

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 220, July 15, 1987]

**CREATING A CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 1, Article X of the 1987 Constitution, there shall be created an autonomous region in the Cordilleras;

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article X of the Constitution provides that the autonomous region in the Cordilleras shall consist of provinces, cities, municipalities and geographical areas sharing common and distinctive historical and cultural heritage, economic and social structures, and other relevant characteristics within the framework of the Constitution and the national sovereignty as well as territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 6, Article XVIII of the Constitution, the President has the power to continue to exercise legislative powers until the first Congress is convened;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 14, Article X of the Constitution, the President shall provide for regional development councils or other similar bodies composed of local government officials, regional heads of departments and other government offices, and representatives from non-governmental organizations within the regions for purposes of administrative decentralization to strengthen the autonomy of the units therein and to accelerate the economic and social growth and development of the units in the region;

WHEREAS, the incumbent President is sympathetic to the common desire or the peoples of the Cordilleras to be immediately granted meaningful participation in the conduct of their affairs, in order to enable them to prepare for regional autonomy;

WHEREAS, the constitutional mandate for the creation of an autonomous region in the Cordilleras has been preceded by the movement for local autonomy and administrative decentralization before and since the period of authoritarian rule (September 1972 - February 1986), as manifested by the work of the 1971, Constitutional Convention, the 1976 resolution of governors and other leaders from the Cordilleras, and finally the regional autonomy representations at the 1986 Constitutional Commission;

WHEREAS, on September 13, 1986, the President of the Philippines met with the representatives of the Cordillera Bodong Administration and the Cordillera People's Liberation Army, presided over the alasiw (exchange of peace tokens) to signify the sipat (cessation of hostilities), and acknowledged their aspirations for Cordillera autonomy;

WHEREAS, the immediate creation of a Cordillera Administrative Region is a sound

and reasonable measure by which the peoples of the Cordilleras can immediately participate in the pursuit of peace and development and enjoy the benefits thereof;

WHEREAS, the Constitution envisions the building of a just and humane society, and the National Government is pursuing the goals of national reconciliation, peace, and development in the country;

WHEREAS, pending the convening of the first Congress and the enactment of the organic act for a Cordillera autonomous region, there is an urgent need, in the interest of national security and public order, for the President to reorganize immediately the existing administrative structure in the Cordilleras to suit it to the existing political realities therein and the Government's legitimate concerns in the areas, without attempting to pre-empt the constitutional duty of the first Congress to undertake the creation of an autonomous region on a permanent basis;

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

SECTION 1. *Cordillera Administrative Region.* - There is hereby created a Cordillera Administrative Region, hereinafter referred to as the CAR.

SEC. 2. *Territorial Coverage.* - For purposes of the CAR, the region shall consist of the provinces of Abra, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga-Apayao and Mt. Province and the chartered city of Baguio. Until otherwise provided by the Cordillera Executive Board (CEB), the seat of the CAR shall be Baguio City. The National Government shall provide appropriate offices therefor.

SEC. 3. *Purposes.* - The CAR shall have the following purposes:

- (a) Administer the affairs of government in the region as defined in Section 4 and 5 below;
- (b) Accelerate the economic and social growth and development of the units of the region; and
- (c) Prepare for the establishment of the autonomous region in the Cordilleras.

SEC. 4. *Scope of Authority and Responsibility.* - The CAR shall have the authority and responsibility in the region over the following:

- (a) Regional administrative system;
- (b) Economic, social and cultural development;
- (c) Agricultural, commercial and industrial development and promotion or tourism;
- (d) Infrastructure development;
- (e) Urban and rural development, protection of ancestral domain and land reform;
- (f) Regional educational system, including the establishment

and maintenance of educational institution and the formulation of educational policies to cultivate the indigenous Cordillera cultures and inculcate traditional values;

- (g) Health, sports, welfare and social services;
- (h) Development of indigenous laws and political institutions, particularly those of direct democracy and collective leadership, as well as the promotion of indigenous institutions and processes for conflict resolution and dispute settlement;
- (i) Preservation and enhancement of indigenous customs, traditions, languages and cultures;
- (j) Strengthening of the *bodong* system of tribal unity and cooperation;
- (k) Protection and preservation of the cultural identity, values, mores and norms of the various ethno-linguistic groups in the Cordilleras;
- (l) Promotion of social justice and protection of human rights, particularly the rights of women, children, the elderly and disadvantaged groups, as well as the rights of people's organizations; and
- (m) Such other matters as may be authorized by law or delegated by the President for the promotion of the general welfare.

SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions.* - The CAR shall coordinate the planning and implementation of programs and services in the areas enumerated in Section 4. Accordingly, it shall be vested with, among others, the following powers and functions:

- (a) Coordinate with the local government units as well as with the executive departments of the National Government in the supervision of field offices and in identifying, planning, monitoring, and accepting projects and activities in the region;
- (b) Appoint, supervise, control and discipline personnel of the CAR and of such other offices as may be funded by it;
- (c) Manage and control funds, facilities and equipment appropriated for the CAR;
- (d) Advise the National Government on matters affecting the Cordilleras;
- (e) Undertake studies towards codifying the customary laws of the tribes, including the *pagtas* of the *bodong* system; and

- (f) Promulgate and implement resolutions, rules and regulations necessary to achieve effectively the purposes of this Executive Order and to carry out the powers and functions of the CAR.

SEC. 6. *Peace and Regional Security.* - Within the framework of the Constitution and applicable laws, the restoration and maintenance of peace within the region shall be a major concern of the CAR.

A regional security force shall be organized to assist in the defense and security of the region subject to guidelines issued for this purpose by the President after consultations with the CAR, other organizations, and appropriate agencies of the Government.

The defense and security of the region shall be the responsibility of the National Government.

SEC. 7. *Structure of the CAR.* - The CAR shall have a Cordillera Regional Assembly and a Cordillera Executive Board.

SEC. 8. *The Cordillera Regional Assembly.* - Within the framework of the Constitution, laws and policies of the National Government, the Cordillera Regional Assembly shall be the policy-formulating body which shall articulate and harmonize the interests and aspirations of the peoples of the Cordilleras. It shall be composed of not more than two hundred fifty (250) representatives to be appointed according to the following guidelines:

- (a) Each municipality shall have one (1) representative;
- (b) Baguio City shall have ten (10) representatives;
- (c) The non-governmental organizations shall be entitled to a total of eighteen (18) representatives twelve (12) of whom shall come from the major non-governmental organizations in the region to be determined according to the size of their membership and six (6) from province based non-governmental organizations;
- (d) Each tribe shall send to the Assembly one (1) representative.

Tribal representatives shall be chosen by the tribes in a manner consonant with the Constitution and in harmony with the indigenous decision-making processes in the Cordilleras.

The Assembly shall be headed by a Chairman who shall be appointed by the President from among its members. The Chairman shall be the titular head of the CAR.

The President shall also appoint members from non-governmental organizations as well as representatives of the municipalities and of Baguio City upon nominations of their respective municipal and city councils.