

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 546, July 23, 1979]

**CREATING A MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND A MINISTRY OF
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**

WHEREAS, the accelerated pace of national development requires the effective, purposeful and unified implementation of public works projects and the effective control and supervision of transportation and communications facilities and services;

WHEREAS, the development, rehabilitation, improvement, construction, maintenance and repairs of ports, flood control and drainage systems, buildings, water supply systems; and other public works facilities involve the utilization of technologies and manpower different from those required for the control and supervision of transportation and communications facilities and services;

WHEREAS, a rational distribution of the functions of government pertaining to public works on one hand and control and supervision of facilities and services related to transportation and communications on the other would enhance the efficiency of government;

WHEREAS, in keeping with the policy of government to effect continuing reforms in the organizational structure to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, it is necessary to entrust in one ministry all functions pertaining to the construction, repair and maintenance of public works facilities and restructure the organization for the control and supervision of transportation and communications facilities and services in the country; and

WHEREAS, under Presidential Decree No. 1416, the President is given continuing authority to reorganize the National Government.

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

A. MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

SECTION 1. Creation of a Ministry of Public Works. – There is hereby created a Ministry of Public Works, hereinafter referred to as the Ministry, which shall assume the public works functions of the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Communications and such other functions as may be assigned to it by law.

SEC. 2. Authority and Responsibility. – The authority and responsibility for the Ministry shall be vested in the Minister of Public Works who shall be assisted by one career Deputy Minister, unless otherwise determined by the President.

SEC. 3. Functions. – The Ministry shall be responsible for the construction, maintenance and repair of portworks, harbor facilities, lighthouses, navigational aids, shore protection works, airport buildings and associated facilities, public

buildings and school buildings, monuments and other related structures, as well as undertaking harbor and river dredging works, reclamation of foreshore and swampland areas, water supply, and flood control and drainage works.

SEC. 4. Organization of the Ministry. – The Ministry shall be composed of the ministry proper made up of the immediate Office of the Minister, a Planning Service, an Administrative Service, a Financial and Management Service, an Infrastructure Computer Center, a Project Management Information System Service, a Rural Infrastructure Project Office, and a Building Research and Development Staff; four (4) bureaus namely, Bureau of Buildings, Bureau of Ports, Harbors and Reclamation, Bureau of Water Supply, and Bureau of Flood Control and Drainage; and the regional offices.

The Planning Service, the Administrative Service, and the Financial and Management Service shall perform functions conforming with those provided for in appropriate provisions of Part II of the Integrated Reorganization Plan.

The Bureau of Buildings, the Bureau of Ports, Harbors and Reclamation, the Bureau of Water Supply, and the Bureau of Flood Control and Drainage shall correspondingly absorb the applicable functions of the divisions of the Bureau of Public Works which is hereby abolished pursuant to Section 19 of this Executive Order.

The Infrastructure Computer Center, the Building Research and Development Staff, and the Rural Infrastructure Project Office of the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Communications are reconstituted in the Ministry with the same functions.

The Ministry shall have regional offices in such places and of such number as may be authorized under Article I, Chapter III Part II of the Integrated Reorganization Plan, as amended.

SEC. 5. Relationship Between the Ministry Proper, the Bureaus and the Regional Offices. – The Office of the Minister shall have direct line supervision over the bureaus and regional offices. The ministry proper shall be responsible for developing the implementing programs for the Ministry.

The Bureaus shall be essentially staff in character and as such, shall exercise only functional supervision over the regional offices.

The regional offices shall constitute the operating arms of the ministry proper with responsibility for directly implementing the plans and programs of the Ministry in accordance with adopted policies, standards and guidelines.

B. MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

SEC. 6. Creation of a Ministry of Transportation and Communications. – There is hereby created a Ministry of Transportation and Communications, hereinafter referred to as the Ministry, which shall be the primary policy, planning, programming, coordinating, implementing, regulating and administrative entity of the executive branch of the government in the promotion, development, and regulation of a dependable and coordinated network of transportation and communication systems in pursuance of the following objectives:

a. Promote the development of a dependable and coordinated network of transportation systems;

- b. Guide government and private investments in the development of the country's inter-modal transport and communication systems in a most practical, expeditious, and orderly fashion for maximum safety, service, and cost effectiveness;
- c. Impose appropriate measures so that technical, economic and other conditions for the continuing economic viability of the transport and communications entities are not jeopardized and do not encourage inefficiencies and distortion of traffic patronage;
- d. Provide, extend and operate by itself or through or together with other entities, private or government, local or national, telephone, telegraph, telex and other public telecommunications services throughout the country whenever economic, social and political development activities warrant the provision thereof: Provided, however, That the national economic viability of the entire network or components thereof is maintained at reasonable rates;
- e. Develop an integrated nationwide transmission system by itself or through or together with other entities in accordance with national and international telecommunications service standards to meet all telecommunications service requirements including, among others, radio and television broadcast relaying, leased channel services and data transmission;
- f. Establish, operate and maintain by itself or through or together with other entities an international switching system for incoming and outgoing international telecommunications services;
- g. Encourage the development of a domestic telecommunications industry in coordination with the concerned entities, particularly the manufacture of communications/electronics equipment and components to complement and support, as much as possible, the expansion, development, operation and maintenance of the nationwide telecommunications network; and
- h. Provide for a safe, fast, reliable and efficient postal system for the country.

SEC. 7. Authority and Responsibility. – Authority and responsibility for the Ministry shall be vested in the Minister of Transportation and Communications who shall be assisted by one career Deputy Minister, unless otherwise determined by the President.

SEC. 8. Functions. – The Ministry shall have the following functions:

- a. Coordinate and supervise all activities of the Ministry relative to transportation and communications;
- b. Formulate and recommend national policies and guidelines for the preparation and implementation of an integrated and comprehensive transportation and communications system at the national, regional and local levels;
- c. Establish and administer comprehensive and integrated programs for transportation and communications, and for this purpose, may call on any agency, corporation, or organization, whether government or private, whose development programs include transportation and communications as an integral part to participate and assist in the preparation and implementation of such programs;

- d. Regulate, whenever necessary, activities relative to transportation and communications and prescribe and collect fees in the exercise of such power;
- e. Assess, review and provide direction to transportation and communications research and development programs of the government in coordination with other institutions concerned; and
- f. Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this Executive Order.

SEC. 9. Organization of the Ministry. – The Ministry shall be composed of the ministry proper made up of the immediate Office of the Minister, an Administrative Service, a Financial and Management Service and a Planning Service; four (4) bureaus, namely, Bureau of Land Transportation, Bureau of Air Transportation, Bureau of Telecommunications, and Bureau of Posts; and a National Telecommunications Commission.

The Administrative Service, Financial and Management Service, and Planning Service shall perform functions conforming with those provided for in appropriate provisions of Part II of the Integrated Reorganization Plan.

The Board of Transportation created under Article III, Chapter I, Part X of the Integrated Reorganization Plan, as amended, shall be under the administrative supervision of the Ministry and shall continue to exercise the powers and functions entrusted to it by law. The Board shall have a technical staff.

SEC. 10. Bureau of Land Transportation. – The Land Transportation Commission is hereby renamed Bureau of Land Transportation and shall continue to perform its regulatory and enforcement functions, including the registration of public utility vehicles and the enforcement of the decisions of the Board of Transportation with regard to public utility vehicles.

The Director of Land Transportation shall be an ex-officio member of the Land Transportation Division of the Board of Transportation.

SEC. 11. Bureau of Air Transportation. – The Civil Aeronautics Administration is hereby renamed Bureau of Air Transportation and shall continue to perform its functions relating to the promotion and development of policies, plans, programs and standards for the construction and maintenance of airports and their facilities including buildings and runways. The repair and maintenance of these facilities shall be the responsibility of the Bureau: Provided, however, That the construction of runways and the terminal buildings and related structures shall be done by the Ministry of Public Works or Ministry of Public Highways as the case may be, at the instance of the Bureau.

The Director of Air Transportation shall be an ex-officio member of the Civil Aeronautics Board.

SEC. 12. Bureau of Posts. – The Bureau of Posts shall continue to be responsible for providing a safe, fast, reliable and efficient postal service in the country.

SEC. 13. Bureau of Telecommunications. – The Bureau of Telecommunications shall continue to be responsible for providing telecommunications facilities, including telephone systems for government offices; providing communications services for purposes of augmenting limited or inadequate existing similar private