

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 161, September 30, 1999]

EXTENDING THE TERM OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 371 "PROCLAIMING A SPECIAL ZONE OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES AND ESTABLISHING THEREFOR THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY"

WHEREAS, Congress has passed Republic Act 8753, "Resetting the Regular Elections for the Elective Officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao provided for under Republic Act 8746 and for other purposes;"

WHEREAS, such postponement of the ARMM elections for one (1) year to the 2 nd Monday of September 2000 accords the government an opportunity to complete the implementation of Phase 1 of the 1996 GRP-MNLF Peace Agreement and ensure the passage of the amendatory law to RA 6734, the Organic Act for Muslim Mindanao;

WHEREAS, this has also opened an opportunity to accelerate socio-economic development programs in the SZOPAD, to include the ARMM provinces.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law and the Constitution, do hereby order the following:

SECTION 1. EXTENDING THE EFFECTIVITY OF EO 371 s. 1996. The Special Zone of Peace and Development (SZOPAD), the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD) and the Consultative Assembly (CA) are hereby extended for a one year period corresponding to the period covered by RA 8753.

SEC. 2. CONTINUITY OF ORGANIZATION, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The organization, functions and responsibilities of SPCPD and CA, as provided for in EO 371 shall continue to be in force and effect in the period covered by this executive order.

SEC. 3. SPECIAL ROLE OF SPCPD WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS. With respect to peace and development concerns in SZOPAD, the SPCPD shall, pursuant to the 1996 Final Peace Agreement, undertake the following additional tasks:

a) Directly supervise offices and projects located in the Special Zone of Peace and Development particularly the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA), the Office of Muslim Affairs (OMA) and the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) formerly Office of the Southern Cultural Communities.

b) Task Forces such as the Basilan Development Task Force, the Central Mindanao Development Task Force and the Sulu Development Task Force are also placed under the control and supervision of SPCPD.