

# [ PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 721, June 02, 1975 ]

## **FURTHER AMENDING PART IX OF THE INTEGRATED REORGANIZATION PLAN BY RECONSTITUTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE.**

**WHEREAS**, it is the declared policy of the government to strengthen the socio-economic development in the field of commercial activities by vigorous export promotion to generate foreign exchange and by effective domestic trade and marketing program;

**WHEREAS**, with the creation of a separate Department of Tourism and a Department of Industry, the role and scope of activities of the Department of Trade necessitate a redefinition; and

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to realign government efforts toward export and trade promotion for greater effectiveness.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS**, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby adopt, approve and make as part of the law of the land the amendment to the provisions of Part IX of the Integrated Reorganization Plan by reconstituting the Department of Trade.

Accordingly, Part IX of the Integrated Reorganization Plan is hereby amended to read as follows:

**SECTION 1.** *Department Proper.*—The Department of Trade, hereinafter referred to in this Decree as the Department, shall be responsible for the promotion, development, expansion, regulation and control of foreign and domestic trade and in pursuance of this responsibility shall be empowered and authorized to issue such rules and regulations and adopt such measures as to:

- a. consolidate and/or coordinate all functions and efforts pertaining to the promotion of exports in particular and development of foreign trade in general;
- b. maintain reasonable allocation/distribution as between domestic and export market through export retention, export allocation, export subsidy, pricing, export ban and other schemes and measures to ensure price stability and supply availabilities of essential commodities in the local market;
- c. regulate the import of essential consumers and producers' items with a view to enhancing availability at fair and competitive prices to end-producers; and
- d. promote and regulate domestic trade, marketing and distribution to ensure the rational, economical and steady flow of commodities from producing and/or marketing centers to areas in short-supply through the support of centralized buying operations, terminal markets and large-scale and economical distribution systems organized by the public or private sector.

Authority and responsibility for the Department is vested in the Secretary of Trade, hereinafter referred to as the Secretary. He shall be assisted by only one Undersecretary.

The following are created in the Department Proper: (1) Planning Service; (2) Financial and Management Service; (3) Administrative Service; and (4) Legal Service.

**SEC. 2. *Bureau of Domestic Trade.***—The Bureau of Domestic Trade shall, among others, consolidate functions pertaining to local commerce and the protection of the consuming public.

There are created the following divisions in the Bureau of Domestic Trade:

- a. Trade Nationalization Division which shall implement the provisions of Republic Act Numbered One Thousand Three Hundred Eighteen, Republic Act Numbered One Thousand One Hundred Eighty and all such laws relating to the regulation of retail trade and other business of Filipino citizens;
- b. Domestic Trade Promotion Division which shall stimulate domestic commerce, establish trade relationship among businessmen and encourage the organization of merchant groups among Filipinos engaged in different lines of business;
- c. Brokers Division which shall administer the licensing of commercial brokers and real estate brokers and appraisers, excluding brokers for stocks and securities;
- d. Consumer Protection Division which shall administer the registration of business names, private merchants, and bulk sales documents; and enforce laws on monopolies and trade practices in restraint of trade, mislabeling and product misrepresentation, other unfair trade practices and consumer protection in general, in this last regard for which it shall coordinate with the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health; and
- e. Field Operations Division which shall extend the services and functions of the Bureau to the different regions, provinces and district of the country.

**SEC. 3. *Bureau of Foreign Trade.***—The Bureau of Foreign Trade shall, among others, consolidate all functions and efforts pertaining to the promotion of exports in Particular and development of foreign trade in general.

The following divisions are created in the Bureau:

- a. Foreign Trade Promotion Division which shall, among others, conduct researches and studies on the promotion and expansion of Philippine exports. It shall also provide necessary information to interested persons and businessmen on foreign trade development and prospects.
- b. Export Service Coordination Division which shall, among others, coordinate all activities and functions of government agencies involved in the processing of export papers. It shall also update, improve or simplify the administrative procedures involved in the processing of export papers.
- c. Foreign Trade Relations Division which shall, among others, deal with Philippine commercial relations with other countries. It shall gather information on other countries' economies and economic and commercial policies and shall encourage Philippine participation in international trade fairs and expositions.

All commercial attaches shall be appointed by, and placed under the control of the Secretary and under the supervision of the Director of the Bureau of Foreign Trade, except when actually assigned to missions abroad, in which case the provisions of Paragraph 3, Article IV, Part XVIII of the Integrated Reorganization Plan shall prevail.

**SEC. 4. *Securities and Exchange Commission.***—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall, among others, encourage the formation of partnership and