

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 708, July 27, 1981]

**REORGANIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CREATING
THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER PURSUANT TO THE 1981
AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

WHEREAS, the Filipino people have ratified through a plebiscite held on April 7, 1981 the amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, there is a need to institute substantive changes at the highest level of the executive structure of the government to conform with the aforesaid constitutional amendments;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to delineate and clarify the functions and relationships of critical positions and units at the highest level of the executive structure of the government for more efficient administration of the government's policies and programs;

WHEREAS, under Presidential Decree No. 830, the President is specifically granted continuing authority to reorganize his Office; and

WHEREAS, under Presidential Decree No. 1416 as amended, the President is empowered to undertake such organizational and related improvements as may be appropriate in the light of changing circumstances and new developments.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the authority vested in me by Presidential Decree No. 830 and Presidential Decree No. 1416 as amended, do hereby order and ordain:

A. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SECTION 1. The Office of the President shall consist of the Private Offices, the system of Presidential Assistants, the Presidential Advisers, and the Presidential Security Command. In addition, the agencies and other entities under the Office of the President are those enumerated in Sections 7 to 10 hereof.

SECTION 2. The Private Offices shall include the Private Secretary's Office, Social Secretary's Office, Malacañang Household Office, and Presidential Museum.

SECTION 3. The system of Presidential Assistants shall be headed by a Presidential Executive Assistant assisted by such Deputy Presidential Executive Assistants and other subordinate Presidential Assistants as may be necessary. It shall also include the following units:

- (1) Administrative Office
- (2) Finance Office
- (3) Legal Office
- (4) Malacañang Clinic
- (5) Malacañang Public Assistance Center
- (6) Presidential Appointments Office
- (7) Presidential Management Staff
- (8) Protocol Office
- (9) Presidential Documents Office
- (10) Political Affairs Office
- (11) Engineer's Office

The Administrative Office shall be organized from existing components, including applicable personnel, of the Administrative Office, Accounting Office, and Records Office of the present Office of the President.

The Finance Office and the Legal Office shall be organized from existing components, including applicable personnel, of the Finance Office and the Legal Office, respectively, of the present Office of the President.

The Malacañang Public Assistance Center shall be created from the merger of the present Complaints and Investigation Office and the Malacañang Assistance Center.

The other units above-mentioned shall consist of the same units in the present Office of the President.

The President may create such additional units in the Office of the President as he may deem necessary.

SECTION 4. There shall be a Presidential Executive Assistant, with the rank of minister, who shall coordinate and supervise the system of Presidential Assistants under him as provided for in Section 3; serve as the administrative link between the Office of the President and the various other offices of the Government; and perform such other functions as the President may direct. The Presidential Executive Assistant shall prepare and submit to the President for approval the system of administrative relationships within the Office of the President.

SECTION 5. The Presidential Advisers shall provide direct or personal advisory or consultative services to the President in such fields and under such conditions as the President may determine.

SECTION 6. The Presidential Security Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines shall provide for the security of the President and his family, his Office, and perform other related duties. The Presidential Security Command shall include the Presidential Aides Office, Presidential Security Unit, Provost Marshal's Office, Malacañang Command Center and the General Communications Support Unit.

SECTION 7. The following bodies and entities shall continue to be under the chairmanship of the President:

- (1) Council of Leaders
- (2) Foreign Policy Council
- (3) General Military Council

- (4) National Security Council
- (5) National Economic and Development Authority
- (6) Special Presidential Reorganization Committee

SECTION 8. The following entities shall continue to be directly under the President:

- (1) National Intelligence and Security Authority
- (2) Office of the Presidential Assistant on National Minorities
- (3) President's Center for Special Studies
- (4) Presidential Commission on Reorganization

SECTION 9. The following entities shall continue to be under the administrative supervision of the Office of the President:

- (1) Board of Energy
- (2) National Manpower and Youth Council
- (3) Philippine Racing Commission
- (4) Task Force Anti-Gambling
- (5) National Computer Center
- (6) National Cartographic Authority
- (7) Central Tender Board
- (8) Games and Amusements Board

SECTION 10. The following entities shall continue to be attached to the Office of the President:

- (1) Central Bank of the Philippines
- (2) Pambansang Katipunan ng Kabataang Barangay ng Pilipinas
- (3) Philippine Coconut Authority
- (4) Philippine Sugar Commission

SECTION 11. The President shall exercise all the powers and functions as provided for by the Constitution. Specifically, he shall be the head of state and chief executive of the Republic, and shall have control of the ministries. In addition, in accordance with applicable laws, the President shall have the following powers and functions:

A. Powers and Functions as Head of State

1. Enter into contracts and agreements with other countries or international agencies; and
2. Mobilize citizens for national defense, and where necessary, extend the service of military personnel, recall to active duty any retired officer or enlisted man, take possession of vessels of Philippine registry for naval and military operation in times of war and other national emergency, and decide on the matter of detention of warlike vessels containing arms and ammunitions.

B. Executive Powers and Functions

1. Powers and Functions as Chief Executive

- (1) Issue bonds or other securities to finance government projects, and endorse debentures for the government as primary obligor;

(2) Approve the denominations, dimensions, designs, inscriptions and other characteristics of notes, and the weight, fineness, designs, denominations and other characteristics of coins issued by the Central Bank; and modify the par value of the peso;

(3) Negotiate and approve the subscription of the Philippine government to the capital stock of any foreign financing or lending institution and domestic government-owned or controlled corporation or the increase thereof and approve the release of funds therefor;

(4) Certify labor disputes for compulsory arbitration in proper cases

(5) Make adjustments on all internal revenue taxes relative to rates, taxable base and classification of articles, under certain conditions;

(6) Increase, reduce or remove the existing protective rates of import duty, including any necessary change in classification of articles, subject to certain limitations;

(7) Subject export products under Title III of the Tariff and Customs Code, as amended, to higher or lower rates of duty, include additional products, excluded or exempt any product from such Title, or additionally subject any products with an export quota, subject to certain conditions;

(8) Approve projects of the government to be funded from foreign loans, credits or indebtedness contracted by the government;

(9) Approve the compromise or release by the Commission on Audit of certain claims of government agencies;

(10) Authorize government financial institutions to extend loans to government agencies or corporations;

(11) Approve alternative procedures in opening contract areas and in selecting the best offer for petroleum operations; and

(12) Offer the examination of the business affairs, administration and condition of any corporation.

2. Administrative Powers and Functions

(1) Create, abolish, group, coordinate, consolidate, merge or integrate ministries, bureaus, offices, agencies, instrumentalities and functions of the government; and transfer functions, appropriations, equipment, property, records and personnel from one ministry, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality to another;

(2) Standardize salaries, materials and equipment;

(3) Remove or otherwise discipline officers of the government as may be provided by law; and

(4) Commute or remove administrative penalties or disabilities upon officials or employees in disciplinary cases.

3. Other Powers and Functions

- (1) Determine, designate and reserve any land of the public domain of any classification for specific purposes, and withdraw or exclude any portion or portions therefrom;
- (2) Approve the acquisition, transfer, encumbrance, lease or sale, and dispose or convey title to lands and other properties of the government;
- (3) Issue executive orders and proclamations, as well as rules, regulations or instructions to implement the laws; and modify or revoke the same;
- (4) Declare, suspend, and terminate a state of national emergency; and
- (5) Proclaims special elections.

C. Residual Powers and Functions

1. Exercise such other powers and functions vested in the President which are provided for under the laws of the land and which are not specifically enumerated above, or which are not delegated by the President in accordance with law, unless the Batasang Pambansa provides otherwise.

SECTION 12. All references to "The President/Prime Minister" or to "The President and Prime Minister" in existing laws, Executive Orders, and other issuances shall be construed to refer to the President, except as may otherwise be determined by the President, or by applicable law.

B. THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

SECTION 13. The Office of the Prime Minister shall consist of the common staff support system as hereinafter provided for, and the agencies under or attached to the said Office.

The common staff support system shall refer to such staff or units as may be necessary which shall provide direct or personal assistance to the Prime Minister, as well as those which shall provide him with technical, administrative or general services. The latter shall include the Administrative Office, Legal Office, Legislative Office, Accounting Office, Finance Office, Cabinet Secretariat, and Records Office, and shall absorb the equivalent units or components thereof in the present Office of the President.

SECTION 14. The Prime Minister shall be assisted, whenever necessary, by a Deputy Prime Minister as may be determined by the President.

The Prime Minister shall recommend for appointment by the President a Secretary-General with the rank of deputy minister who shall supervise and coordinate the common staff support system of the Office of the Prime Minister. The Secretary-General and the Office of the Prime Minister shall also provide the necessary staff support to the Executive Committee.

Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed as prohibiting the Prime Minister from holding a cabinet position with portfolio in a concurrent capacity.

SECTION 15. The Prime Minister shall assume the chairmanship of the National Council on Integrated Area Development.