

## **[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 428, July 17, 1997 ]**

### **CREATING THE MULTI-SECTORAL TASK FORCE ON MARITIME DEVELOPMENT, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, in the true spirit of people empowerment and participatory democracy, the private sector, which is the real engine of progress and the major stakeholder of the maritime industry, should be made active participants in the charting of its development blueprint;

WHEREAS, in order to address the pressing demands of global maritime competition, there is a need for the country to proactively respond to various international maritime conventions as part of manifesting its commitment and fulfilling its obligations to the international shipping community;

WHEREAS, the National Development Summit held on 8-9 June 1997 envisioned, among others, the launching of the Philippines as a maritime power in East Asia in the 21st century, by harnessing the vast potential of the maritime industry in the service of national economic development, thus making it a catalyst for growth of the nation's industries, significantly generating employment, enhancing food security and alleviating poverty, especially among the coastal communities;

WHEREAS, there are problems presently besetting the Maritime Administration structure of the country, particularly, overlapping of functions among government agencies that perform maritime functions, programs and policies that are in cross purposes with each other which, oftentimes, hinder the growth and progress of the maritime industry and dissipate government resources;

WHEREAS, there is a need to firm-up the frame work and implement the immediate and short term measures, as well as formulate unified action plans identified in the economic summit workshop, in support of the vision to position the Philippines as a maritime power by the turn of the millennium;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to create a Multi-Sectoral Task Force to shepherd and fast-track strategic measures to pole-vault the country's economy with respect to the vision of making the Philippines as a maritime power;

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

SECTION 1. Creation of a Multi-Sectoral Task Force on Maritime Development. There is hereby created a Multi-Sectoral Task Force on Maritime Development (MTFMD) under the Office of the President.

SECTION 2. Composition. The Task Force shall be composed of the following:

a) Secretary of Transportation and

Chairman

## Communications

b) Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning and Director-General, National Economic and Development Authority	Co-Chairman
c) Director-General, National Security Council	Vice-Chairman
d) Secretary of National Defense	Member
e) Secretary of Public Works and Highways	Member
f) Secretary of Energy	Member
g) Secretary of Interior and Local Government	Member
h) General Manager, Philippine Ports Authority	Member
i) Administrator, Maritime Industry Authority	Member
j) Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard	Member
k) Executive Director, Maritime Training Council	Member
l) Chairman, Commission on Higher Education	Member
m) Head of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office	Member
n) Chairman, Professional Regulations Commission	Member
o) Director, Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey	Member
p) Representatives from the private sector representing the maritime academe, shipowners/employers, seafarers' unions, bareboat charterers, manning agencies, shipbuilders, shippers associations and maritime technical organizations/consultancies	Member

The members of the Task Force may designate their duly authorized representatives. Such designated representatives shall have full powers to vote and act for, and in behalf of their principals, in any action to be taken by the Task Force unless their designation provides otherwise.

The Task Force, by a majority vote of all members, may replace past members and invite additional members whenever the circumstance so warrant. In addition, the decision of the Task Force to implement measures that is of paramount importance to the economic posture of the country specifically on issues of maritime concern, shall be made binding, after being voted upon by the majority of the members, and can only be rescinded by the President of the Philippines.

**SECTION 3. Powers and Functions.** The Task Force shall have the following powers and functions:

a. Prepare a programme of action and identify priorities to be adopted and implemented by the government and the private sector to carry-out the agreements of the National Development Summit Workshop on the vision to launch the Philippines as a maritime power in East Asia in the 21st century through the following:

i. review and evaluate existing plans, policies and programmes relating to the development of the maritime sector in the light of the above vision;