

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 575, November 08, 1974]

CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL PETROLEUM CENTER AS AN INTEGRAL UNIT OF THE PETROLEUM BOARD, DEFINING ITS ORGANIZATION, POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, under Presidential Decree No. 87, otherwise known as the "Oil Exploration and Development Act of 1972" issued on December 31, 1972, it is the declared policy of the State to hasten the discovery and development of the country's indigenous petroleum resources;

WHEREAS, the attainment of this desired objective is unnecessarily hampered by an acute shortage of Filipino technical personnel in the sciences related to petroleum exploration and development, the absence of an integrated data and information on the country's petroleum potentials and resources, and the lack of local petroleum laboratories to perform geological and geographical data processing and analysis;

WHEREAS, it has become imperative to establish a governmental unit in the Petroleum Board which will have ample powers to attain the above objectives;

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby established a Philippine National Petroleum Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, constituting an integral unit of the Petroleum Board.

SEC. 2. The Center shall have the following purposes: (a) to ensure the country of a steady stream of competent technical personnel; (b) to centralize all data and information on the country's petroleum resources; (c) to provide supportive technical services to all oil exploration ventures through complete and modern laboratory facilities.

SEC. 3. The Center may set up various divisions within its organizational structure, as it may deem necessary, such as a Petroleum Institute, a Petroleum Laboratory and a Petroleum Data Bank.

SEC. 4. The Center shall be under the administrative control and supervision of the Petroleum Board, with such officers and personnel or employees as the Petroleum Board may appoint. Their compensation, tenure of office and other terms and conditions relative to their appointment shall be determined by the Petroleum Board.

SEC. 5. The positions in the Center of officers and employees shall be considered technical and highly confidential and as such may be on a part-time basis and shall be exempt from the requirements and restrictions of the Civil Service Law, the Retirement Law Section 259 of the Revised Administrative Code and the laws, rules and regulations on position classification and salary standardization: Provided that any retiree employed in the Center shall not be required to reimburse or refund any gratuity received from the Government nor shall any pension or annuity to which he is entitled be suspended or reduced on account of his employment in the Center.