

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1308, March 02, 1978]

REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF THE PROFESSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

WHEREAS, the New Society is pursuing an integrated program of social, economic and political reforms so that it may be able to establish a secure national community and improve the quality of life of the people;

WHEREAS, in achieving these ends, the government has utilized the concept of environmental planning as one of its principal instruments, operationalized through the creation of the Human Settlements Commission and the National Coordinating Council for Town Planning, Housing and Zoning;

WHEREAS, a comprehensive system of environmental planning which seeks to conserve, rehabilitate and develop the physical environment and natural resources of the nation has already been established together with a National Framework Plan that translates into physical and spatial considerations policies on land capability, urbanization, agricultural development and natural resources development;

WHEREAS, the Institute of Environmental Planning in the University of the Philippines has been established for the precise purpose of providing assistance in the implementation of this comprehensive system and of developing a pool of capable Environmental Planners;

WHEREAS, this group of experts has contributed significantly to the national development efforts of the country and has consequently attracted other men and women to seek similar expertise;

WHEREAS, in recognition of the significant role and substantial contribution that the science of environmental planning has made to the country, there appears a need to professionalize and regulate its practice in the Philippines.

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, as follows:

TITLE I — Title of Decree and Scope of Practice

SECTION 1. Title. — This Decree shall be known as the "Law Regulating the Environmental Planning Profession in the Philippines."

SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. —

- a. Environmental planning refers to activities concerned with the management and development of land, as well as, the preservation, conservation, and rehabilitation of the human environment.
- b. The term "environmental planner", as used in this Decree, refers to a person engaged in the practice of environmental planning and duly registered with the Board of Environmental Planning in the manner herein provided.

SEC. 3. Scope of Practice. — The practice of environmental planning, within the meaning and intent of this Decree shall embrace, *inter alia*, professional services in

the form of technical consultation, plan preparation, and/or implementation involving the following:

- a. Development of a community, town, city, or region;
- b. Development of a site for a particular need such as housing, centers for activities concerned with research, education, culture, recreation, or government, industrial estates, agriculture, and water resources, including creating a spatial arrangement of buildings, utilities and communication routes;
- c. Land use and zoning plans for the management and development, preservation, conservation, rehabilitation, and control of the environment; and
- d. Pre-investment, pre-feasibility, and feasibility studies.

TITLE II — Board of Environmental Planning

SEC. 4. *Creation of a Board of Environmental Planning.* — Within thirty (30) days after the approval of this Decree, there shall be created a Board of Environmental Planning, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of a chairman and two (2) members.

They shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from among those recommended by the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP).

SEC. 5. *Tenure of the Board Members.* — The members of the Board shall hold "office for a term of three (3) years after their appointment until their successors shall have been appointed and shall have duly qualified: *Provided, however,* That the members of the Board first appointed under this Decree shall hold office for the following terms: one member for one (1) year; one member for two (2) years; and one member for three (3) years. Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath of office before assumption of his duties.

SEC. 6. *Qualification of Board Members.* — Each member of the Board shall, at the time of his appointment, possess the following qualifications:

- a. A citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- b. At least thirty (30) years of age and of good moral character;
- c. A holder of an environmental planning degree or its equivalent from a recognized and legally constituted institution of higher learning and with at least three (3) years of practical experience in environmental planning, prior to his appointment; or a degree holder in architecture, civil engineering, economics, public administration, or sociology, and with at least five (5) years of practical experience in environmental planning, prior to his appointment; and
- d. A registered environmental planner duly qualified to practice environmental planning in the Philippines. The members of the first Board shall be deemed automatically registered as environmental planners upon assumption of their duties as members of the Board.

SEC. 7. *Causes for Removal from Office.* — Any member of the Board may be removed from office for neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, unprofessional, unethical, immoral, or dishonorable conduct after having been given the opportunity to defend himself in a proper administrative investigation: *Provided,* That during the process of investigation, the President of the Philippines shall suspend such member

under investigation and shall appoint a temporary member in his place. Vacancies in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired term only.

SEC. 8. Powers and Functions of the Board. — The Board shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Issue certificates of registration for the practice of environmental planning and suspend or revoke the same for causes provided herein;
- b. Issue certificates of recognition to environmental planners already registered under this Decree for specialized training undertaken in physical planning, social planning, economic planning, administrative planning or planning law, or in any other branch of environmental planning, subject to the approval of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as Commission.
- c. Approve registration without examination and the issuance of the corresponding certificates of registration in accordance with Section 12 of Title III of this Decree.
- d. Determine and prepare the contents of licensure examinations; score and rate the examination papers and submit the results thereof to the Commission within one hundred twenty (120) days after the last examination day.
- e. Adopt a Code of Ethics in the practice of environmental planning.
- f. Adopt an official seal to authenticate its official documents.
- g. Inspect, in coordination with the Department of Education and Culture, at least once a year, educational institutions offering courses in environmental planning in the Philippines to ensure that these institutions maintain a high standard of planning education.
- h. Look, from time to time, into the conditions affecting the practice of environmental planning profession and adopt measures necessary for the enhancement of the environmental planning profession.
- i. Investigate violations of this Decree and the rules and regulations thereunder as may come to its knowledge and, for this purpose, issue *subpoena* and *subpoena duces tecum* to secure the appearance of witnesses and exhibition of documents and other evidences necessary in connection with the performance of its functions.
- j. Delegate the conduct of hearing or investigation of administrative cases filed before the Board.
- k. Promulgate decisions on such administrative cases subject to review by the Commission.
- l. Issue, with the approval of the Commission, such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of this Decree; and
- m. Discharge such other powers and duties as may affect professional, ethical and technological standards of the environmental planning profession in the Philippines.

SEC. 9. Fees and Compensation of the Board. —

- a. The Board shall charge for each application the sum of one hundred pesos (P100.00) upon filing of said application, and for registration purposes, the amount of fifty pesos (P50.00) payable to the collecting and disbursing officer of the Commission.
- b. Each member of the Board, whether a government employee or not, shall receive a compensation of twenty-five pesos (P25.00) for each applicant examined or registered without examination, and a per diem not exceeding fifty pesos (P50.00) for each day of attendance in administrative investigations

and ocular inspection lasting for more than one (1) hour at a time: *Provided*, That the total annual compensation of each member shall not exceed thirty-six thousand pesos (P36,000.00)

- c. All authorized expenses of the Board, including the compensation provided for herein, shall be paid by the collecting and disbursing officer of the Commission out of such appropriation as may be made for the purpose.

SEC. 10. *Annual Report.* — The Board shall, at the end each calendar year, submit to the Commission a detailed report of its activities and proceedings during the year embodying also such recommendations as it may deem proper promote the policies and objectives of this Decree.

TITLE III — Examination and Registration

SEC. 11. *Registration Required.* — Upon the effectivity of this Decree, no person shall practice or offer to practice environmental planning in the Philippines without having obtained the proper certificate of registration from the Board.

SEC. 12. *Examination Requirements.* — Except as otherwise permitted under Section 12 of this Title, all applicants for registration for the practice of environmental planning shall be required to pass the required professional examination as herein provided.

SEC. 13. *Registration without Examination.* — A certificate of registration for environmental planners shall be issued to any applicant by the Board first constituted, without requiring the passing of the examination herein prescribed: *Provided*, That he registers within one (1) year after the constitution of the said Board and that he possesses the following qualifications:

- a. He must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age;
- b. He must be a Filipino citizen;
- c. He must be currently involved in the practice of environmental planning; and
- d. He must have any of the following academic and/or training background or experience:
 1. Masteral degree in environmental planning, city and regional planning, or town and country planning or its equivalent from a school recognized by the government, plus one (1) year of environmental planning experience;
 2. Masteral degree in a field of discipline related to planning such as architecture, civil engineering, geography, economics, public administration, or sociology, plus two (2) years of environmental planning experience acceptable by the Board;
 3. Masteral degree in a field of discipline related to planning, other than those listed in paragraph (2) above, plus two (2) years of environmental planning experience, and either of the following additional qualifications:
 - 3.1 Completion of at least eighteen (18) units of graduate course work in environmental planning; or
 - 3.2 Completion of a training program or programs the total number of hours of which is equivalent to the number of graduate course work in environmental planning.
 4. Bachelor's degree in environmental planning, city and regional planning, or town and country planning from a school or institution recognized by