

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 308, October 31, 2000]

ACCELERATING THE PRIVATIZATION OF THE NORTH HARBOR

WHEREAS, the state recognizes the need to privatize and modernize the North Harbor so as to improve its ability to service its users efficiently and to help it attain world-class efficiency;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is mandated by Section 2, Paragraphs (a) & (b) of its Charter, Presidential Decree No. 857, as amended, to optimize port financing and development and to ensure the smooth flow of waterborne commerce passing through the country's ports;

WHEREAS, privatization of the North Harbor will free-up the PPA from the day to day management of the harbor and allow it to set its sites on aggressively developing the country's outports as provided for by Section 2 Paragraphs (c) & (e) of its Charter, Presidential Decree No. 857, as amended;

WHEREAS, in order to maximize the benefits of privatization there should be many bidders; the bidding process should be transparent; and the Terms of Reference should include clear commitments, in terms of deliverables, to modernize the North Harbor;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Republic of the Philippines by virtue of the power vested upon me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Department of Transportation and Communication, through the PPA, to expedite the bidding of the North Harbor and encourage the participation of many bidders by:

- a. Splitting the North Harbor into two packages – the first package to include Slip 0, Piers 2 to 12, while the second package will include Piers 14, 16 & the Vet Yard.
- b. To include in the bidding one strategic port in Mindanao;
- c. To include gantry cranes at all relevant piers in the Terms of the bidding process and such other commitments necessary to ensure the development of modern terminal facilities;
- d. To appoint an independent Watchdog composed of members of the private sector endorsed by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and who represent users of the North Harbor to oversee the privatization and bidding process of the PPA.