

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12, August 15, 1992]

**PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
COMMISSION TO FIGHT POVERTY**

WHEREAS, mass poverty is the principal problem confronting the nation today, underpinning many national problems and challenges and affecting the great majority of the population;

WHEREAS, the Constitution explicitly mandates in its declaration of principles and state policies that "the State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will . . . free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

WHEREAS, there is a need to formulate a comprehensive program to address the poverty problem and design innovative ways to solve it;

WHEREAS, the government has committed itself to measurable targets and accomplishments in combatting the poverty problem;

WHEREAS, there is a need for well organized interventions that will empower the poor so that they can exercise a more vital role in their development and in the formulation of public policy;

WHEREAS, there is a need for a body which shall gather under one umbrella all government activities designed to help our poor households and communities to catch up with more progressive ones;

WHEREAS, to address poverty, the body should undertake three main types of intervention: ensure the delivery of basic social services to the poorest communities and to make sure that every poor family has a decent minimum of health, nutrition, housing and education; ensure that the poor gain access to agrarian reform, skills training and extension services that will open livelihood opportunities and jobs to them; help poor communities organize cooperatively - to empower them to take a greater role in their development and to make their voices heard in the making of public policy;

WHEREAS, efficient intervention requires ensuring access to and ownership of resources and capability building.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the sovereign will of the Filipino people and the powers vested in me by laws of the land, do hereby order:

Section 1. The Commission. — There is hereby created under the Office of the