

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 165, March 31, 1973]

CREATING THE PHILIPPINE SHIPPERS' COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the pressing need for economic growth requires that Philippine exports be more competitive in the world markets and that the cost of imports and domestic production and consumer prices be rationalized;

WHEREAS, these objectives can be obtained faster by facilitating the movement of goods to, from and within the Philippines at reasonable and stable freight rates and other terms of shipment; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to organize the Philippine shippers into a cohesive group to enable them to promote and protect their common interest and the economy and to negotiate with foreign shipping interests from position of strength for reasonable freight rates and optimum shipping terms;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution as Commander-in-Chief of all the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and pursuant to Proclamation No. 1081, dated September 21, 1972, and General Order No. 1, dated September 22, 1972, as amended, in order to effect the desired changes and reforms in the social, economic and political structure of our society, do hereby order and decree as part of the laws of the land the following:

SECTION 1. *Title.* This Decree shall be known as the Philippine Shippers' Council Decree of 1973.

SEC. 2. *Statement of policy; creation and composition of the Philippine Shippers' Council.* — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to facilitate the development and growth of Philippine foreign trade and the national economy by enhancing the interest of Philippine shippers. For this purpose, a non-stock corporation to be known as the Philippine Shippers' Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, is hereby created which shall be composed of all enterprises regularly engaged in the Philippines in the business of exporting commodities, except those firms with efficient chartering operations which shall be given the option to join as members of the Council, as well as other firms which may, in the general interest, be excluded under rules to be promulgated by the Secretary of Trade and Tourism.

SEC. 3. *Purposes and powers.* — The Philippine Shippers' Council, which shall have its head office in the Greater Manila area, shall have the following purposes and powers:

- a. Promote and protect the common interest of Philippine exporters, importers and other commercial users of water transport, and maintain and foster close cooperation and mutual assistance among them;
- b. Conduct consultations and negotiations, on behalf of the members, with shipping companies, associations of shipping interests, government authorities and other institutions and persons, whether foreign or domestic, in order to secure appropriate vessels for the shipment of their goods, on time and at reasonable rates and other favorable shipping terms;