

[**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 236, September 19, 2003**]

**ESTABLISHING THE HONORS CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES TO
CREATE AN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE OF HONORS CONFERRED
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, sovereign nations confer honors to recognize distinguished achievements, acknowledge the accomplishments and services of patriotic citizens, enhance the prestige of a nation, and promote amity with other nations;

WHEREAS, in the history of the Republic of the Philippines, various awards and decorations have been created in recognition of achievements and distinctions;

WHEREAS, there is a need to rationalize the roster of civil awards and decorations of the Philippines to ensure consistency of criteria in conferring honors, preserve the integrity and prestige thereof, clarify and definitively establish their order of precedence, in conformity with internationally-accepted traditional and protocular norms and practices;

WHEREAS, the issuance of this Executive Order is recommended by the Presidential Assistant for Historical Affairs, with the conformity of and/or in consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of National Defense, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the National Historical Institute;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *The Honors Code.* There is hereby established the "Honors Code of the Philippines" (hereinafter referred to as the "Honors Code") as set out in this Executive Order.

The Honors Code emphasizes the exceptional prestige of the Honors conferred hereunder. Unless otherwise enumerated as Honors within the Order of Precedence established by this Executive Order, all other Presidential Awards, while tangible recognitions of merit and accomplishment, shall not be considered Honors for the purposes of this' Honors Code.

SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* The following terms, as used in this Executive Order, shall be defined as follows:

- a. Order. An Order is an award that grants membership in an exclusive association of honored individuals, and which by tradition carries with it distinctive insignia to be worn by recipients.
- b. Decoration. A Decoration is a wearable award usually conferred for a specific act of meritorious service.

- c. Medal. A Medal is a wearable award usually conferred to recognize service and/or achievement or to commemorate a significant event.

For purposes of this Executive Order, Orders, Decorations and Medals, which are awards of the highest prestige, are collectively referred to as Honors.

- d. Award. An Award is a tangible means of recognizing accomplishment and/or merit, usually in the form of a citation, plaque, trophy or medallion.

SECTION 3. Order of Precedence. Civilian Honors that have been and will be conferred by the Republic of the Philippines are hereby officially ranked by Order of Precedence, to emphasize the relative value, importance and seniority, as well as to enhance the prestige, of such Honors. The Order of Precedence in the Honors Code shall be as follows in descending order:

- II Quezon Service Cross
- Order of Lakandula
- Order of Sikatuna
- Philippine Legion of Honor
- III Order of Gabriela Silang
- IV Order of National Artists
- Order of National Scientists
- Order of National Social Scientists
- Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan*
- V *Gawad Mabini*
- VI Order of the Golden Heart
- VII Presidential Medal of Merit

SECTION 4. Order and Manner of Wear. The Chancellery of Philippine Orders and State Decorations, as created in this Executive Order, shall prescribe the Order and Manner of Wear for all Orders, Decorations, Medals (and/or other Presidential Awards), including those conferred by foreign governments, states, institutions, and/or individuals.

For purposes of this Executive Order, the Order and Manner of Wear shall refer to the prescribed order and manner in which insignia are to be worn, consistent with the Order of Precedence.

SECTION 5. Honors Conferred.

I. Quezon Service Cross (Krus ng Serbisyo ni Quezon) -

Created by Joint Resolution No. 4 dated, October 21, 1946 of the First Congress of the Republic of the Philippines, the Quezon Service Cross is a Decoration conferred by the President of the Philippines with the concurrence of the Congress of the Philippines on Filipino citizens for exemplary service to the nation in such a manner and such a degree as to add great prestige to the Republic of the Philippines, or as to contribute to the lasting benefit of its people.

Nominations for the Quezon Service Cross shall state the services meriting the award and shall be made only in cases where the service performed or contribution made can be measured on the scale established by the national benefaction of the late President Manuel L. Quezon.

II Order of Lakandula (*Orden ni Lakandula*); Order of Sikatuna (*Orden ni Sikatuna*); Philippine Legion of Honor (*Lehiyong Pandangal ng Pilipinas*). -

Order of Lakandula

The Order of Lakandula is an Order of political and civic merit awarded in memory of Lakandula's dedication to the responsibilities of leadership, prudence, fortitude, courage and resolve in the service of one's people.

The Order of Lakandula is conferred upon a Filipino or foreign citizen:

- a. who has demonstrated by his life and deeds a dedication to the welfare of society;
- b. whose life is worthy of emulation by the Filipino people;
- c. for deeds worthy of particular recognition, including suffering materially for the preservation and defense of the democratic way of life and of the territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines, for devoting his life to the peaceful resolution of conflict, or for demonstrating an outstanding dedication to the fostering of mutual understanding, cultural exchange, justice and dignified relations among individuals; or
- d. for acts that have been traditionally recognized by the institution of presidential awards, including meritorious political and civic service.

The Order of Lakandula shall be composed of the following ranks:

Grand Collar (*Supremo*) - Conferred upon an individual who has suffered materially for the preservation and defense of the democratic way of life or of the territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines; or upon a former or incumbent head of State and/or of government

Grand Cross (*Bayani*) - Conferred upon an individual who has devoted his life to the peaceful resolution of conflict; upon an individual whose life is worthy of emulation by the Filipino people; or upon a Crown Prince, Vice President, Senate President, Speaker of the House, Chief Justice or the equivalent, foreign minister or other official of cabinet rank, Ambassador, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing

Grand Officer (*Maringal na Pinuno*) - Conferred upon an individual who has demonstrated a life-long dedication to the political and civic welfare of society; or upon a *Charge d'affaires, e.p.*, Minister, Minister Counselor, Consul General heading a consular post, Executive Director, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing

Commander (*Komandante*) - Conferred upon an individual who has demonstrated exceptional deeds of dedication to the political and civic welfare of society as a whole; or upon a *Charge d'affaires a.i.*, Counselor, First Secretary, Consul General in the consular section of an Embassy, Consular officer with a personal rank higher than Second Secretary, Director, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing

Officer (*Pinuno*) - Conferred upon an individual who has demonstrated

commendable deeds of dedication to the political and civic welfare of society as a whole; or upon a Second Secretary, Consul, Assistant Director, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing

Member (*Kagawad*) - Conferred upon an individual who has demonstrated meritorious deeds of dedication to the political and civic welfare of society as a whole; or upon a Third Secretary, Vice Consul, Attache, Principal Assistant, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing

Order of Sikatuna

Created by Executive Order No. 571 dated February 27, 1953, as amended, in commemoration of the first treaty (*Pacto de Sangre*) between the Philippines and a foreign country, the Order of Sikatuna is an Order of diplomatic merit conferred upon individuals who have rendered exceptional and meritorious services to the Republic of the Philippines, upon diplomats, officials and nationals of foreign states who have rendered conspicuous services in fostering, developing and strengthening relations between their country and the Philippines, or upon personnel of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), both in the Home Office and in the Foreign Service.

The Order of Sikatuna may be awarded by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs in the name and by authority of the President.

The Order of Sikatuna shall be composed of the following ranks:

Grand Collar (*Raja*) - Conferred upon a former or incumbent head of State and/or of government

Grand Cross (*Datu*) - The Grand Cross shall have two (2) distinctions:" (i) Gold (*Katangiang Ginto*) and (ii) Silver (*Katangiang Pilak*). The Grand Cross may be conferred upon a Crown Prince, Vice President, Senate President, Speaker of the House, Chief Justice or the equivalent, foreign minister or other official of cabinet rank, Ambassador, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing

Grand Officer (*Maringal na Lakan*) - Conferred upon a Charge d'affaires, e.p., Minister, Minister Counselor, Consul General heading a consular post, Executive Director, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing

Commander (*Lakan*) - Conferred upon a Charge d'affaires a.i., Counselor, First Secretary, Consul General in the consular section of an Embassy, Consular officer with a personal rank higher than Second Secretary, Director, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing

Officer (*Maginoo*) - Conferred upon a Second Secretary, Consul, Assistant Director, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing

Member (*Maharlika*) - Conferred upon a Third Secretary, Vice Consul, Attache, Principal Assistant, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing

Philippine Legion of Honor

Created by Philippine Army Circular No. 60 dated July 3, 1947, the Philippine Legion of Honor is conferred upon a Filipino or foreign citizen in recognition of valuable and meritorious service in relation to the military affairs of the Republic of the Philippines.

To signify the importance of the civil service in military affairs in the preservation of the honor of the Republic of the Philippines and in nation building, the Philippine Legion of Honor shall henceforth be conferred on the anniversary of the declaration of Philippine Independence.

The Philippine Legion of Honor may be awarded by the Secretary of National Defense in the name and by authority of the President.

The civilian division of the Philippine Legion of Honor shall be composed of the following ranks:

Chief Commander (*Punong Komandante*) - Conferred upon a civilian for life achievement in public service not otherwise qualifying for the Quezon Service Cross; or upon a former or incumbent head of State and/or of government

Grand Commander (*Maringal na Komandante*) - Conferred upon a civilian for singular acts of service with a tangible impact on the Philippine military sphere; or upon a Crown Prince, Vice, President, Senate President, Speaker of the House, Chief Justice or the equivalent, foreign minister or other official of cabinet rank; or upon an Ambassador, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing for life achievement in the military field.

Grand Officer (*Maringal na Pinuno*) - Conferred upon a civilian for acts of exemplary merit benefiting the Republic of the Philippines; or upon a Charge d'affaires, e.p., Minister, Minister Counselor, Consul General heading a consular post, Executive Director, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing

Commander (*Komandante*) - Conferred upon a civilian for acts of conspicuous merit benefiting the Republic of the Philippines; or upon a Charge d'affaires, a.i., Counselor, First Secretary, Consul General in the consular section of ,In Embassy, Consular officer with a personal rank higher than Second Secretary, Director, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing

Officer (*Pinuno*) - Conferred upon a civilian for acts of commendable merit benefiting the Republic of the Philippines; or upon a Second Secretary, Consul, Assistant Director, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing

Legionnaire (*Lehiyonaryo*) - Conferred upon a civilian for acts of merit benefiting the Republic of the Philippines; or upon a Third Secretary, Vice Consul, Attache, Principal Assistant, or other person of a rank similar or equivalent to the foregoing

III. Order of Gabriela Silang Orden ni Gabriela Silang). -

The Order of Gabriela Silang may be conferred upon the spouses of heads of State and/or of government, both Filipino and foreign.