

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 205, January 31, 2000]

PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL HEALTH PLANNING COMMITTEE (NHPC) AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTER-LOCAL HEALTH ZONES (ILHZs) THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall promote and protect the general well-being of the citizenry;

WHEREAS, R.A. 7160, otherwise known as the 1991 Local Government Code mandated for the devolution of the delivery of the health services and facilities as one of the basic functions and responsibilities of all the local government units or LGUs at all levels;

WHEREAS, Sec. 33 of R.A. 7160, further provides that LGUs may "group themselves, consolidate their efforts and services and resources for purposes commonly beneficial to them where they may, upon approval of the sanggunian concerned,... xxx ... under such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon by the participating LGUs through a Memorandum of Agreement";

WHEREAS, through the initiative of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), a "Health Covenant '99" was forged among the above-mentioned stakeholders and participants of the "Governors' Workshop on Health: Partnership for Devolution", held last March 9-10, 1999 at Pasay City, with the main objective of achieving an integrated health care delivery system at the national and local levels by the year 2000, and thereafter;

WHEREAS, based on the Health Covenant, and as agreed upon by the participants of the said Workshop, foremost of the major recommendations specified therein to meet the objectives set forth were as follows: (1) the creation of a National Health Planning Committee (NHPC) to oversee and ensure adherence by all LGUs and concerned stakeholders to appropriate guiding principles and coordinated planning and implementation of a comprehensive and integrated National and Local Health Plans as well as priority programs and projects by all LGUs through their local health boards (LHBs); (2) the establishment of "Inter-Local Health Zones" throughout the country, through Inter-Local Government Cooperation defining their mechanisms, governing structures, powers and functions, and funds and resources, and (3) the reactivation and strengthening by the LGUs of their respective Local Health Boards (LHBs).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue vested in me by the Constitution and the laws, do hereby order:

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State that full and integrated delivery and development of health care services throughout the country must be promoted, encouraged, and ensured, especially for the poor and marginalized sectors of society. Towards this end, the State shall provide for the participation and active involvement and collaboration of all local government units (LGUs) together with the major stakeholders, particularly with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) with the main objective of achieving an integrated health care delivery system at the national and local levels by the year 2000 and thereafter.

Section 2. Organization of the National Health Planning Committee (NHPC).

The National Health Planning Committee, herein referred to as NHPC, is hereby constituted to serve as the overall coordinating body to oversee and ensure adherence by all LGUs and concerned stakeholders to appropriate guiding principles and coordinated planning and implementation of a comprehensive and integrated National and Local Health Plans and priority programs and projects by all LGUs through their local health boards (LHBs).

Section 3. NHPC Composition. Within one (1) month after the approval of this Executive Order, the NHPC shall be convened and composed of the following:

1. Secretary of the DOH	Chairman
2. Secretary of DILG	Co-Chairman
3. National President of the League of Provinces	Vice-Chairman
4. Executive Secretary	Ex-Officio Member
5. Chairman of Senate Committee on Health	Ex-Officio Member
6. Chairman of House Committee on Health	Ex-Officio Member
7. Secretary of the DBM	Member
8. Two (2) representatives from the private sector	Members

A Secretariat shall be organized to provide support to the NHPC. The DOH Secretary shall designate his Undersecretary to act as head of the NHPC Secretariat. The members of the Secretariat shall be composed of the following: Official representatives from the DOH, DILG, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), League of Cities, League of Municipalities and Liga ng mga Barangay.

Section 4. NHPC Functions. Aside from the main responsibilities of the NHPC mentioned under Sec. 3 hereof, it is likewise expected to perform the following specific functions:

1. Ensure and sustain the agreements reached during the "Governors' Workshop for Health" held last March 9-10, 1999, especially the recommendations specified under the "Health Covenant '99", as well as in the workshop outputs, which are both made an integral part of this Executive Order;
2. Promote policies, programs and projects on health to enhance local autonomy in planning and implementing an integrated health care delivery system and