BI Forfeits Australian Nun’s Missionary Visa

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) has forfeited the Missionary Visa of Australian missionary Patricia Fox and ordered her to leave the country.

In a statement, Immigration Commissioner Jaime H. Morente disclosed that Bureau’s Board of Commissioners (BOC) forfeited Fox’s privilege of holding a Missionary Visa under Sec. 9 (g) of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940 and ordered her to leave due to her involvement in partisan political activities.

“She (Fox) was found to have engaged in activities that are not allowed under the terms and conditions of her visa,” Morente said.

The BI Chief stressed that Fox’s visa granted her only the privilege to engage in missionary work and not in political activities.

Morente chairs the three-man BOC and BI Associate Commissioners J. Tobias Javier and Aimee Torrefranca -Neri is its members.

In a one-page order issued on Monday, the BI board ordered the forfeiture of Fox’s missionary visa which was due to expire on Sept. 5 this year. It also directed the deactivation of her Alien Certificate of Registration.

“We direct Fox to leave the Philippines within 30 days from receipt of this order,” the board stated.

Despite the forfeiture of her visa, Atty. Antonette Bucasas- Mangrobang, BI spokesperson, explained that Fox may still enter and leave the country as tourist.

Mangrobang also said that Fox’s deportation case is still pending before the BI Special Prosecutor, as she (Fox) has yet to file her counter-affidavit.

It is only after the parties have been heard, will the case be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for their deliberation on whether or not she will be deported and barred from entering the country in the future, she added.