

[OP EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 133, October 29, 1993]

DEVOLVING TO THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE CONTROL, AND SUPERVISION OVER ITS OFFICES IN THE REGION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, Section 11, Article III of Republic Act No. 6734 provides that "The Regional Government shall provide, maintain and ensure the delivery of basic health education and services";

WHEREAS, the Oversight Committee created by virtue of Republic Act No. 6734, recognizing the primacy and importance of health, as a necessary pillar of the inhabitants of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, has recommended the devolution of powers and functions and that the offices of the Department of Health may be transferred to the Autonomous Regional Government to carry out its mandate.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Policies and Strategies to be Adopted - The Autonomous Regional Government (ARG) shall assume the following policies and strategies:

- a. Improved provision and utilization of accessible, appropriate and adequate basic health, nutrition and family planning services especially to the poor, underserved and high-risk groups;
- b. Strengthened and sustained effective collaboration with the private sector;
- c. Increase government resource allocation to the health, nutrition and family planning sectors and ensuring its proper and efficient utilization; and
- d. Strengthened manpower development, information and research-based decision-making and implementation process.

SECTION 2. General Powers and Functions - The following powers and functions of the Department of Health (DOH), as enumerated in Section 4 of Executive Order No. 119, series of 1987, shall be transferred to the Autonomous Regional Government (ARG) subject to specific conditions or limitations provided in this Executive Order. Specifically, they are the following:

- a. Exercise administrative control and supervision over all regional, provincial, city, municipality, district and barangay health units and government-owned or

controlled establishments such as hospitals, clinics and dispensaries, laboratories, blood banks, drugstores and such other facilities;

b. Define the regional health policy and formulate and implement a regional health plan within the framework of the Government's general policies and strategies, and to present proposals to appropriate authorities on regional issues which have health implications;

c. Provide for health programs, services, facilities and other requirements as may be needed, subject to the availability of funds and administrative rules and regulations;

d. Propagate health information and educate the population on important health, medical and environmental matters which have health implications;

e. Assist, coordinate or collaborate with local communities, agencies and interested groups including international organizations in activities related to health;

f. Administer all laws, rules and regulations in the field of health, including food and drug safety laws;

g. Collect, analyze and disseminate health statistical and other relevant information on the region's health situation, and require the reporting of such information from appropriate sources to the national health agency;

h. Undertake health and medical research and conduct training in support of its priorities, programs and activities;

i. Regulate the operation of and issue licenses and permits to government and private hospitals, clinics and dispensaries, laboratories, blood banks, drugstores and such other establishments which by the nature of their functions are required to be regulated by the Department;

j. Issue orders and regulations concerning the implementation of established health policies; and

k. Perform such other functions as established by law or as ordered by higher authorities.

SECTION 3. Functions of Department Secretary to be Transferred - Hereunder are the authority and responsibilities of the Secretary of the Department of Health which shall be vested in the Head of the Regional Department of Health (Regional DOH):

a. Advise the Regional Governor on the promulgation of orders, rules and regulations and other issuance related to health;

b. Establish policies and standards for the effective, efficient and economical operations of the Regional Department in accordance with the programs of the National Government;

c. Exercise supervision and control over all functions and activities of the

Regional Department within the autonomous region;

d. Delegate authority for the performance of any administrative or substantive function to any Undersecretary or other officials of appropriate rank at the Regional Department; and

e. Perform such other functions as may be provided by law or appropriately assigned by the Regional Governor.

SECTION 4. Specific Functions to be Transferred - The following functions of the DOH Regional Offices as provided for in Section 18, Chapter 5, Title IX of the Administrative Code shall be immediately transferred to the Autonomous Regional Government. They are:

a. Implement laws, rules and regulations, policies, plans, programs and projects of the Department of Health in the autonomous region;

b. Provide efficient and effective health and medical services to the people;

c. Coordinate with regional offices of departments, offices and agencies in the region;

d. Coordinate with local government units; and

e. Perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

SECTION 5. Functions to be Transferred with Conditions - Hereunder are the functions which shall be transferred to the Autonomous Regional Government, subject however, to certain conditions:

a. Assist, coordinate or collaborate with local communities, agencies and interested groups, including international organizations in activities related to health: Provided, however, That the collaboration with international organizations shall be subject to the rules established on official development assistance by the Oversight Committee and approved by the President;

b. Administer all laws, rules and regulations in the field of health, including quarantine laws and food and drug safety laws: Provided, however, That the national department retains control over all matters concerning quarantine and food and drug regulation;

c. Collect, analyze and disseminate health statistical and other relevant information on the country's health situation, and require the reporting of such information from appropriate sources: Provided, however, That the health report database shall conform with the national department's information requirements as approved by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) for the purpose of maintaining a national database;

d. Undertake health and medical research and conduct training in support of its priorities, programs and activities: Provided, however, That the research shall be subject to the standards of the appropriate unit of the DOH; and