

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1295, January 27, 1978]

CREATING THE NATIONAL ENGINEERING CENTER.

WHEREAS, the country's continuing and accelerated efforts at national development and well-being require progressive and adequate technological utilization and diffusion;

WHEREAS, more rapid national development further demands a steady and expanding supply of technical manpower with expertise in the various fields of technology and engineering and an updating of existing technical manpower;

WHEREAS, a continuing interaction between government, industry and the university is mutually beneficial and in the interest of national development; and

WHEREAS, to meet the above-mentioned demands it is necessary to provide adequate support so that existing programs for the development of qualified manpower and research on technological development can be strengthened, improved, and expanded;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby order and decree:

SECTION 1. *Creation of the National Engineering Center.* — There is hereby and created and established the National Engineering Center (hereafter referred to as NEC in the University of the Philippines System). The NEC shall be a distinct and separate unit from the UP College of Engineering and shall absorb the UP Industrial Research Service Center, the National Hydraulic Research Center, the Training Center for Applied Geodesy and Photogrammetry, the Transport Training Center, and the Building Research Service. Purely academic functions shall be undertaken by the UP College of Engineering at a larger scale to be made possible by the financial support of the NEC.

SEC. 2. *Objectives.* — The NEC shall have the following objectives:

- a. To provide a pool of technical experts to which public and private entities may turn for assistance in the solution of engineering problems.
- b. To develop technologies that utilize local resources which are adapted to the needs of a developing country.

SEC. 3. *Powers and Functions.* — The NEC shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. To undertake and promote research activities aimed at solving indigenous technological problems in cooperation with private industry, government entities, and other engineering schools;
- b. To assist the Department of Education and Culture in formulating programs in such areas as curricula, laboratory standards, teaching materials, equipment and the like;
- c. To update practising engineers on significant developments in their field by organizing seminars and offering continuing education courses;

- d. To undertake studies in such areas as water resources and other natural resources development, transportation and communication, environmental engineering, building and low-cost housing with emphasis on earthquake and typhoon protection;
- e. To finance research and development programs in the pursuit of knowledge and technological achievement in the various fields of engineering;
- f. To develop information useful to practising engineers.

SEC. 4. *Executive Director of the NEC.* — The NEC shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines System upon recommendation of the President of the University. He shall be under the immediate administrative supervision of the President of the University.

SEC. 5. *Advisory Board.* — The plans and programs of the NEC shall be reviewed and approved by an Advisory Board composed of:

- a. The Executive Vice-President of the University of the Philippines System Chairman
- b. Dean, UP College of Engineering Member
- c. The Undersecretary of Public Works, Transportation & Communication Member
- d. The Undersecretary of Industry Member
- e. The President of the UP Alumni Engineers Member
- f. (2) members to be appointed by the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines System upon the recommendation of the Dean of the UP College of Engineering who shall serve for a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed for another term of three (3) years.

SEC. 6. *Services of Scientists and Technical Personnel.* — The NEC may, for the purpose of its research and development activities, obtain the services of scientists and technical personnel of other units in the University of the Philippines System and of any other agency of the government of the Republic of the Philippines. Such personnel may be paid additional compensation or honoraria by the NEC. Any government retiree employed in the Center shall not be required to reimburse or refund any gratuity or pension received from the government nor shall any pension or annuity be suspended or reduced on account of his employment in the NEC.

SEC. 7. *Building Construction and Equipment Purchase.* — The NEC is hereby authorized to construct buildings and other facilities and to purchase equipment