

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 186, December 16, 1999]

**AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO
CHARGE ALL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES OF ITS MACHINE
READABLE PASSPORTS AND VISAS PROJECT AGAINST THE
COLLECTIONS FROM THE ISSUANCE OF PERTINENT DOCUMENTS
RELATIVE TO ITS AWARD AND IMPLEMENTATION**

WHEREAS, the Department of Foreign Affairs (Department) has launched the Machine Readable Passports and Visas Project (Project) to upgrade the processing and issuance of Philippine passports and visas in accordance with standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for travel documents;

WHEREAS, the Project is proposed under the Build-Operate-Transfer scheme;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act No. 7718, also known as the Build-Operate-Transfer Law, the Department created a Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) to oversee the planning and implementation of the Project;

WHEREAS, thirty-nine (39) project proponents responded to the invitation to pre-qualify and bid and paid Php 100,000.00 each for the pre-qualification documents;

WHEREAS, the PBAC has started issuing, for a non-refundable fee of Php 100,000.00, the Request-for-Proposals (RFPs) or bid documents to the 11 project proponents that pre-qualified;

WHEREAS, the PBAC continues to meet to discuss preparations for the pre-bid conference, the mechanics for the technical and financial evaluation of the bid proposals early next year, and other administrative matters related to the Project;

WHEREAS, most, if not all, PBAC activities entail financial cost which the regular budget of the Department could not accommodate given its other priorities;

WHEREAS, to ensure maximum efficiency of the PBAC in the planning and implementation of the Project, it is imperative that it be given adequate financial support.

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

1. Subject to pertinent budgetary laws and circulars, the Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee for the Machine Readable Passports and Visas Project (PBAC-MRP/V) of the Department of Foreign Affairs is hereby authorized to charge all its operational expenses against the collections from the issuance of the pre-qualification documents and Request-for-Proposals. The PBAC-MRP/V is hereby further authorized to pay out of the said collections, the honoraria of its voting and non-voting members, the members of its Technical and Financial