

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 183, May 29, 2015 ]**

**CREATING A NEGROS ISLAND REGION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 4 of the Constitution provides that the President shall exercise general supervision over local government units;

WHEREAS, the administrative regions were established to promote efficiency in the Government, accelerate social and economic development and improve public services;

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 14 of the Constitution requires the President to provide for regional development councils or other similar bodies for purposes of administrative decentralization to strengthen the autonomy of units therein; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to further accelerate the social and economic development of the cities and municipalities comprising the provinces of Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental and improve the delivery of public services in the aforementioned provinces;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Negros Island Region. The Negros Island Region (NIR) is hereby created. The NIR shall be composed of the following provinces, including the cities, municipalities, and barangays comprising the provinces:

1. Negros Oriental; and
2. Negros Occidental.

SECTION 2. Negros Island Region Technical Working Group (NIR-TWG). A Negros Island Technical Working Group, composed of the Office of the President (OP), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the representatives of the Provinces of Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental, is hereby constituted to form a Technical Working Group (TWG).

The TWG will formulate a Roadmap to put in place the institutional arrangements for the NIR by 2015-2016; recommend to the OP the preferred Regional Center; arrange the requirements for organizational development, staffing, and budgeting of regional line and regulatory agencies, as well as the imperatives for development planning and investment programming.

SECTION 3. Regional Councils. Notwithstanding the activities of the NIR-TWG, the following Regional Councils are hereby constituted and the following government agencies are hereby designated as the interim secretariats: