

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 297, July 25, 1987]

**REORGANIZATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY
PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order No. 5 (1986), it is directed that necessary and proper changes in the organizational and functional structures of the government, its agencies and instrumentalities, be effected in order to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of public services;

WHEREAS, there exists a vital need to create awareness and inform the public about the actions of government and the national leadership in its task of rebuilding a strong and dynamic nation;

WHEREAS, the national leadership, which has committed to the ideals of press freedom, has seen fit not to abdicate its share of voice in the formulation of public opinion;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the national leadership to provide true and correct information to the public and to utilize and consolidate as much of its information resources as possible to ensure an effective and efficient information role;

WHEREAS, realizing that the Office of the Press Secretary was precisely created by Memorandum Order No. 32, dated September 1, 1986 and Executive Order No. 92, dated December 17, 1986, to ensure that the government's point of view is communicated to the public especially on issues affecting the nation's welfare, it is necessary that the mandate, powers and functions of this Office be redefined to avoid overlapping and to fix responsibilities therein;

WHEREAS, Article XVIII, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution recognizes that the reorganization of the government shall be continued even after the ratification of the Constitution;

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* This Executive Order shall otherwise be known as the Reorganization Act of the Office of the Press Secretary.

SEC. 2. *Reorganization.* The Office of the Press Secretary hereinafter referred to as Office, is hereby reorganized, structurally and functionally, in accordance with the

provisions of this Executive Order.

SEC. 3. *Declaration of Policy.* The Office of the Press Secretary shall be the primary policy, planning, programming, and coordinating entity for the conduct of a relevant and effective information and communication management program that will present the activities, policies, and directions of the Presidency and the Government.

SEC. 4. *Mandate.* The primary functions of the Office shall be the formulation and implementation of an integrated program of information and developmental communication that will present the work of the Presidency, develop public understanding of activities, policies and enhance public trust and support at the national, regional, barrio, and barangay level.

SEC. 5. *Functions.* The Office of the Press Secretary shall perform the following functions:

1. Provide information to the public utilizing all government media services under its control;
2. Coordinate the functions of its absorbed offices for the purpose of providing government with its "share of voice" in the free mass media environment;
3. Administer the functions and support services needed to fulfill its responsibilities;
4. Develop, propose, and implement necessary policy guidelines and mechanisms pertinent to its main functions of speaking on behalf of the government and the national leadership;
5. Rationalize a viable and manageable government-owned information structure that will provide the government and the national leadership with instantaneous access to the people;
6. Develop and manage a feedback mechanism that shall provide the people a venue to contribute to the creation of policies affecting them;
7. Organize and maintain field offices where necessary, domestically and internationally, to ensure that government information reaches the intended target audiences;
8. Maintain and operate such media facilities as is necessary, to strengthen its capabilities for information delivery through print, broadcast, electronic, and other special media vehicles.

SEC. 6. *Structural Organization.* The Office, aside from the Office Proper, shall consist of Bureaus.

SEC. 7. *Office Proper.* The Office Proper shall consist of the following units:

1. Office of the Press Secretary
2. Offices of the Undersecretaries
3. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Finance
4. Administrative Service
5. Financial and Management Service
6. Media Research and Development Staff

SEC. 8. *Press Secretary.* The authority and responsibility for the exercise of the powers and the discharge of functions of the Office shall have the rank of a Cabinet member, with all the rights and privileges appurtenant thereto, and who shall be appointed by the President.

SEC. 9. *Functions of the Press Secretary.* The functions of the Press Secretary shall be as follows:

1. Act as the Presidential Spokesman and attend to the information needs of the President;
2. Provide information regarding the plans, programs, and activities of the President to the public;
3. Maintain liaison and close coordination with government departments and agencies involved in preparing and planning the activities of the President;
4. Prepare and develop communication programs on the policies, activities, and programs of the Presidency;
5. Coordinate with the various media, both local and foreign, in disseminating information regarding the affairs of the Presidency;
6. Assume full responsibility for the accomplishment of the Office's objectives and operations;
7. Establish the policies and standards for the operation of the Office pursuant to the programs of the Government and the President;
8. Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement Office objectives, policies and functions;
9. Exercise direct supervision and control over all offices and units under the Office;
10. Delegate authority for the performance of any function to officers and employees under his direction; and

11. Perform such other functions as may be provided by law or as may be assigned by the President.

SEC. 10. *Office of the Press Secretary.* The Office of the Press Secretary shall be composed of the Secretary and his immediate staff.

SEC. 11. *Undersecretaries.* The Press Secretary shall be assisted by two (2) Undersecretaries who shall also be appointed by the President, upon the recommendation of the Secretary, and whose respective functional areas of responsibility shall be determined by the Press Secretary;

SEC. 12. *Functions of the Undersecretaries.* The functions of the Undersecretaries shall be as follows:

1. Assist the Press Secretary in the formulation and implementation of Office objectives and policies;
2. Oversee operational activities of the Office for which he shall be responsible to the Press Secretary;
3. Coordinate the programs and projects of the Office, and be responsible for its economical, efficient, and effective administration;
4. Serve as deputy to the Press Secretary in all matters relating to the operations of the Office;
5. Perform such other functions as may be provided by law or as may be directed by the Press Secretary.

SEC. 13. *Reorganized and Merged Agencies.* The following agencies in the Office of the Press Secretary are hereby reorganized:

1. The Bureau of Broadcasts and Radyo Ng Bayan are hereby merged into the Bureau of Broadcast Services.
2. The Presidential Press Staff and the sub-offices under it, Philippine News Agency and its national offices, and the International Press Center are hereby merged into the News and Information Bureau.
3. The Bureau of National and Foreign Information is hereby reorganized and renamed as the Bureau of Communications Services.

SEC. 14. *Attached Agencies.* The Presidential Broadcast Staff (RTVM), which is hereby created, is hereby attached to the Office of the Press Secretary. The People's Television 4 and its affiliate stations are hereby attached as separate concerns to the Office of the Press Secretary.

SEC. 15. *The Bureau of Broadcast Services.* The Bureau of Broadcast Services shall be responsible for providing broadcast information on the activities, policies, and directions of the Government and the Presidency, thru the use of broadcast media throughout the country.