

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 192, June 10, 1987 ]**

**PROVIDING FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, RENAMING IT AS THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 131, dated January 30, 1987, was suspended;

WHEREAS, a policy having been reached on energy, the reorganization of the Department of Natural Resources can now be effected;

WHEREAS, the environment will be affected by the use, development, management, renewal and conservation of the country's natural resources;

WHEREAS, there is a need to protect and enhance the quality of the country's natural resources;

WHEREAS, to attain this objective, environmental concerns and natural resources concern should be given equal attention by the Department;

WHEREAS, under Article XVIII, Section 6, of the 1987 Constitution, the President shall continue to exercise legislative powers until the First Congress is convened;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CORAZON C. AQUINO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Executive Order shall otherwise be known as the Reorganization Act of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

SEC. 2. *Reorganization.* – The Department of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources is hereby reorganized structurally and functionally and renamed as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, hereinafter referred to as Department, in accordance with the provisions of this Executive Order.

SEC. 3. *Declaration of Policy.* – it is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the sustainable use, development, management, renewal, and conservation of the country's other natural resources, including the protection and enhancement of the quality of the environment, and equitable access of the different segments of the population to the development and use of the country's natural resources, not only for the present generation but for future generations as well. It is also the policy of the state to recognize and apply a true value system including social and environmental cost implications relative to their utilization, development and conservation of our natural resources.

SEC. 4. *Mandate.* – The Department shall be the primary government agency

responsible for the conservation, management, development and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources, specifically forest and grazing lands, mineral resources, including those in reservation and watershed areas, and lands of the public domain, as well as the licensing and regulations of all natural resources as may be provided for by law in order to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits derived therefrom for the welfare of the present and future generations of Filipinos.

To accomplish its mandate, the Department shall be guided by the following objectives that will serve as basis for policy formulation:

- (a) Assure the availability and sustainability of the country's natural resources through judicious use and systematic restoration or replacement, whenever possible;
- (b) Increase the productivity of natural resources in order to meet the demands for forest, mineral, and land resources of a growing population;
- (c) Enhance the contribution of natural resources for achieving national economic and social development;
- (d) Promote equitable access to natural resources by the different sectors of the population;
- (e) Conserve specific terrestrial and marine areas representative of the Philippines natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations.

SEC. 5. *Power and Functions.* – To accomplish its mandate, the Department shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Advise the President on the enactment of laws, relative to the development, use, regulation, and conservation of the country's natural resources and the control of pollution;
- (b) Formulate, implement, and supervise the government's policies, plans and programs pertaining to the management, conservation, development, use and replenishment of the country's natural resources;
- (c) Promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with law governing the exploration, development, conservation, extraction, disposition, use and such other commercial activities tending to cause the depletion and degradation of our natural resources;
- (d) Exercise supervision and control over forest lands, alienable and disposable lands, and mineral resources and in the process of exercising such control the Department shall impose appropriate payments, fees, charges, rentals and any such form of levy and collect such revenues for the exploration, development, utilization or gathering of such revenues;

- (e) Undertake exploration, assessment, classification and inventory of the country's natural resources using ground survey's remote sensing and complementary technologies;
- (f) Promote proper and mutual consultation with the private sector involving natural resources development, use and conservation;
- (g) Undertake geological surveys of the whole country including its territorial waters;
- (h) Establish policies and implement programs for the:
  - (1) Accelerated inventory, surveys and classification of lands, forest, and mineral resources using appropriate technology, to be able to come up with a more accurate assessment of resource quality and quantity;
  - (2) Equitable distribution of natural resources through the judicious administration, regulation, utilization, development and conservation of public lands, forest, and mineral resources (including mineral reservation areas), that would benefit a greater number of Filipinos;
  - (3) Promotion, development and expansion of natural resource-based industries;
  - (4) Preservation of cultural and natural heritage through wildlife conservation and segregation of natural parks and other protected areas;
  - (5) Maintenance of a wholesome natural environment by enforcing environment protection laws; and
  - (6) Encouragement of greater people participation and private initiative resource management.
- (i) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to:
  - (1) Accelerate cadastral and emancipation patent surveys, land use planning and public titling;
  - (2) Harness forest resources in a sustainable manner, to assist rural development, support forest-based industries, and provide raw materials to meet increasing demands, at the same time keeping adequate reserves for environmental stability; and
  - (3) Expedite mineral resources surveys, promote the production of metallic and non-metallic minerals and encourage mineral marketing.
- (j) Regulate the development, disposition, extraction, exploration and use of the country's forest, land and mineral

resources;

- (k) Assume responsibility for the assessment, development, protection, conservation, licensing and regulation as provided for by law, where applicable, of all natural resources; the regulation and monitoring of service contractors, licensees, lessees, and permittees for the extraction, exploration, development and utilization of natural resource products; the implementation of programs and measures with the end in view of promoting close collaboration between the government and the private sector; the effective and efficient classification and sub-classification of lands of the public domain; and the enforcement of natural resources laws, rules and regulations;
- (l) Promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines on the issuance of co-production, joint venture or production sharing agreements, licenses, permits, concessions, leases and such other privileges and arrangement concerning the development, exploration and utilization of the country's natural resources and shall continue to oversee, supervise and police our natural resources; to cancel or cause to cancel such privileges and arrangements upon failure, non-compliance or violations of any regulations, orders, and for all other causes which are in furtherance of the conservation of natural resources and supportive of the national interests;
- (m) Exercise exclusive jurisdiction on the management and disposition of all lands of the public domain and shall continue to be the sole agency responsible for classification, sub-classifications, surveying and titling of lands in consultation with appropriate agencies.
- (n) Implement measures for the regulation and supervision, of the processing of forest products, grading and inspection of lumber and other forest products and monitoring of the movement of timber and other forest products;
- (o) Promulgate rules and regulations for the control of water, air and land pollution;
- (p) Promulgate ambient and effluent standards for water and air quality including the allowable levels of other pollutants and radiations;
- (q) Promulgate policies, rules and regulations for the conservation of the country's genetic resources and biological diversity, and endangered habitats;
- (r) Formulate an integrated, multi-sectoral, and multi-disciplinary National Conservation Strategy, which will be presented to the Cabinet for the President's approval;
- (s) Exercise other powers and functions and perform such other

acts as may be necessary, proper or incidental to the attainment of its mandates and objectives.

SEC. 6. *Structural Organization.* – The Department shall consist of the Department Proper, the staff offices, the staff bureaus and the regional/provincial/community natural resources offices.

The Department Proper shall consist of the following:

- (a) Office of the Secretary
- (b) Offices of Undersecretaries
- (c) Offices of Assistant Secretaries
- (d) Public Affairs Office
- (e) Special Concerns Office
- (f) Pollution Adjudication Board

The staff sectoral bureaus on the other hand, shall be composed of:

- (a) Forest Management Bureau
- (b) Lands Management Bureau
- (c) Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau
- (d) Environmental Management Bureau
- (e) Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
- (f) Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau

The field offices shall consist of all the department regional offices, the provincial offices and the community offices.

SEC. 7. *Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources.* – The authority and responsibility for the exercise of the mandate of the Department, the accomplishment of its objectives and the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, hereinafter referred to as Secretary, who shall supervise the Department and shall be appointed by the President. For such purposes, the Secretary shall have the following functions:

- (a) Advise the President on the promulgation of rules and regulations and other issuances relative to the conservation, management, development and proper use of the country's natural resources;
- (b) Establish policies and standards for the efficient and effective operations of the Department in accordance with the