

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 58, August 16, 1954]

**DECLARING CORREGIDOR AND BATAAN NATIONAL SHRINES,
OPENING THEM TO THE PUBLIC AND MAKING THEM ACCESSIBLE
AS TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AND SCENES OF POPULAR
PILGRIMAGES, AND CREATING A COMMISSION FOR THEIR
DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE.**

Pursuant to the powers vested in me by law, I, RAMON MAGSAYSAY, President of the Philippines, do hereby order:

1. All battlefield areas in Corregidor Island and Bataan province are hereby declared National Shrines, and, except such portions as may be temporarily needed for the storage of ammunition or deemed absolutely essential for safeguarding the national security, are opened to the public, accessible as tourist resorts and attractions, as scenes of popular pilgrimages and as recreational centers.
2. A Corregidor-Bataan National Shrines Commission is hereby created to lay out plans for the conservation and development of said National Shrines with a view to glorifying the memory and scenes of Philippine-American resistance to aggression and to inspiring the nation as well as the rest of the free world into an unrelenting defense of democracy and freedom throughout the ages.
3. The Commission shall be composed of the Secretary of National Defense, as Chairman, the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Secretary of Commerce and Industry, as Vice-Chairmen, the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Civil Aeronautics Administrator, the President of the Philippine Association, the President of the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association, the President of the USAFFE Veterans Supreme Council of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor and the Chairman of the Historical Markers Committee, as members.
4. The Commission shall immediately proceed to determine the historic areas to be preserved, developed and beautified for the purposes of this order, establish the boundaries thereof and mark them out properly. Within 30 days from the issuance of this Order, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines shall have marked out the areas in the Corregidor-Bataan battlefields to be reserved exclusively for temporary military uses, at the same time taking immediate steps to remove military stores and other dangerous objects, especially unexploded mines, bombs and shells along the road leading to or within the historic sites.