

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 121, January 30, 1987]

**REORGANIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE
STATISTICAL SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

RECALLING that the reorganization of the government is mandated expressly in Article II, Section 1 (a), and Article III of the Freedom Constitution;

HAVING IN MIND that, pursuant to Executive Order No. 5 (1986), there is a need to effect the necessary and proper changes in the organizational and functional structures of the government, its agencies and instrumentalities, in order to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of public services;

BELIEVING that the present Philippine Statistical System is too decentralized, being characterized by a single general-purpose statistical agency, a number of agencies in the production of specialized statistics and other instrumentalities involved in statistical activities either as their primary functions or as part of their administrative or regulatory functions;

REALIZING that the absence of a strong coordinating mechanism has given rise to the problems of duplication of activities, conflicting statistics, data gaps as well as unnecessary burden on respondents;

CONSIDERING that the government needs to rationalize the allocation of resources for the collection of statistics;

TAKING NOTE that the quality of statistical services is affected by the limited number of qualified statistical workers;

CONVINCED that there is a need to maintain a decentralized system characterized by independence, objectivity and integrity to make it more responsive to the requirements of national development;

CONVINCED further that there is also a need for a stronger mechanism to coordinate the decentralized government statistical service in order to promote the orderly development of a system capable of providing timely, accurate and useful data for the government and the public, especially for planning and decision-making;

AFFIRMING that there is a need to ensure the development and maintenance of high-level statistical manpower in the government;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CORAZON C. AQUINO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the sovereign will of the Filipino People and the Freedom Constitution, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Executive Order shall otherwise be known as the Reorganization Act of the Philippine Statistical System.

SEC. 2. *Reorganization.* – The Philippine Statistical System, hereinafter referred to as PSS, is hereby reorganized, structurally and functionally, in accordance with the provisions of this Executive Order.

SEC. 3. *Philippine Statistical System.* – The PSS shall consist of statistical organizations at all administrative levels, the personnel therein and the national statistical program. This includes a policy-making, and coordinating body, a statistical research and training, center, a single general purpose statistical agency, all industries, bureaus, of offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the national and local government and all government-owned or controlled corporations and their subsidiaries that are engaged in statistical activities either as their primary functions or as part of their administrative or regulatory functions. The PSS shall remain decentralized with a strong coordination feature to be achieved through closer linkage between statistical programming and budgeting.

SEC. 4. *National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).* – There is hereby created National Statistical Coordination Board hereinafter referred to as NSCB, which shall be the highest policy-making and coordinating body on statistical matters. The NSCB, shall be composed of the following: the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director-General or his/her designated representative as Chairman; the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Budget and Management (MBM), as Vice-Chairman; one representative each from the remaining Ministries with the rank of Deputy Minister; the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank; the Administrator of the National Statistics Office; the Secretary General of the NSCB; the Director of the Statistical Research and Training Center; the Governor or City Mayor nominated by the League of Governors and City Mayors; and a member from the private sector to be elected by other members of the Board who shall sit in the Board for a period of three years, as members.

The decisions of the NSCB on statistical matters shall be final and executory.

SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions.* – The NSCB shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Promote and maintain an efficient statistical system in the government;
- (b) Formulate policies on all matters relating to government statistical operations;
- (c) Recommend executive and legislative measures to enhance the development and efficiency of the system, including the internal structure of statistical agencies;
- (d) Establish appropriate mechanism for statistical coordination at the regional, provincial and city levels;
- (e) Approve the Philippine Statistical Development Program;
- (f) Allocate statistical responsibilities among government

agencies by designating the statistics to be collected by them, including their periodicity and content;

- (g) Review budgetary proposals involving statistical operations and submit an integrated budget for the PSS to the MBM;
- (h) Review and clear, prior to release, all funds for statistical operations;
- (i) Develop, prescribe, and maintain appropriate framework for the improvement of statistical coordination;
- (j) Prescribe uniform standards and classification systems in government statistics;

The NSCB shall not engage directly in any basic data collection activity.

SEC. 6. *NSCB Technical Staff.* – The NSCB shall have a Technical Staff which shall perform the following functions:

- (a) Provide technical and secretarial support to the NSCB;
- (b) Serve as the statistical clearing house and liaison for international statistical matters;
- (c) Perform other functions as may be assigned by the NSCB and as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Executive Order.

SEC. 7. *Secretary General.* – The NSCB Technical Staff shall be headed by a Secretary General with the rank of Deputy Minister, who shall be appointed by the President, and is of proven competence and recognized stature in the statistical profession.

SEC. 8. *Inter-Agency Committee on Statistics.* – The NSCB may create inter-agency committees (IAC) to assist it in the exercise of its functions.

SEC. 9. *The National Statistics Office.* – The National Census and Statistics Office is hereby renamed the National Statistics Office (NSO). It shall be the major statistical agency responsible for generating general purpose statistics and undertaking such censuses and surveys as may be designated by the NSCB.

The NSO shall be headed by an Administrator with the rank of Deputy Minister, who shall be appointed by the President, and is of recognized stature and proven competence in the field of statistics.

SEC. 10. *The Statistical Research and Training Center.* – There is hereby created a Statistical Research and Training Center, hereinafter referred to as SRTC, which shall have the following functions:

- (a) Develop a comprehensive and integrated research and training program on the theories, concepts and

- methodologies for the promotion of the statistical system;
- (b) Undertake research on statistical concepts, definitions and methods;
 - (c) Promote collaborative research efforts among members of the academic community, data producers and users;
 - (d) Conduct non-degree training programs to upgrade the quality of statistical personnel and expand the statistical manpower base in support of the needs of the statistical system;
 - (e) Provide financial and other forms of assistance to enhance statistical research and development.

SEC. 11. *SRTC Governing Board.* – The SRTC shall have a Governing Board that shall formulate policies for its management and operations. The Secretary General of the NSCB shall be the Chairman of the SRTC Governing Board, with the following as members: Administrator of the National Statistics Office; Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics; Dean of the University of the Philippines Statistical Center; Executive Director of the Philippine Social Science Council; a representative of the NEDA and the Director of the SRTC as ex-officio member.

SEC. 12. *SRTC Executive Director.* – The SRTC shall have an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the SRTC Governing Board. He shall receive such salary and remuneration as may be determined by the SRTC Governing Board.

SEC. 13. *SRTC Endowment Fund.* – There is hereby established an SRTC Endowment Fund which shall consist of contributions, donations, bequests, grants and loans from domestic and/or foreign sources government appropriations and other incomes accruing from the operations of SRTC, which Fund is to finance the carrying out of Subsection (a) to (e) of the preceding Section 10. There is hereby appropriated out of any fund in the National Treasury or other sources not otherwise appropriated the sum of SEVEN MILLION PESOS (₱7,000,000.00) as the initial contribution of the government to the Endowment Fund.

SEC. 14. *SRTC Initial Operating Fund.* – There is hereby appropriated and programmed for immediate release out of any unappropriated balances in the National Treasury or other sources the amount of THREE MILLION PESOS (₱3,000,000.00) as the initial operating fund of the SRTC.

SEC. 15. *Other Statistical Agencies.* – Unless otherwise provided for in this Executive Order or modified by the NSCB pursuant to its herein authority, all offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the government including government-owned or controlled corporations and their subsidiaries engaged in the production of specialized statistics or otherwise involved in statistical activities either as their primary function or as part of their administrative or regulatory functions, shall continue to discharge such statistical functions in accordance with the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 16. *Designated Statistics.* – The NSCB shall designate statistics that should be collected, compiled, processed and disseminated by agencies in accordance with the statistical calendar approved by the NSCB. It shall promulgate and implement the