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not exceeding twenty thousand baht.

If the person committing an offence under paragraph one is a Thai national, the offender will be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand baht.

Section 63. Whoever leads or brings an alien into the Kingdom or does in any way supporting or assisting or facilitating an alien in making an entry into the Kingdom in violation to this Act, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding ten years and a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand baht.

The owner or the person in charge of the conveyance who fails to comply with the provisions of Section 23 and there is, in the conveyance, an alien entering the Kingdom in violation to this Act, it shall be presumed that the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance has committed an offence mentioned in paragraph one except it can be proven that it is unbeknown to the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance that there is such an alien in the conveyance even though reasonable care has been taken.

Section 64. Whoever, knowing of any alien entering into the Kingdom in violation to this Act, harbours, hides or in any manner assists said alien to evade arrest, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding five years and a fine not exceeding fifty thousand baht.

Whoever harbours an alien entering the Kingdom in violation to this Act, shall be presumed that he or she is aware that the alien has entered the Kingdom in violation to this Act, unless it can be proven that it is unbeknown to him or her while reasonable care has been taken.

If the offence under paragraph one is committed in order to assist the father, mother, child, husband or wife of the offender, the court many not punish the offender.

Section 65. Any of the owner or the person in charge of a conveyance who fails to comply with the provisions of Section 23 shall be punished by imprisonment
not exceeding five years or a fine not exceeding fifty thousand baht or both.

**Section 66.** Any of the owner or the person in charge of a conveyance who fails to comply with the provisions of Sections 25, 26 paragraph one, or 27 (2) shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding ten thousand baht or both.

**Section 67.** Any of the owner or the person in charge of a conveyance who fails to comply with the provisions of Section 27 (1) paragraph one or fails to facilitate the competent official under the provisions of Section 27 (3) shall be punished by a fine not exceeding twenty thousand baht.

**Section 68.** Any of the owners or the person in charge of a conveyance who fails to comply with the provisions of Section 28 paragraph one shall be punished by a fine not exceeding ten thousand baht.

**Section 69.** Any of the owner or the person in charge of a conveyance who fails to comply with the provisions of Section 28 paragraph two shall be punished by a fine not exceeding ten thousand baht for each and every crew member of the conveyance that was not turned over to the competent official.

**Section 70.** Any conveyance carrying an alien passenger who is prohibited under Section 12 (1), into the Kingdom, the owner or the person in charge of that conveyance shall be punished by a fine not exceeding twenty thousand baht for each and every alien.

**Section 71.** Any of the owner or the person in charge of a conveyance who fails to comply with the order given by the competent official under Section 29 paragraph one, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding five years and a fine not
exceeding fifty thousand baht.

If non-compliance with the provisions of paragraph one causes alien to escape, the owner or the person in charge shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding ten years and a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand baht.

Section 72. Any alien escaping from a conveyance, or escaping while being transferred to any destination to which the competent official has instructed the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance to detain him or her, or to make a transfer under Section 29, or escaping while being under detention or custody by the power of the competent official under this Act, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding two years or a fine not exceeding twenty thousand baht, or both.

Section 73. Any of the owner or the person in charge of a conveyance who fails to comply with the order given by the competent official under Section 30 shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding five years or a fine not exceeding fifty thousand baht, or both.

Section 74. Whoever fails to comply with the provisions of Sections 31 or 32 shall be punished by a fine not exceeding ten thousand baht.

Section 75. Any alien who fails to comply with the provisions of Section 37 (1) shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding ten thousand, or both.

Section 76. Any alien who fails to comply with the provisions of Section 37 (2), (3), (4) or (5), shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand baht and a daily fine of not exceeding two hundred baht until full compliance.
Section 77. Whoever fails to comply with the provisions of Section 38, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand baht. If the person is a hotel manager, the punishment shall be by a fine from two thousand baht to ten thousand baht.

Section 78. Whoever fails to comply with the provisions of Section 49 shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one thousand baht.

Section 79. Any of the owner, or the person in charge of a conveyance, or person issuing tickets, documents or evidence, who fails to comply with the order given by the competent official under Section 56, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding six months or a daily fine not exceeding 500 baht until the said alien has left the Kingdom, but the fine shall not exceed fifty thousand baht, or both.

Section 80. Whoever destroys an order given by the competent official under Section 56 paragraph two, or causes such order to be defaced with intent to not let the owner or the person in charge of the conveyance, or the person issuing the tickets, documents or evidence, knows of the said order of the competent official, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand baht.

Section 81. Any alien staying in the Kingdom without permission, or with expired or revoked permission, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding two years or a fine not exceeding twenty thousand baht or both.

Section 82. Any alien who fails to comply with, resists, or refuses to acknowledge the order of the Minister, the Commission, the Director-General, or the competent official designated by the Commission, imposed under this Act on such alien, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand baht.

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If the order mentioned in paragraph one is a repatriating order, such alien shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding two years and a fine not exceeding twenty thousand baht.

**Section 83.** In a case where an offender to be penalized under this Act is a juristic entity, its managing director, manager, or representative shall be penalized by the same punishment provided for such offence except where it is proven that they did not collude in the commission of the offence by such juristic entity.

**Section 84.** For all offences under this Act, except for offences under Sections 62 paragraph one, 63, 64, 71, and 82 paragraph two, there shall be established a Settlement Committee comprising of the Police Director-General or representative, the Public Prosecutor Director-General or representative, the Commander of the Immigration Division or representative, as members. The Settlement Committee shall have power to compound the matters and to authorize the inquiry official or the competent official to carry out settlement on its behalf. The Settlement Committee may prescribe criteria for settlement or any conditions as deemed fit.

Upon payment of fine as compounded for settlement, it shall be deemed that the case has been settled in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code.

**Transitory Provisions**

**Section 85.** It shall be deemed that aliens already permitted to stay temporarily in the Kingdom on the day this Act comes into force are aliens permitted under this Act, however, the rights and privileges provided shall be as appeared in the permission evidence.
Section 86. Aliens permitted to say temporarily in the Kingdom who have already overstayed the ninety day period on the day this Act comes into force, shall begin to make the first notification to the competent official under Section 37 (5) within seven days from the day this Act comes into force.

Section 87. The householder, the owner or the possessor of a dwelling place or a hotel manager, who has already taken in, as a resident, an alien with permission to temporarily stay in the Kingdom on the day this Act comes into force, shall notify the competent official under Section 38 within thirty days from the day this Act comes into force.

Section 88. It shall be deemed that the residence certificates issued by virtue of the immigration laws prior to the day this Act comes into force and are still valid shall be the residence certificates issued under this Act.

Section 89. It shall be deemed that the evidence of notification for leaving the Kingdom in order to re-enter made by the competent official in the residence certificate of an alien prior to the day this Act comes into force is the evidence of notification for leaving the Kingdom in order to re-enter under this Act.

Section 90. It shall be deemed that an alien who has already been ordered to be detained while waiting for repatriation on the day this Act comes into force is an alien who is ordered to be detained while waiting for repatriation under this Act.

Section 91. It shall be deemed that all applications or petitions of aliens being under process on the day this Act comes into force are those submitted under this Act.
Section 92. All Ministerial Regulations, Regulations, Orders, or Resolutions of the Immigration Commission under the Immigration Act B.E. 2493 (1950), as amended by the Immigration Act (No. 2) B.E. 2497 (1954), which have been in force before the day this Act comes into force, are still in force if they are not in conflict with this Act, until replaced and enforced by the Ministerial Regulations, Regulations, Orders, or Resolutions of the Commission under this Act.

Countersignature
S. Hotrakit
Deputy Prime Minister
Rate of fees, working fees, and other expenses

Fees

(1) Visa stamping under Section 12 (1)

Single entry  2,000 baht
Multiple entry  10,000 baht

(2) Appeal under Section 22, per person  2,000 baht

(3) Application for extension of temporary stay in the Kingdom under Section 35, per person, each time  2,000 baht

(4) Appeal under Section 36, per person  2,000 baht

(5) Application for permission for re-entry into the Kingdom under Section 39, per person, single use  2,000 baht

Multiple use within remaining period of time  5,000 baht

(6) Application for permission to take up residency in the Kingdom under Section 45, per person  8,000 baht

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4 Fees as amended by the Immigration Act (No. 3), B.E. 2542 (1999)

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(7) Residence Certificate under Sections 47 or 51, per certificate

Where the applicant for residence certificate is a spouse or non sui juris child of an alien having residency in the Kingdom, or of a Thai national, per certificate

(8) Evidence of notification for leaving the Kingdom for re-entry under Section 50 (1), per person

(9) Residence Certificate under Section 50 (2), per certificate

(10) Documents issued under Section 52, per document

(11) Application for nationality verification submitted to competent official under Section 57, per person

200,000 baht

100,000 baht

2,000 baht

20,000 baht

2,000 baht

800 baht

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Working fees and other expenses

(1) Conveyance inspection off-official hours, each time, not if without passengers, per conveyance exceeding 200 baht

If there are passengers, each and every passenger shall be charged per person, not exceeding 10 baht

(2) Conveyance inspection at places other than prescribed by Director-General under Section 26 paragraph one, one conveyance one day not exceeding 200 baht

(3) Waiting to conduct conveyance inspection, one day not not the fault of competent official exceeding 200 baht

(4) Absence from office premises to detain conveyance, per conveyance one day not exceeding 200 baht