

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1111, March 30, 1977]

FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1092, AS AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1104, PROVIDING FOR THE HOLDING OF A REFERENDUM THROUGH THE REMARK SHEETS ON THE OCCASION OF AND IN CONNECTION WITH THE APRIL 17, 1977 REGIONAL PLEBISCITE IN SOUTHWESTERN PHILIPPINES, PRESCRIBING CERTAIN QUESTIONS FOR VOTERS' REMARKS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, in pursuit of a solution to the conflict in Mindanao the government has succeeded in forging the Tripoli Agreement with the parties concerned;

WHEREAS, under the said Tripoli Agreement certain matters including the area of the autonomy and the mechanics thereof shall be subject to further discussions and eventually to the people's approval;

WHEREAS, in an exchange of cables, President Marcos and President Ghaddafi have agreed that the inhabitants of the areas of the autonomy shall determine for themselves the administrative system to be adopted in accordance with the Constitution of the Philippines and the formula agrees upon by the two aforementioned leaders;

WHEREAS, the matter of the administrative system for the area of the autonomy is indeed vital and should be resolved by the people under the principle of self-determination;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the authority in me vested by the Constitution do hereby decree as follows:

SECTION 1. Sec. 15-A of Presidential Decree No. 1092, as inserted by Presidential Decree No. 1104, is hereby deleted and substituted with the following:

"Sec. 15-A. *Referendum Through Remark Sheets, Mandatory Use; Binding Effect.* — The use of the Remark Sheets in the April 1977 Regional Plebiscite in Southwestern Philippines is hereby declared mandatory.

The consensus of the voters as tabulated from the Remark Sheets shall have the same binding force and effect as the results from the ballots.

It shall be understood that the use of the Remark Sheets as herein provided shall be considered a Referendum."

SECTION 2. Presidential Decree No. 1092, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting therein new sections to be designated as Sec. 15-B, Sec. 15-C and Sec. 15-D which shall read as follows:

"Sec. 15-B. *Questions on the Remark Sheets.* — The Remark Sheets shall contain the following questions:

"Pursuant to the Tripoli Agreement of December 23, 1976 and the agreement between President Marcos of the Philippines and President

Ghaddafi of March 18-19, 1977, President Marcos issued proclamation No. 1628 declaring autonomy in the Provinces of Lanao de Sur, Lanao del Norte, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Palawan, Davao del Sur and South Cotabato.

"The agreement between President Marcos and President Ghaddafi also provides that the people be asked how to organize themselves administratively within the areas of the autonomy through a referendum.

"1. There is a proposal that these 13 provinces will be finally organized into a single region of the autonomy. Do you approve such a proposal ?

If the answer is "Yes", these provinces shall constitute a single region of the autonomy.

If the answer is "No", the 13 provinces shall remain in their present regions which shall be equally autonomous.

"2. There is a proposal that the administrative system in the area of the autonomy will be ruled or controlled by the Moro National Liberation Front with full and complete authority. Do you approve such a proposal?

"3. There is a proposal that the region of the autonomy will have its own flag, official language and seal separate and distinct from the flag, national language and seal of the National Government. Do you approve such a proposal?

"4. There is a proposal that the region of the autonomy be called autonomous Bangsamoro Islamic Region and the inhabitants thereof the Bangsamoro. Do you approve such a proposal?

"5. There is a proposal that the region of the autonomy shall have its own Court of Appeals and Supreme Court to be created by the Government of the region of the autonomy. Do you approve such a proposal?

"6. There is a proposal to grant to the region of the autonomy the power of general legislation including taxation similar to that of the national assembly of the National Government. Do you approve such a proposal?

"7. There is a proposal to empower the MNLF to organize and utilize in the region of the autonomy a security force to maintain peace and order separate from the outside of the supervision and control of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Integrated National Police or any other office or offices of the National Government. Do you approve such a proposal?

"8. There is a proposal that the Executive Council of the region of the autonomy shall be headed by a chief minister and a deputy chief minister to be elected by the regional legislative assembly with the concurrence of the central committee of the MNLF and who shall be the commander-in-chief of the regional security force with the power to organize, control and supervise its operations and activities. Do you approve such a proposal?