

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 346, June 14, 1996 ]**

**AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDERS NO. 728 AND 938, REDEFINING THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, FUNCTIONAL THRUSTS AND PROVIDING FOR THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES OF THE COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS**

WHEREAS, it is a declared policy of the State to promote the well-being and uphold the interests of Filipinos overseas;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas was created by virtue of Batas Pambansa Blg. 79 on 16 June 1980 to render effectively this policy of the State;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 728 provided for the organizational structure and guidelines of the Secretariat of the Commission, while Executive Order No. 938 authorized the establishment of its overseas offices;

WHEREAS, the promulgation of economic diplomacy as a major development strategy of the government under Administrative Order No. 91, is also aimed at harnessing the fullest potentials of overseas Filipinos as partners in the development efforts of the country;

WHEREAS, the Commission was directed to provide secretariat support to the Assistance-to-Nationals Task Force pursuant to Administrative Order No. 182;

WHEREAS, the Commission was designated to provide technical and secretariat support to the reconstituted Exchange Visitors Program Committee pursuant to Administrative Order No. 242;

WHEREAS, Section 20 of Republic Act No. 8042 provides for the establishment of a shared government information system on migration to allow data exchange among relevant agencies of government including the Commission on Filipinos Overseas;

WHEREAS, the unprecedented and phenomenal growth in the number of overseas Filipinos, present and future requirements of the country, and efforts currently undertaken by government to address the attendant issues and problems, call for a reconstitution as well as a reformulation of the mandate and organizational structure of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

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

SECTION 1. Composition of the Commission. — The Commission shall be composed of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs as Chairman, the Secretary of Trade and Industry as Vice Chairman, the Secretary of Labor and Employment, the Secretary of Tourism, the Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports, the Secretary of Justice

and the Press Secretary, all of whom are ex-officio members, and the Executive Director of the Commission.

The Commission shall formulate general policies on matters affecting overseas Filipinos and provide functional direction for its programs and operations.

SECTION 2. Offices of the Secretariat. — Executive responsibility shall be vested in the Secretariat which will carry out the programs, projects and services to address the needs and interests of overseas Filipinos as well as support the economic diplomacy efforts of the government.

The Secretariat shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be assisted by a Deputy Executive Director, both of whom shall be appointed by the President. The Executive Director shall have the rank of a Department Undersecretary, while the Deputy Executive Director shall have the rank of an Assistant Secretary. To achieve effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of services, the offices of the Secretariat are hereby reorganized as follows:

a. Projects Management Office — The External Services and Projects Office of the Secretariat shall henceforth be reorganized into the Projects Management Office. The Projects Management Office shall be responsible for the promotion and implementation of programs and projects for Filipinos overseas. It shall propose and develop strategies and mechanisms to optimize program promotion and implementation.

This office shall establish the necessary programs to promote and support the economic diplomacy efforts of the government among overseas communities.

b. Migrant Integration and Education Office. — The Local Services Office shall henceforth be reorganized into the Migrant Integration and Education Office. The Migrant Integration and Education Office shall be responsible for implementing the registration and pre-departure programs and services as well as the public assistance and information program of the Commission. It shall also provide welfare support services to Filipinos emigrants and other categories of migrating Filipinos.

This office shall establish appropriate mechanisms to ensure the effective coordination of the Assistance to Nationals Program. It shall perform staff coordinating functions, and develop information programs to complement activities in connection with assistance to CFO constituents both here and abroad.

c. Administrative and Finance Office — The Administrative and Finance Office shall be responsible for the efficient management of the Commission's human and financial resources and shall be responsible for various administrative, personnel, budgetary, financial, logistical, and accounting services of the Commission.

d. Management Information System Office — A Management Information System Office shall be established within the CFO Secretariat to develop, establish and maintain a computerized data banking and information system on Filipinos overseas in support to policy functions of CFO. It shall formulate plans, programs and procedures for effective data base management and networking, as well as in support of the implementation of a Shared Government Information System for Migration, pursuant to Section 20 of Republic Act 8042.