

[**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 295, September 28, 2000**]

**AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 8 CREATING A
PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-ORGANIZED CRIME COMMISSION, TO
INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE CRIMINAL ELEMENTS IN THE
COUNTRY**

WHEREAS, there is a need to formally place under the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission the various Task Forces against organized crimes;

WHEREAS, a sustained, relentless and dedicated campaign to minimize organized and syndicated crimes as well as to neutralize their protectors in government are among the priorities of the administration;

WHEREAS, the Administrative Code of 1987 empowers the President with the continuing authority to reorganize the Office of the President and to transfer from one department or agency to another;

WHEREAS, the creation of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force and other task forces especially tasked to investigate and prosecute criminal syndicates and their protectors is imperative to bring about focus and substantive results in the campaign against criminality and corrupt practices;

WHEREAS, there is a need to identify and effectively prosecute criminal groups and their protectors in government through efficient intelligence and counter-intelligence efforts;

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

SECTION 1. ORGANIZATION. There is hereby created a Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC), hereinafter referred to as the Commission, under the Office of the President.

The existing task forces against organized crimes shall be under the control and supervision of the Commission.

The President may create or abolish task forces or special project groups as the need arises.

SECTION 2. COMPOSITION. The Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission shall be composed of the following:

The President

-- Chairman

The National Security Adviser-- Vice-Chairman

The Secretary of Justice -- Member

The Secretary of the Interior -- Member
and Local Government

The Secretary of National Defense -- Member

The Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines -- Member

Director-General, Philippine National Police -- Member

Four (4) representatives from the Private Sector to be appointed by the President -- Member

The Chairman of the Commission may create an Executive Committee, define its functions and designate its members from among the members of the Commission.

The Commission shall exercise general control and supervision over the Task Forces or Special Project Groups. It shall enlist the assistance of civic and other similar associations and provide a forum for continuing consultation among concerned sectors of our society leading to the formulation of policies to be recommended to the President in the form of issuances and legislation.

SECTION 3. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION. The Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Prepare and implement a fast track anti-crime and anti-graft and corruption action agenda and adopt appropriate measures to ensure an effective and efficient anti-crime drive;
- b. Conduct intelligence and counter-intelligence operations to identify government officials and employees, crime syndicates and their cohorts who are involved in criminal activities;
- c. Cause or direct the immediate arrest, investigation and speedy prosecution of crime syndicates, government officials and employees and their cohorts, with due regard to constitutional processes;
- d. Refer the cases at hand, as the Commission or the Task Forces, may deem proper and necessary, to the Department of Justice, and/or other appropriate law enforcement agencies for investigation or prosecution, as the case may be;
- e. Follow-up the progress of on-going investigation and prosecution of cases take cognizance of by the Task Forces;