

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 128, May 06, 1968]

PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTING DETAILS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 5185, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE DECENTRALIZATION ACT OF 1967, INsofar AS THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE FIELD AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORK OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 5185, otherwise known as the Decentralization Act of 1967, sets forth the policy of the State to transform local governments gradually into effective instruments through which the people can, in a most genuine fashion, govern themselves and work out their own destinies;

WHEREAS, in the pursuit of such State policy, local governments are empowered to undertake field agricultural extension work and to appoint the needed personnel, subject to the conditions provided for therein and the Civil Service Law and Rules;

WHEREAS, said field agricultural extension work to be undertaken by the local governments shall assist or supplement existing national programs or services in their respective areas of jurisdiction, such extension work to be administered in accordance with the policies and programs that the Agricultural Productivity Commission shall promulgate, and the national government to render technical, financial and other assistance to local governments in connection with such activity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby promulgate the following policies and guidelines for immediate implementation.

ARTICLE I

FUNCTION TO BE UNDERTAKEN

SECTION 1. The field agricultural extension work provided under Commonwealth Act No. 85, as amended by Republic Act No. 680, and Republic Act No. 3844, otherwise known as the Agricultural Land Reform Code, which is being administered by the national government through the Agricultural Productivity Commission may, pursuant to Republic Act No. 5185, also be undertaken by the provincial and city governments whenever deemed to be necessary by the provincial and municipal boards or city councils to assist or supplement existing national programs or services in their respective areas of jurisdiction by passing or enacting a resolution for the purpose and furnishing copies thereof to the national offices concerned.

"Agricultural extension" as used herein shall mean the diffusion of useful and practical information, knowledge and skills on agriculture, soil conservation, livestock, fisheries, forest conservation, public lands and natural resources laws,

home economics and rural life, in order to encourage their application through field demonstration, lectures and conferences, publications and other means of imparting information; stimulation, promotion and organization of agricultural cooperatives and encouragement in the formation and growth of private associations, study clubs, committees and other groups of farmers and members of their family that will enhance their social and economic conditions.

"Act" as used herein shall refer to the Decentralization Act of 1967.

SECTION 2. To enable the provincial governments to undertake field agricultural extension work, they shall retain the amounts heretofore contributed by provincial and municipal governments to the national government for field agricultural extension work, which shall accrue to the general fund of the province, provided that at least an equivalent amount shall be appropriated by the provincial government for agricultural extension work in accordance with the Act. City governments undertaking the same activity shall appropriate the necessary funds therefor. The appropriations which may be set aside by the local governments for the purpose shall be without prejudice to such assistance as may be extended by the national government pursuant to law and as provided in Article IV hereof.

ARTICLE II

APPOINTMENT AND SALARY OF FIELD AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PERSONNEL

SECTION 3. Upon the effectivity of the Act, all personnel in the field agricultural extension service whose salaries are paid out of the amounts contributed by the provincial and municipal governments to the Agricultural Fund shall be observed by provinces or municipalities where they are regularly or presently assigned: Provided, however, That no personnel heretofore mentioned shall be laid off as a consequence hereof: Provided, further, That in cases of subsequent vacancies or newly created positions, the same shall be filled in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Act and the Civil Service Law and Rules: And provided, finally, That the Agricultural Productivity Commissioner may recommend to the Commissioner of Civil Service qualified nationally or locally paid extension personnel for certification to fill vacancies.

The Commissioner of Civil Service may prescribe additional criteria and policies which shall be observed in the ranking of personnel. The Agricultural Productivity Commissioner may make his recommendations and suggestions on this matter to the Commissioner of Civil Service. Such ranking shall include personnel performing extension work on agriculture, livestock, fisheries, home economics, farm youth or 4-H, agricultural cooperatives and other related activities in the national and local extension services.

SECTION 4. To pursue the merit and fitness principle under the Constitution and Section 4 of the Act, install a progressive public personnel administration and promote professionalization in the field agricultural extension service, the Agricultural Productivity Commission shall establish a ranking of provincial and city agriculturists and their respective assistants, and other technical extension officials and employees paid by the national and local governments, subject to approval by the Commissioner of Civil Service, and in accordance therewith, incumbent provincial agriculturists and their assistants entirely paid out of the national fund

may be reassigned to provinces or cities suited to their rank, provided that the ranking shall be based on the class of positions and their relative level and similarity, educational qualification, seniority, performance, civil service eligibility, and other supplementary qualifications that may be prescribed pursuant to the preceding section.

SECTION 5. Entrance and promotional qualification standards for personnel performing purely technical and administrative supervisory technical extension work shall be prescribed by the Agricultural Productivity Commissioner which shall be applicable to both local and national personnel, subject to Civil Service Law and Rules and other existing laws. To ensure the recruitment of persons with technical competence, physical capability and positive attitude towards work, the Commissioner shall initiate a pre-service, induction and orientation training. Training of personnel for appointment in the field extension work undertaken by local governments may be made under such arrangement as said Commissioner and the local Executive may enter into.

Appointment and promotion in the agricultural extension service shall not be limited to the respective local or national extension services but may be made from one to the other in accordance with the ranging provided in Section 4 and the Civil Service Law and Rules.

SECTION 6. The salary of personnel in the provincial and city field agricultural extension services undertaken by local governments shall be paid out of local funds.

ARTICLE III

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FIELD AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICE

SECTION 7 The provincial or city agriculturists, as the case may be, shall exercise direction and administrative management over the field agricultural extension service undertaken by the provincial or city government, subject to the supervision of the Agricultural Productivity Commissioner, to the provisions of the Act, other applicable laws, this order and the policies, programs and guidelines formulated by the Agricultural Productivity Commission from time to time.

The provincial or city agriculturist, whether paid by the national or local government, shall, in addition to his present functions, exercise immediate supervision over personnel appointed and assigned by the local Executive concerned and also over extension workers appointed and assigned by the national office to the province or city. In the latter case, the Agricultural Productivity Commissioner shall issue an order designating said provincial or city agriculturist as office head and representative of the national agency. If for lack of funds or other causes the local government is unable to provide for the position of provincial or city agriculturist, the national government through the Commissioner shall assign one paid out of the national fund whose rank is suited to the class of the province or city, and in such case, the local Executive concerned is authorized to designate such official as office head of the local extension service.

The provincial and city agriculturists are authorized to administer in their respective areas of jurisdiction funds appropriated by the provincial boards and municipal boards or city councils out of the general fund of the province or city, as well as