

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 156, August 01, 1938]

REORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL POLICE FORCES

In order to secure and maintain a high degree of efficiency in the organization and administration of local police forces pending designation of the Department Head who shall exercise supervision over them, and to supplement Executive Order No. 153 reorganizing the Philippine Constabulary into a national police force, I, Manuel L. Quezon, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by law, do hereby publish the following policies and orders for the guidance of all concerned:

I. *General*

1. All local police bodies shall be brought to and maintained on a high level of efficiency, to the end that all laws shall be enforced effectively and impartially without regard to the status of offenders.
2. Provincial governors are directly responsible for the efficient administration of the provincial guards, and are charged with supervision of the execution of police duties within their respective provinces. They will be held responsible for the efficient operation of all local police bodies.
3. Mayors are charged with direct responsibility for the efficient administration of the local police force and with the enforcement of law in their respective cities or municipalities.
4. Chiefs of police are responsible to their respective mayors for the impartial enforcement of law and for the administration, discipline, efficiency, and training of their commands.
5. In case of emergency, the provincial governor may, in consultation with the provincial inspector and subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines, mobilize policemen from different municipalities to cope with the situation. All expenses in connection with such mobilization shall be paid from provincial funds.
6. Inefficiency on the part of the local police, or laxity or partiality in the enforcement of law will be deemed sufficient cause for the President of the Philippines to place, for public interest, the local police under the control of the provincial inspector of Constabulary as contemplated in section 836 of the Administrative Code. If such action should become necessary, the President, after fixing responsibility in the matter, may remove from office the culpable chief of police, mayor or governor, or all of them as the case may be.

II. *Supervision by the Philippine Constabulary*

7. The Philippine Constabulary is the agency through which the President of the Philippines will insure the efficient operation of all local police bodies, and the strict and impartial enforcement of law.

8. District inspectors will maintain constant contact with local police bodies and assure themselves as to their efficient operation.

9. Provincial inspectors are responsible for the inspection of all local police forces within their respective jurisdictions. Inspections will comprise an examination into all phases of police work in order to determine the efficiency of police bodies in the enforcement of all laws and ordinances, and will include inquiries into the local reputation of the police as to honesty and integrity. Inspections will not necessarily be made completely at fixed intervals of time, but will be in the nature of constant inquiry and supervision. For these purposes, provincial inspectors are authorized to employ any commissioned officer of the Philippine Constabulary.

10. The provincial inspector will correct minor defects noted during his inspections, and will furnish the mayor and the provincial governor with copies of reports submitted to the Chief of Constabulary. When the provincial inspector finds evidence of loose discipline, or laxity, or partiality in the enforcement of law, he will make a detailed report to the Chief of Constabulary, furnishing a copy thereof to the mayor and to the provincial governor.

III. Appointments to the Local Police

11. All local police bodies, the members of which were not appointed from Civil Service lists, shall be critically examined to determine competency, efficiency, and physical capacity. Only those men who have demonstrated aptitude, trustworthiness and devotion to duty shall be retained in the service; men who lack these essential qualities shall be dropped and replaced by men selected as prescribed below for new appointees. Actual records as policemen or as provincial guards shall be made the criteria as to the advisability of retaining members of local police forces. The selection of men to be retained shall be made as follows:

In each municipality or city in which there are policemen who have not qualified under Civil Service rules, the mayor shall convene a Board composed of himself as the chairman, the chief of police, and the provincial inspector of Constabulary or a commissioned officer of the Constabulary designated by the provincial inspector. The Board shall inquire into the qualifications of each member of the local police, except chiefs of police, determine each man's aptitude, trustworthiness, attention to duty, and general value to the service.

In each province, the provincial governor shall convene a Board composed of himself as chairman, the provincial fiscal and the provincial inspector of Constabulary or a commissioned officer designated by the provincial inspector, to make a similar inquiry into the qualifications of each municipal chief of police and of each member of the provincial guards, except the provincial wardens.

The Boards so constituted will recommend each policeman or provincial guard for retention or for dismissal after giving him ample opportunity to be heard in accordance with Civil Service law and rules. The proceedings of all Boards shall be